



ST. THOMAS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We, the baptized ministers,
declare Christ's Mission for us:
to grow as a Church
in the spiritual strength
of community,
and to care, reach out,
and include all people in Christ's love.

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Holy Eucharist, Rite II—10:00 AM

September 7, 2025

Welcome to St. Thomas! We are so glad that you are here with us. If you are new to our community, we invite you to fill out a welcome card located in the pew rack in front of you, and either place it in the offering plate or hand it to a priest. We also invite you to stay with us for coffee hour after the service.

THE WORD OF GOD

Welcome

The Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith

Prelude

Procession

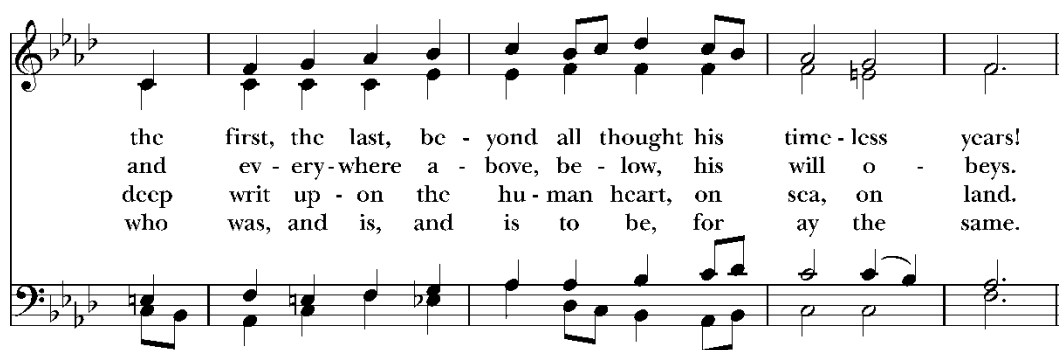
Praise to the Living God

#372 Hymnal 1982

1 Praise to the liv - ing God! All prais - ed be his Name
 2 Form - less, all love - ly forms de - clare his love - li - ness;
 3 His Spi - rit flow - eth free, high surg - ing where it will;
 4 E - ter - nal life hath he im - plant - ed in the soul;

who was, and is, and is to be for ay the same.
 ho - ly, no ho - li - ness of earth can his ex - press.
 in pro - phet's word he spoke of old; he speak - eth still.
 his love shall be our strength and stay while a - ges roll.

The one c - ter - nal God cre aught that now ap - pears:
 Lo, he is Lord of all. Cre - a - tion speaks his praise,
 Es - tab - lished is his law, and change - less it shall stand,
 Praise to the liv - ing God! All prais - ed be his Name



Words: Medieval Jewish liturgy; tr. Max Landsberg (1845-1928) and Newton M. Mann (1836-1926). Music: *Leoni*, Hebrew melody; harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1985, alt.

The Acclamation

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

Glory to God for ever and ever.

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

During the singing of the Gloria, children from Pre-K to 3rd Grade are invited to follow the crucifer to Children's Chapel.

Gloria *Glory to God (Canticle 20)*

#900 Wonder, Love, and Praise

Please find this music in the green hymnal entitled "Wonder, Love, and Praise."

The Collect of the Day

God be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Jeremiah 18:1-11

A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah.

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand,

and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17 (*We will pray a portion of Psalm 139 responsively by half verse*)

- 1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- 12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; *
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 13 I will thank you because I am marvelously made; *
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.
- 14 My body was not hidden from you, *
while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.
- 15 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;
all of them were written in your book; *
they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there was none of them.
- 16 How deep I find your thoughts, O God! *
how great is the sum of them!
- 17 If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; *
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

The Second Lesson

Philemon 1-21

A reading from Paul's letter to Philemon.

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love-- and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother-- especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn**Would You Share Christ's Passion 1, 2 / 3****#42 Voices Found**

1 Would you share Christ's pas - sion? Take your cross and fol - low;
2 Would you know Christ's mean - ing, daz - zling in its ra - diance?
3 Would you join Christ's tri - umph, o - ver death vic - to - rious,

climb Gol - go - tha's hill. Taste the cup of sor - row, wine and gall com -
Lie down in the fire. Brave the flames of Wis - dom, sear - ing with their
ris - ing from the grave? Pain and grief are fore - courts of the heav'n-ly

min - gled: drink its bit - ter fill. Bear the scourge of doubt and fear.
myst - ry, fierce with Love's de - sire. Cast the dark - ened glass a - way:
ci - ty, bought with blood he gave. Suf - f'ring marks the nar - row gate.

Though a jeer - ing crowd de - ride you, he will walk be - side you.
O - pen to a bril - liant burn - ing. Seek and find true learn - ing.
Yet, though tri - als throng to greet you, none shall now de - feat you!

Words: Mary Louise Bringle © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Music: *Jesu, meine Freude*, Johann Crüger (1598–1662), alt.

The Gospel**Luke 14:25-33**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters,

yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Caroline Mitchell

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,

begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

The prayers of the people is a time for us to come together as we offer our prayers to God. Please offer your own prayers in the pauses, either silently or aloud.

Let us pray to the Lord. We pray for the flourishing of God's gifts to his Church. God our Father, you give us gifts that we may work together in the service of your Son; bless the leaders of your Church, that they may be faithful and humble before you. We pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Mark, Gayle, and Mark, our Bishops; Fran, Will, Caroline, Lori, Rishabh, Mary and Nicole, our staff; Beth and Anthony, our Seminarians; the teachers at the Early Learning Center; and the Vestry and Officers of St. Thomas.

Jesus, Lord of your Church, in your mercy hear us.

Bless those who teach, that they may increase our understanding and be open to your word for them.

Jesus, Lord of your Church, in your mercy hear us.

Bless those who minister healing, that they may bring wholeness to others and know your healing themselves.

Jesus, Lord of your Church, in your mercy hear us.

Bless those through whom you speak, that they may proclaim your word; and also, open their ears to your gentle whisper.

Jesus, Lord of your Church, in your mercy hear us.

Bless those who work in your world today, that in the complexity of their daily lives they may live for you and seek your kingdom.

Jesus, Lord of your Church, in your mercy hear us.

Bless those who are uncertain of their gifts and those who feel powerless in this world's eyes, that they may be fortified in the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus, Lord of your Church, in your mercy hear us.

We thank you for all the blessings of this life, including Esther Cheryan and all those celebrating birthdays this week; all those celebrating wedding anniversaries this week; and all those blessings you would name *[pause]*. We pray:

Jesus, Lord of your Church, we thank you.

Bless those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially **Ethan, Vincent, Yusuf, Emily and Dave, Lynn, Jan, Erin, Andy, Diane, Alison, Sean, Bill, Katie and Scott, Bill, Frank, Bridgid, Roger, Christian, Chuck, Dani, Dave, Anne, Betsy, John, Skeets, Mariah, Colin, Hilary, Lorain, Debby**, and those whom you would name *[pause]*... that they may have comfort and strength for renewal. **Jesus, Lord of your Church, in your mercy hear us.**

Bless all our partners in mission, especially our siblings in the Diocese of Virginia, that they may have your love and grace as their inspiration.

Jesus, Lord of your Church, in your mercy hear us.

Bless all who have died, especially all those whom you would name *[pause]*... that with them, we may praise you on earth and in heaven.

Jesus, Lord of your Church, in your mercy hear us.

Lord of all, hear our prayer and make us one in heart and mind to serve you with joy forever. **Amen.**

Adapted by Beth Clarke from prayers made available by the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

Together let us pray for St Thomas Church.

Almighty God, by your Spirit the whole body of your Church is governed and sanctified, hear our prayer for St Thomas, build in us a renewed vision of your Church; shape our life according to your will; empower us with the gifts to make us one that together we may grow as a church in the spiritual strength of community and reach out to include all people in Christ's love, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Confession and Absolution of Sin

Let us confess our sins to God. *A time of silence.* Together, let us pray:

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you

Following the exchange of peace in the church, peace is exchanged with the congregation on Zoom.

The Offertory

Through Christ let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his Name. But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. *-Hebrews 13:15, 16*



It's Easy to Give Electronically to St. Thomas

Scan the QR code, or visit the GIVING page on the St. Thomas website:

<https://stthomasmcleanva.org/giving/donate>.

Offertory Anthem*Come and Follow Me***Robert S. Cohen**

Follow, come and follow me,
Leave all that you have behind,
Follow, come and follow me,
All my blessings you will find.
Follow me, follow me,
I'll show you the way to life.
Let your heart just believe
That my peace will end your strife.

Follow, come and follow me,
See the miracles I do,
Follow, come and follow me,
Greater things I'll do through you.
Follow me, follow me,
Let your praise my love proclaim,
Come, my true servants be
Spread through all the world my name.

Follow, come and follow me,
Let my spirit lead the way,
Follow, come and follow me,
To the Kingdom's brand new day!
Follow me, follow me,
Let my grace your soul renew,
Take my bread, and receive
My abundant life in you.
Come follow, come and follow me.

The Doxology *(to the tune of "All Creatures of Our God and King")***#400 Hymnal 1982**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below, Alleluia, Alleluia
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
O praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Gluten free wafers are available on request. As the Eucharist is distributed, all who desire prayers for healing—for themselves or for others—are invited to come to the healing minister behind the lectern on the right as you face the altar.

The Great Thanksgiving**EOW Eucharistic Prayer 3**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from

the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.
Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey;
And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation

Sanctus: #255 Lift Every Voice and Sing II

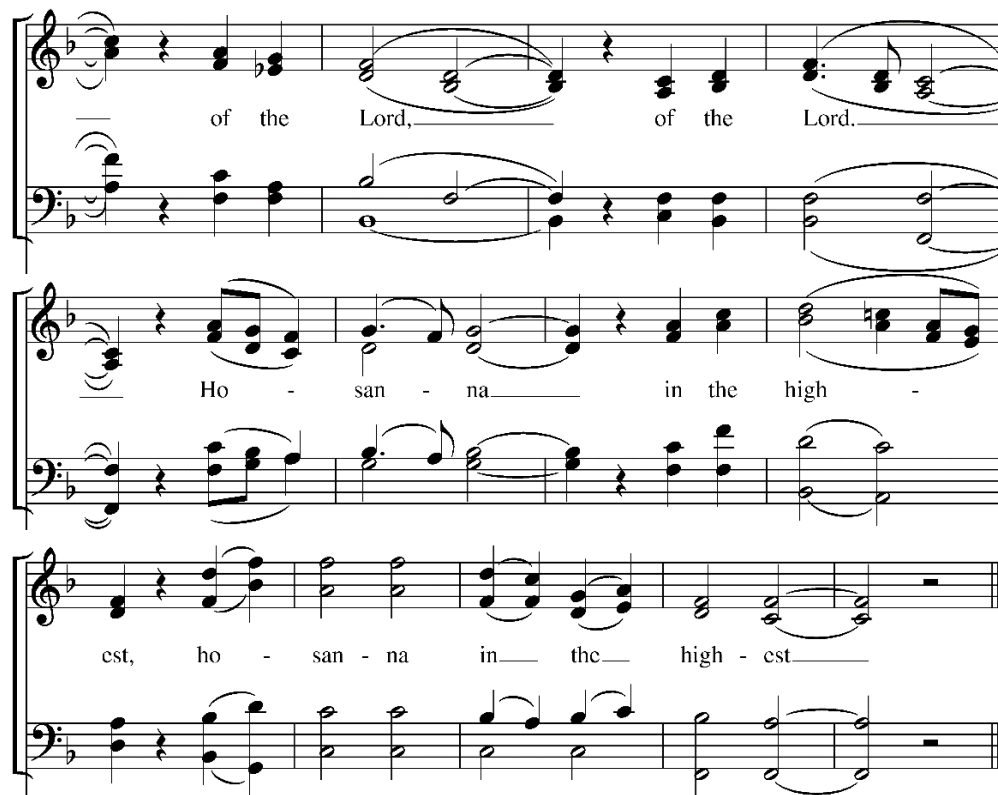
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly

ho - ly Lord God of hosts.

Heav - en and earth are filled with your glo -

ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is He who comes in the name



Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with blessed Thomas and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Fraction: #876 Wonder, Love, and Praise

Antiphon
Cantor, then all



The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing

Fine Verses



— of the bread. 1. The bread which we break, Al - le - lu -
2. One bo - dy are we, Al - le - lu -

All repeat Antiphon



ia, is the com - mun - ion of the Bod - y of Christ.
ia, for though ma - ny we share one bread.

Music: Jack Warren Burnam (b. 1946). Copyright © 1986 Jack Warren Burnam.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

A note about the distribution of the Eucharist:

We offer both the common cup and a cup for intinction. If you would like to receive by intinction, please go the left side of the altar rail and the presiding priest will dip the bread in the cup for you. If you would like to sip from the common cup, please go to the right side of the altar rail where the bread and the cup will be offered separately.

Communion Hymn

Not Here for High and Holy Things

#8 Hymnal 1982



*1 Not here for high and ho - ly things we ren - der thanks to
 *2 the ro - yal robes of au - tumn moors, the gold - en gates of
 *3 of faith and hope and love un - dimmed, un - dy - ing still through
 4 A - wake, a - wake to love and work! The lark is in the
 5 Come, let thy voice be one with theirs, shout with their shout of
 6 to give and give, and give a - gain, what God hath giv - en



1 thee, but for the com - mon things of earth, the
 2 spring, the vel - vet of soft sum - mer nights, the
 3 death, the re - sur - rec - tion of the world, what
 4 sky, the fields are wet with dia - mond dew, the
 5 praise; see how the gi - ant sun soars up, great
 6 thee; to spend thy - self nor count the cost; to



1 pur - ple pa - gean - try of dawn - ing and of
 2 sil - ver glis - te - ring of all the mil - lion
 3 time there comes the breath of dawn that rus - tles
 4 worlds a - wake to cry their bles - sings on the
 5 lord of years and days! So let the love of
 6 serve right glo - rious - ly the God who gave all



1 dy - ing days, the splen - dor of the sea,
 2 mil - lion stars, the si - lent song they sing,
 3 through the trees, and that clear voice that saith:
 4 Lord of life, as he goes meek - ly by,
 5 Je - sus come and set thy soul a - blaze,
 6 worlds that are, and all that are to be.

Words: Geoffrey Anketel Studdert-Kennedy (1883-1929). By permission of Hodder and Stoughton Limited. Music: *Morning song*, melody att. Elkanah Kelsay Dare (1782-1826); harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944). Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion on Zoom

While some are receiving communion at church, those worshiping on Zoom say the following prayer:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you were already there, I embrace you and unite myself wholly to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Post-communion Prayer for a Multi-located Congregation

Let us pray. **God of abundance, we gather as your faithful people near and far. We believe you are present with us as we are united with Christ and one another in prayer and sacrament. We thank you for feeding all of us with your love and for making us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.** *Written by the Rev. Dorota Wright-Pruski, adapted by the Rev. Will Drosos*

The Blessing

Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing, Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of Life, be with you now and always. **Amen.** *-Saint Clare*

Announcements

The Recessional Hymn starts on Page 16

Recessional Hymn**God of Grace and God of Glory****#594 Hymnal 1982**

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple pour thy power;
2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as - sail his ways!
3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to thy con - trol;
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils we de - plore;

crown thine an - cient Church's sto - ry; bring her bud to glo - rious flower.
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise:
shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in things and poor in soul.
let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our glo - ry ev - er - more.

Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the fac - ing of this
grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the liv - ing of these
Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, lest we miss thy king - dom's
Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, serv - ing thee whom we a -

hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
days, for the liv - ing of these days.
goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969), alt. By permission of the author. Music: *Cwm Rhondda*, John Hughes (1873-1932).

The Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Worship Participants

Presider	Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith
Preacher	Rev. Caroline Mitchell
Acolytes	Will Ferris
Altar Guild	Susan Cowart
Flower Guild	Melinda Fairchild
Digital Usher	Audrey Adair
Digital Verger	Walter Lazear
Children's Chapel	Lael Lyons, Anthony Amato, & Beth Clarke
Lector & Intercessor	Duane Goddard
Eucharistic Ministers	Pat Smith & Anthony Amato
Healing Minister	Beth Clarke
Usher	Mary Lee Montfort
Fellowship Hour Host	Louise Armitage

SEPTEMBER VESTRY PERSON

Jim Vantorini

703.288.3166

jvantorini@cox.net

Questions, comments, concerns, compliments, all welcome.



Our 18th annual Pumpkin Patch is coming soon to St Thomas!

Great Pumpkins for Good Causes

Pumpkin sales support the Northwestern New Mexico Navajo Indian Reservation where the pumpkins are grown. We donate all proceeds to our ministry partners: SHARE (McLean food bank), Falls Church/McLean Children's Center, Second Story, and the FACETS Hypothermia Program.

THREE EASY ways everyone can help:

- 1. Tell your friends – word of mouth is the best advertising. Post a picture of yourself in the Patch or on social media.**
- 2. Like and Share the Pumpkin Patch Facebook & Instagram Page!**
- 3. Sign up to sell pumpkins - <http://bit.ly/PumpkinSales2025>**

For more information, please visit <https://bit.ly/StThomasPumpkins>

TWO OTHER WAYS TO HELP

- 1. PALLET LAYDOWN** - Sunday Sept 28th at 4PM.

(The parish retreat finishes at noon on this day) We'll be laying out the pallets to display the pumpkins. We need around a dozen volunteers. If you are able-bodied and willing to help – please email me at tobygbush@hotmail.com.

- 2. PUMPKIN UNLOADING** - Saturday October 4th at 3:30PM (AFTERNOON!).

RAIN or SHINE. Almost all of the lifting and carrying is done by local 8th graders performing community service. We need 12-15 adult volunteers to help supervise (and in some cases) assist them. There are also opportunities on unload day that are even less strenuous – check-in, hospitality etc. Please email me at tobygbush@hotmail.com if you can help.

If you would like to assist with decorating the patch, please email Becky Vantorini beckyventorini@gmail.com.

We still have some St. Thomas t-shirts for sale for \$20



Shirts have either crew neck (round) or v-neck. In select sizes.

PRAYER FOR ST. THOMAS CHURCH

*Almighty God, by your Spirit the whole body of your Church is governed and sanctified.
Hear our prayer for St. Thomas: build in us a renewed vision of your Church; shape our life
according to your will; empower us with the gifts to make us one, that together we may grow
as a church in the spiritual strength of community, and reach out to include all people in Christ's
love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

MINISTERS

The Baptized Faithful of St. Thomas Episcopal Church
The Most Rev. Sean Rowe, *Presiding Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. E. Mark Stevenson, *Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. Gayle E. Harris, *Assistant Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. Mark A. Bourlakas, *Assistant Bishop*

The Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith, *Rector*
Fr. William Drosos, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. Dr. Caroline Mitchell, *Assisting Priest*
Dr. Lori Lind, *Minister of Music*
Ms. Beth Clarke, *Seminarian*

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513-638-8800 – will.drosos@stthomasmcleanva.org
970-417-8417 – kfshplp@gmail.com
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THE VESTRY

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Rick Howe	Junior Warden	rhowelaw@gmail.com	515-229-8414
Chris Forward		christine.m.forward@gmail.com	703-963-6585
Mollie Regan		mollieregane@verizon.net	954-778-7252
Lynne Montgomery		lkrmontgomery@gmail.com	703-298-7181
Chris Johnston		christopher.a.johnston@gmail.com	410-299-9776
Anne Spear		amspear@yahoo.com	703-915-4300
Jim Ventrini		jventorini@cox.net	703-288-3166
Alan Thode		afthode@hotmail.com	

OTHER LEADERS

David Alton Smith	Register	dapy.smith@gmail.com	703-488-0442
Pat Smith	Treasurer	pysmith51@gmail.com	703-338-0974
Steve Wickman	Diocesan Delegate	wickmansb@msn.com	571-393-8544
Becky Ventrini	Alternate Delegate	beckyventorini@gmail.com	202-390-4412

STAFF

Rishabh Bajekal	Parish Administrator	Rishabh.bajekal@stthomasmcleanva.org	703-442-0330
Mary Cyrus	Accountant	accountant@stthomasmcleanva.org	703-442-0330
Nicole Warga	Cribbery Caregiver	ncwarga00@hotmail.com	703-476-9476

The Skinny at St. Thomas

September 7th, 2025



More information about many of these events can be found on the Announcements page on our website. Scan the QR code to see them.

St. Thomas Walkway of Love

We are now collecting orders for engraved Walkway of Love bricks to remember a loved one or give thanks for blessings in your life. **Deadline for 2025 orders is Monday, September 22nd.** We will bless the new bricks on All Saint's Day, Sunday, November 2nd. Scan the QR code below to learn more and for an order form. If you have any questions, please contact Toby Bush at tobygbush@hotmail.com.



Pints with Doubting Thomas

The next gathering of Pints with Doubting Thomas will be on Wednesday, September 10th in Hudson Hall at 6:30 pm. We will still provide some drinks and light snacks! Join us for learning and fellowship.

Women Gathering

Women Gathering will resume on Thursday, September 11th at 4:30 pm. Please reach out to Rev. Fran or the office for the details and Zoom link.

ECW Movie Screening

Sunday, September 14th at noon in the sanctuary
ECW will share a light lunch and view the movie **Women Talking**, which tells the story of a religious colony devastated by sexual violence. **Women Talking** explores **survival, solidarity and spirituality** after sexual assault. It's the women's faith in God that ultimately empowers them to imagine a better, fairer way of life. Please join us for lunch and a movie. We will have an opportunity to discuss the film at its conclusion.

Ladies Lunch Bunch

Join us Monday, Sept. 15th at 11:15 am

Kalypso's Sports Tavern Patio

1617 Washington Plaza N, Lake Anne, Reston

<https://www.kalypsoportstavern.com>

For more information, email Audrey Adair at audreyjadair@gmail.com or text (813) 956-7550

September Grill Night!

Thursday, September 18th at 6 pm in Hudson Hall

Please join us for the final Grill Night of the season! This is one of our favorite traditions at St. Thomas. Men Eating Breakfast will grill up some burgers and dogs for us, and there will be vegan options. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share, and feel free to invite friend

Joy's Ordination to the Priesthood

Saturday, September 20th at 10:30 am

God willing, the Rt. Reverend E. Mark Stevenson, Bishop of Virginia, will ordain Kara Louise Laughlin, Anne Kristine Rose, and **Joy Yvonne Warburton** to the Sacred Order of Priests on **Saturday, September 20 at 10:30 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church** in McLean, VA. The Bishop and the Standing Committee request the honor of your presence. The festal color is red.

September ECW Meeting

The next meeting of the ECW will be on **Sunday, September 21, 2025, at 11:30 am** in the ELC and on Zoom. *Continued on the back...*

As the agenda for the meeting is being developed, you are invited to submit requests for funding of charitable organizations.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86757077133?pwd=u9buodQRyrHjcKyJB9SfrXoIQjld.1>

Meeting ID: 867 5707 7133 Passcode: 036084

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St. Thomas Pumpkin Patch Coming Soon!

Great Pumpkins for Good Causes: Our 18th annual Pumpkin Patch is coming soon to St Thomas! Pumpkin sales support the Northwestern New Mexico Navajo Indian Reservation, and we donate all proceeds to local ministry partners.

Sign up to sell: <http://bit.ly/PumpkinSales2025>

We are also looking for volunteers for

PALLET LAYDOWN - Sunday Sept 28th at 4PM.

PUMPKIN UNLOADING - Saturday October 4th at 3:30PM (AFTERNOON!). RAIN or SHINE. Reach out to Toby at tobygbush@hotmail.com if you can help.

If you would like to assist with decorating the patch, email Becky Ventrini beckyventorini@gmail.com.

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Coffee Hosts Needed for Remainder of Year

Thank you for continuing this tradition of Fellowship at St. Thomas! We ask hosts to limit their food offerings to 2-3 items, to include fresh fruit or raw veggies for our health-conscious and diet-restricted friends. If you have any questions, please contact

Becky Ventrini Fellowship Hour Coordinator, beckyventorini@gmail.com (703) 288-3166,h (202) 390-4412 c

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4EAAAC2CA64-](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4EAAAC2CA64-2775851-stthomas)

[2775851-stthomas](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4EAAAC2CA64-2775851-stthomas)



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SHARE Garden Weekly Harvest and Delivery

The SHARE Garden has been yielding harvests with produce like cucumbers, eggplant, okra, beans, potatoes and tomatoes. We need volunteers to harvest and deliver to SHARE. Please sign up by emailing Jon Spear Jon.spear1@verizon.net or phone 571.251.6547 or scanning the QR code below.



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SHARE Needs

Scan the QR code below to see the list of most needed items for our ministry partners at SHARE



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This Week

Monday September 8th

10 am – Staff Meeting

12 pm – Noonday Prayer

Tuesday September 9th

12 pm – Holy Eucharist

Wednesday September 10th

12 pm – Noonday Prayer

6:30 pm – Pints with Doubting Thomas

Thursday September 11th

12 pm – Noonday Prayer

4:30 pm – Women Gathering

Friday September 12th

11 am to 3 pm – McLean Islamic Center Worship

Saturday September 13th

7:45 am – Men Eating Breakfast

Sunday September 14th

8:45 am – Choir Rehearsal

10 am – Worship

12 pm – ECW Movie Screening

5 pm – High Mass