



**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.

# Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Holy Eucharist, Rite II—10:00 AM

September 21, 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. Dr. Caroline Mitchell

### Prelude

### Procession

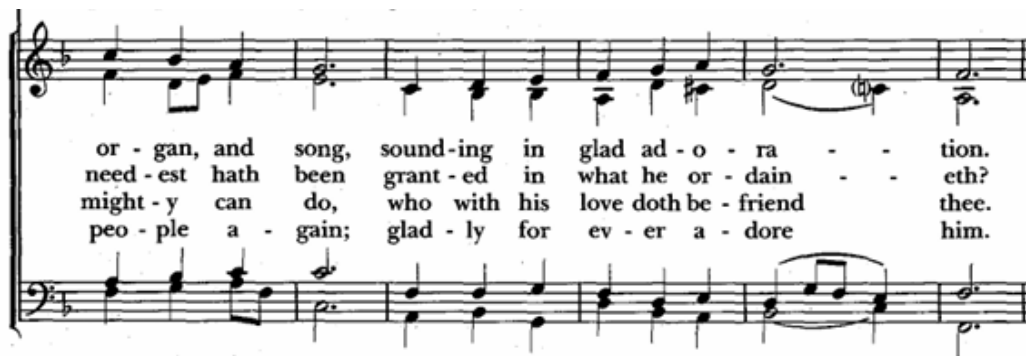
*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

#390 Hymnal 1982

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
2 Praise to the Lord; o - ver all things he glo - rious - ly  
3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy way and de -  
4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion; O my soul, praise him, for he is thy  
reign - eth: borne as on ea - gle - wings, safe - ly his  
fend thee; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall  
dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with

health and sal - va - tion: join the great throng, psal - ter - y,  
saints he sus - tain - eth. Hast thou not seen how all thou  
ev - er at - tend thee; pon - der a - new what the Al -  
prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his



### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### The Lessons

#### **The First Lesson**

**Jeremiah 8:18-9:1**

A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah.

My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick. Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land: "Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King not in her?" ("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?") "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician

there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored? O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people!

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 79:1-9** (*We will pray a portion of Psalm 79 responsively by half verse*)

- 1 O God, the heathen have come into your inheritance;  
they have profaned your holy temple; \*  
**they have made Jerusalem a heap of rubble.**
- 2 They have given the bodies of your servants as food for the birds of the air, \*  
**and the flesh of your faithful ones to the beasts of the field.**
- 3 They have shed their blood like water on every side of Jerusalem, \*  
**and there was no one to bury them.**
- 4 We have become a reproach to our neighbors, \*  
**an object of scorn and derision to those around us.**
- 5 How long will you be angry, O Lord? \*  
**will your fury blaze like fire for ever?**
- 6 Pour out your wrath upon the heathen who have not known you \*  
**and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon your Name.**
- 7 For they have devoured Jacob \*  
**and made his dwelling a ruin.**
- 8 Remember not our past sins; let your compassion be swift to meet us; \*  
**for we have been brought very low.**
- 9 Help us, O God our Savior, for the glory of your Name; \*  
**deliver us and forgive us our sins, for your Name's sake.**

## **The Second Lesson**

### **1 Timothy 2:1-7**

A reading from the first letter to Timothy.

First of all, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all -- this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn***Commit Thou All That Grieves Thee 1,2 / 3,4***#669 Hymnal 1982**

1 Com - mit thou all that grieves thee and fills thy heart with  
2 O trust the Lord then whol - ly, if thou wouldst be se -  
3 Thy last - ing truth and mer - cy, O Fa - ther, see a -  
4 Hope on, then, bro - ken spi - rit; hope on, be not a -

care to him whose faith - ful mer - cy the  
cure; his work must thou con - sid - er for  
right the needs of all thy chil - dren, their  
fraid: fear not the griefs that plague thee and

skies a - bove de - clare, who gives the winds their  
thy work to en - dure. What prof - it doth it  
an - guish or de - light: what lov - ing wis - dom  
keep thy heart dis - mayed: thy God, in his great

cours - es, who points the clouds their way; 'tis  
bring thee to pine in grief and care? God  
choos - eth, re - deem - ing might will do, and  
mer - cy, will save thee, hold thee fast, and

he will guide thy foot - steps and be thy staff and stay.  
ev - er sends his bless - ing in an - swer to thy prayer.  
bring to sure ful - fill - ment thy coun - sel good and true.  
in his own time grant thee the sun of joy at last.

## **The Gospel**

## **Luke 16:1-13**

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **The Sermon**

**Fr. Will Drosos**

## **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 Cleta Raymond, Michael Regan, and all those celebrating birthdays this week; Tom Manteuffel and Margaret Sheeran, Steve and Phyllis Wickman, and 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, Wilma, Cristina, Thomas**, 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**

*The Lord's My Light*

**Henry Ruthven**

The Lord's my light and saving health,  
who shall make me dismayed?  
The Lord is the strength of my life,  
then shall I be afraid?  
One thing I of the Lord desired,  
and will see to obtain.  
then all the days of my life I may  
within God's house remain.

And now even at this present ime,  
mine head shall lifted be,  
Above all those that are my foes  
and round encompass me:  
Therefore unto his tabernacle  
I'll sacrifices bring,  
Of joyfulness I'll sing, yea I  
to God will praises sing.

### **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**

*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 as we shout with joy:

**Sanctus: #255 Lift Every Voice and Sing II**

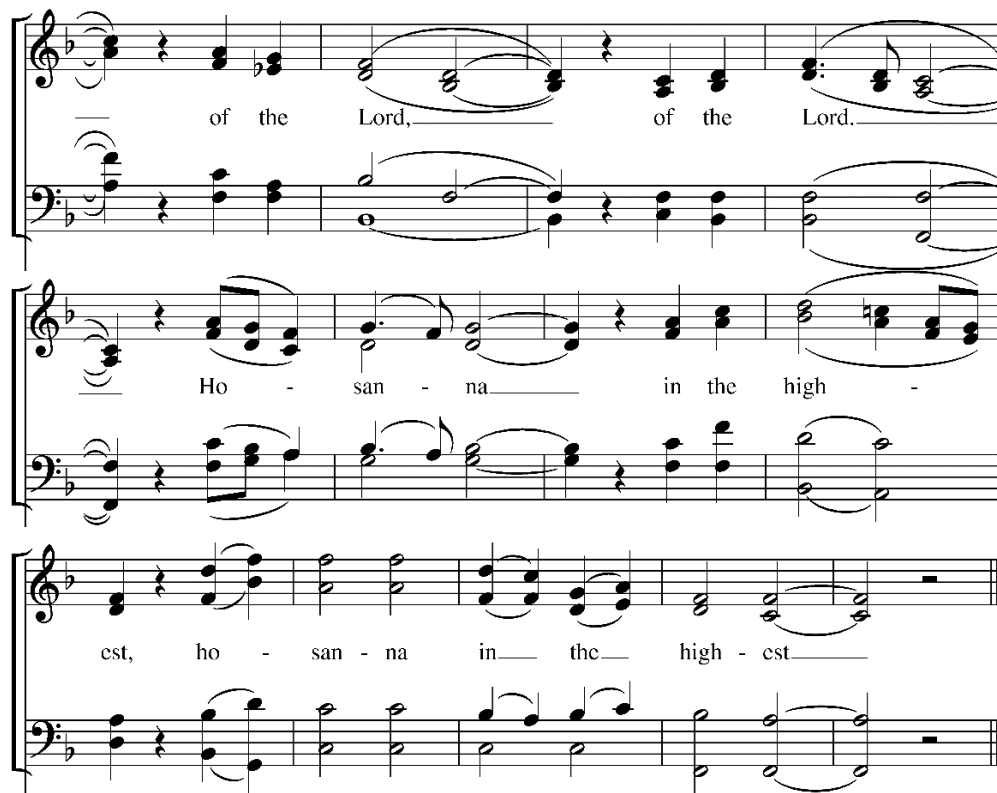
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly

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. Gluten free wafers are available by request.*

**Prayer for Spiritual Communion on Zoom**


*While some are receiving communion at church, those worshipping 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.**

**Communion Hymn**

*Be Thou My Vision*

**#488 Hymnal 1982**



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,

all else be nought to me, save that thou art—  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!

thou my best thought,— by day or by night,  
thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;  
Heart of my heart, — what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.  
still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

Words: Irish, ca. 700; versified Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931); tr. Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935), alt. Music: *Slane*, Irish ballad melody; adapt. *The Church Hymnary*, 1927; harm. David Evans (1874-1948). By permission of Oxford University Press.

### 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

#### Recessional Hymn

#### *To God Be the Glory*

#108 Voices Found

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 3/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a basso continuo line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

1 To God be the glo - ry, great things he has done! So loved he the  
2 O per - fect re - demp - tion, the pur - chase of blood! To ev - ery be -  
3 Great things he has taught us, great things he has done, and great our re -

world that he gave us his son, who yield - ed his life an a -  
liev - er the pro - mise of God! The vil - est of - fen - der who  
joic - ing through Je - sus the son; but pur - er and high - er and

tone - ment for sin and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.  
tru - ly be - lieves, that mo - ment from Je - sus for - give - ness re - ceives.  
great - er will be our won - der, our rap - ture, when Je - sus we see.

*Refrain*

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people re-joice!

O come to the Fa-ther, through Je-sus the son,

and give him the glo-ry! Great things he has done!

The musical score is written for two parts, Treble and Bass, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The first system contains the first two lines of the refrain. The second system contains the third line. The third system contains the fourth line. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and moving lines. The lyrics are printed below the corresponding staves.

**The Dismissal**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

### **Worship Participants**

Presider	Rev. Caroline Mitchell
Preacher	Fr. Will Drosos
Acolytes	Sarah Thompson & Joseph Cuomo
Altar Guild	Anne Spear
Flower Guild	Jan Grimes
Digital Verger	Chuck Grimes
Children's Chapel	Lael Lyons & Beth Clarke
Lector & Intercessor	Debby Reed
Eucharistic Ministers	Becky Ventorini & Anthony Amato
Healing Minister	Beth Clarke
Usher	Jan Hamilton
Fellowship Hour Host	Berta Smith

### **SEPTEMBER VESTRY PERSON**

**Jim Ventorini**

703.288.3166

jventorini@cox.net

Questions, comments, concerns, compliments, all welcome.



## **St. Thomas Walkway of Love Orders Due Tomorrow!**

The Walkway of Love that embraces the Memorial Garden provides us with the opportunity to memorialize loved ones no longer with us, give thanks for our present blessings, or simply to offer up ourselves in commitment to this community.

We are now collecting orders for engraved bricks for the Walkway of Love which surrounds the Memorial Garden. The order will be placed on Monday September 22nd, and the new bricks will be blessed on All Saints' Day, November 2nd. The Walkway of Love is an important fundraiser for the property reserve at St. Thomas. The suggested minimum donation for a brick is \$150.

If you would like to purchase a brick in thanksgiving for or in memory of a loved one or event, please complete an order form. Hard copies can be found in the narthex or downloaded here: <https://stthomasmcleanva.org/life-together/walkway-of-love>.

Please return completed forms with your check made payable to St. Thomas Episcopal Church (indicate in the memo section for "Walkway of Love") to Rishabh in the office. If you have any questions, please contact Toby Bush at [tobygbush@hotmail.com](mailto:tobygbush@hotmail.com)



**Our 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:tobygbush@hotmail.com).

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

RAIN or SHINE. Almost all of the lifting and carrying is done by local 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:tobygbush@hotmail.com) if you can help.

If you would like to assist with decorating the patch, please email Becky Ventrini [beckyventorini@gmail.com](mailto:beckyventorini@gmail.com).



# Oktoberfest

Food & fun for the whole family

at St. Thomas Episcopal Church

**OCTOBER 12, 4-8PM**



Live Music and Silent auction by Shakespeare Opera Theatre.  
Benefiting the Galloway Fund.

[WWW.SHAKESPEAREOPERATHEATRE.COM](http://WWW.SHAKESPEAREOPERATHEATRE.COM)  
[BOXOFFICE@SHAKESPEAREOPERATHEATRE.COM](mailto:BOXOFFICE@SHAKESPEAREOPERATHEATRE.COM)  
443.226.8270



ARTSFAIRFAX



## ***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*

Mr. Anthony Amato, *Seminarian*

540-532-5665 – [fran.gardnersmith@stthomasmcleanva.org](mailto:fran.gardnersmith@stthomasmcleanva.org)

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443-226-8270 – [lori.lind@stthomasmcleanva.org](mailto:lori.lind@stthomasmcleanva.org)

602-463-5289 – [eclarke@vts.edu](mailto:eclarke@vts.edu)

530-863-0692 – [aamato@vts.edu](mailto:aamato@vts.edu)

### **THE VESTRY**

Melinda Fairchild	Senior Warden	<a href="mailto:meldavid7815@gmail.com">meldavid7815@gmail.com</a>	240-274-4741
Rick Howe	Junior Warden	<a href="mailto:rhowelaw@gmail.com">rhowelaw@gmail.com</a>	515-229-8414
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Mollie Regan		<a href="mailto:mollieregane@verizon.net">mollieregane@verizon.net</a>	954-778-7252
Lynne Montgomery		<a href="mailto:lkrmontgomery@gmail.com">lkrmontgomery@gmail.com</a>	703-298-7181
Chris Johnston		<a href="mailto:christopher.a.johnston@gmail.com">christopher.a.johnston@gmail.com</a>	410-299-9776
Anne Spear		<a href="mailto:amspear@yahoo.com">amspear@yahoo.com</a>	703-915-4300
Jim Ventrone		<a href="mailto:jventorini@cox.net">jventorini@cox.net</a>	703-288-3166
Alan Thode		<a href="mailto:aftthode@hotmail.com">aftthode@hotmail.com</a>	

### **OTHER LEADERS**

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Pat Smith	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:pysmith51@gmail.com">pysmith51@gmail.com</a>	703-338-0974
Steve Wickman	Diocesan Delegate	<a href="mailto:wickmansb@msn.com">wickmansb@msn.com</a>	571-393-8544
Becky Ventrone	Alternate Delegate	<a href="mailto:beckyventorini@gmail.com">beckyventorini@gmail.com</a>	202-390-4412

### **STAFF**

Rishabh Bajekal	Parish Administrator	<a href="mailto:Rishabh.bajekal@stthomasmcleanva.org">Rishabh.bajekal@stthomasmcleanva.org</a>	703-442-0330
Mary Cyrus	Accountant	<a href="mailto:accountant@stthomasmcleanva.org">accountant@stthomasmcleanva.org</a>	703-442-0330
Nicole Wurga	Cribbery Caregiver	<a href="mailto:ncwurga00@hotmail.com">ncwurga00@hotmail.com</a>	703-476-9476

## The Skinny at St. Thomas September 21<sup>st</sup>, 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 22<sup>nd</sup>.** We will bless the new bricks on All Saint's Day, Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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](mailto:tobygbush@hotmail.com).



### September ECW Meeting

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86757077133?pwd=u9buodQRyrHjcKyJB9SfrfXoIQjld.1>

Meeting ID: 867 5707 7133 Passcode: 036084

### St. Thomas High Mass Continues Tonight!

Just a reminder that there is a new weekly high mass at 5pm for anyone who desires worship that is ancient, engages all of the senses, and embraces mystery. There will be a different preacher from our Sunday morning service so anyone who attends will hear a different sermon. A cantor will lead the congregational chanting and singing, and the bulletins will provide guidance for those who have never worshipped in this way before.

### Pints with Doubting Thomas

The next gathering of Pints with Doubting Thomas will be on Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Hudson Hall. We will still provide some drinks and light snacks! Join us for learning and fellowship.

### St. Thomas Pumpkin Patch Coming Soon!

Great Pumpkins for Good Causes: Our 18th annual Pumpkin Patch is coming soon to St Thomas! Pallet laydown is on September 28<sup>th</sup> at 4pm and Pumpkin Unloading is on October 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm. Email [tobygbush@hotmail.com](mailto:tobygbush@hotmail.com) to volunteer. Sign up to sell pumpkins here: <http://bit.ly/PumpkinSales2025> You can get more information on Page 17 of the bulletin.

### Another Way to Help the Pumpkin Patch

Pumpkin Patch Money Counters Team Coordinator Lynne Montgomery is looking for volunteers to count daily proceeds at the end of the day (6 p.m. Monday through Friday) during the month of October. Ed Rhodes and Jim Ventrini are currently on the team. Please contact Lynne at [lkrmontgomery@gmail.com](mailto:lkrmontgomery@gmail.com) or by cell phone at (703) 298-7181 if interested.

### Shakespeare Opera Theatre Oktoberfest!

Support St. Thomas' Pumpkin Patch and Shakespeare Opera Theatre while having fun! Come to Oktoberfest October 12<sup>th</sup> 4-8 PM and get your fall pumpkins, have some food and fun with family and friends (we're always kid friendly) and hear some beautiful vocal music later in the evening. And of course, there will be German food and beer in our German Biergarten!

### Women Gathering

Women Gathering will meet next on Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm. Please reach out to Rev. Fran or the office for the details and Zoom link.

### ECW Book Group

Join us at 7:30pm on October 15<sup>th</sup> in Hudson Hall. The book will be *The Lemon Tree* by Sandy Tolan. The Zoom link is below if you'd like to join online.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89924243532?pwd=foh9QQXPhZJxXJ4RdW7UU6p36gllm.1>

Or call in: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 899 2424 3532 Passcode: 364549

### Ladies Lunch Bunch

Please join us...

**When: 4<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Time: 11:30 AM**

**Where: Sunflower Vegetarian Restaurant**

2531 Chain Bridge Rd, Vienna, VA 22181

<https://www.crystalsunflower.com/>

Look for up-to-date details in the church bulletin and newsletter or text Audrey at (813) 956-7550

### 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](mailto:beckyventorini@gmail.com) (703) 288-3166, h (202) 390-4412 c

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4EAAAC2CA64-2775851-stthomas>



### September SHARE Needs

Our ministry partner SHARE is always in need of food and personal care items for our neighbors in McLean, Tysons, and Pimmit Hills. Scan the QR code below to see the current list of most needed items:



### Tysons Interfaith Coffeehouse

Join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 11am for coffee and conversation. The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. They meet at:

Greater Vienna Baha'i Community Center  
8521 Leesburg Pike, Suite 320, Vienna VA 22182  
(Please park in the garage in the back)

### This Week

**Monday September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

12 pm – Noonday Prayer

**Tuesday September 23<sup>rd</sup>**

12 pm – Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday September 24<sup>th</sup>**

12 pm – Noonday Prayer

6:30 pm – Pints with Doubting Thomas

**Thursday September 25<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 am – Early Learning Center Picture Day

12 pm – Noonday Prayer

**Friday September 26<sup>th</sup>**

11 am to 3 pm – McLean Islamic Center Worship

**Sunday September 28<sup>th</sup>**

8:45 am – Choir Rehearsal

10 am – Worship

5 pm – High Mass