



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.

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost



Holy Eucharist, Rite II—10:00 AM

August 16, 2026

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

Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith

Prelude

Please stand as you are able.

Processional Hymn

In Boldness, Look to God

#94 Voices Found

The musical score is for the hymn "In Boldness, Look to God" (Hymn #94). It is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The score consists of two systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line includes four-part harmony (Soprano, Alto, Tenor 1, Tenor 2) and lyrics. The piano accompaniment features chords and melodic lines in both the right and left hands. Chord symbols are provided above the vocal line: Fm(Em), Db(C), Eb(D), Ab(G), Fm(Em), Db(C) for the first system, and Ab(G), Bbm(Am), Eb(D), Ab(G) for the second system.

1 In bold-ness, look to God for help, like wo - men folk who
2 In bold-ness, lean on God for strength, and heal - ing from dis -
3 In bold-ness, learn of God the truth of Ma - ry's bet - ter
4 In bold-ness, love, nor count the cost. Con - front the world's harsh

dared: to ask that Je - sus heal a child, that
ease, of mind and bod - y, heart and will, whose
part: by fear and cen - sure un - de - terred, de -
stare: like one who washed the feet of Christ, and

Fm(Em) Db(C) Eb(D) Fm(Em) Ab(G) Bb(Am)

crumbs of grace be shared, that out - cast ones be
bond - age Je - sus frees. Reach out and touch the
ter - mined in her heart to kneel at Je - sus'
wiped them with her hair, poured per - fume to a -

Eb(D) Ab(G) Fm(Em) Db(C) Eb(D) Fm(Em)

wel - comed to the feast God has pre - pared.
hem of Christ, and gath - er spi - rit's ease.
feet and learn the wis - dom he im - parts.
noint her Lord, and left love's fra - grance there.

Words: Mary Louise Bringle © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Music: *Morning Song*, melody att. Elkanah Kelsay Dare (1782–1826); harm. Thomas Foster © 1984 Thomas Foster.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

The Acclamation

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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.**

Children's Chapel is on break for the summer. Children are welcome to stay with us in the sanctuary and are encouraged to be full participants in the worship service.

Gloria

Glory to God

#S280 Hymnal 1982

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the lessons.

The First Lesson

Isaiah 56:1,6-8

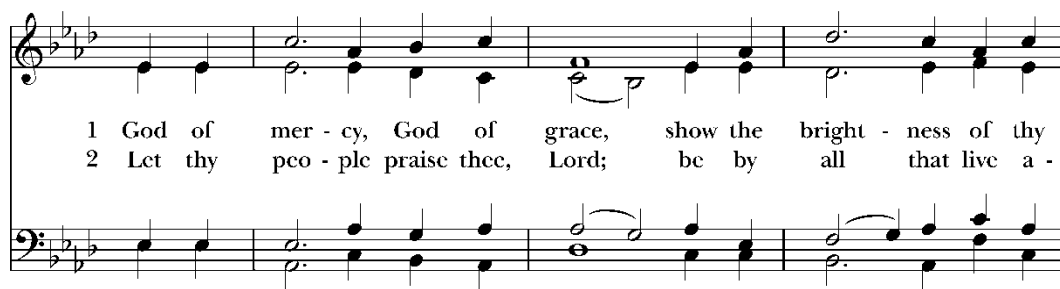
A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant-- these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

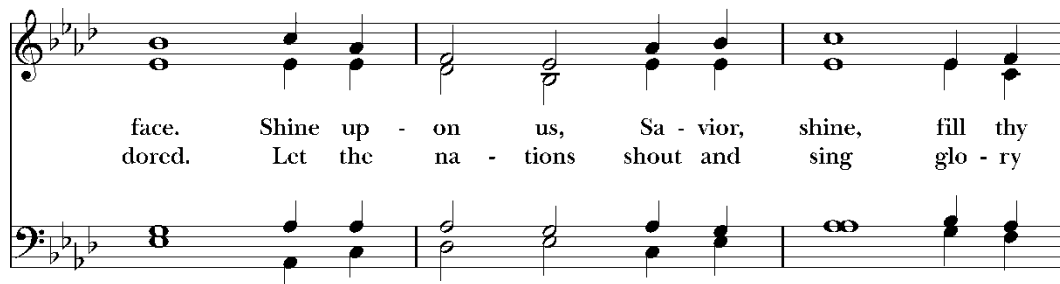
Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

The Word of the Lord.

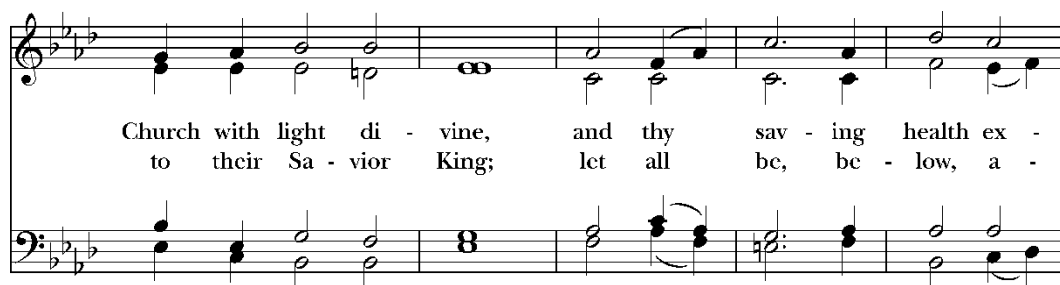
Thanks be to God.



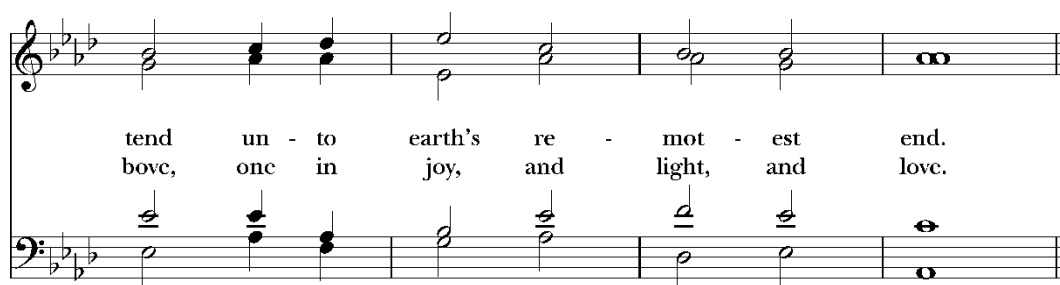
1 God of mer - cy, God of grace, show the bright - ness of thy
2 Let thy peo - ple praise thee, Lord; be by all that live a -



face. Shine up - on us, Sa - vior, shine, fill thy
dored. Let the na - tions shout and sing glo - ry



Church with light di - vine, and thy sav - ing health ex -
to their Sa - vior King; let all be, be - low, a -



tend un - to earth's re - mot - est end.
bove, onc in joy, and light, and love.

Words: Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847), alt. Music: *Lucerna Laudoniae*, David Evans (1874-1948). By permission of Oxford University Press.

The Second Lesson

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Please stand as you are able for the sequence hymn and Gospel reading.
As a sign of respect, please turn to face the Gospel.*

Sequence Hymn

In Your Mercy, Lord You Called Me

#706 Hymnal 1982

(Verses 1,2 before the Gospel and Verse 3 after the Gospel)

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. The first system contains three verses of the hymn. The second system continues the melody with lyrics for the first verse. The third system concludes the hymn with lyrics for the first verse. The lyrics are as follows:

1 In your mer - cy, Lord, you called me, taught my
2 Lord, I did not free - ly choose you till by
3 Now my heart sets none a - bove you, for your

sin - filled heart and mind, else this world had
grace you set me free; for my heart would
grace a - lone I thirst, know - ing well, that

still en - thrall'd me, and to glo - ry kept me blind.
still re - fuse you had your love not cho - sen me.
if I love you, you, O Lord, have loved me first.

Words: Josiah Conder (1789-1855); alt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999). Copyright © 1982, Charles P. Price. Music: *Halton Holgate*, William Boyce (1711-1779).

The Gospel

Matthew 15:10-28

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith

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.

You are invited to kneel as you are able for the Prayers of the People.

The Prayers of the People

Form II

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. In the silence after each prayer, you may offer your own prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; Mark, Gayle, and Mark, our Bishops; Fran, Will, Lori, Susan, Holly, Nicole, and David, our staff; the teachers at the Early Learning Center; and the Vestry and Officers of St. Thomas; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for those who are poor, sick, hungry, oppressed, or in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God. Pray that they may find and be found by God.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died.

Silence

I ask your prayers for those who are on our parish prayer list: **Ethan, Vincent, Lynn, Emily and Dave, Yusuf, Erin, Andy, Diane, Alison, Bill, Chuck, Dani, Skeets, Debby, Cristina,**

Wilma, Karen, Tricia, Janette, Barry, Abby, Michael, Kathy, Wes, Yan, Nancy and Mike, Eric and Em, Dan, Eddie, Zorha, Jack, Joe, Audrey, Richard, Berta, Phyllis, Larry, and those you would name either silently or aloud.

Silence

I ask your thanksgiving for Chris Forward, Rick Montfort, Mariko Gardiner, Calina Ryder, Barbara Wicks, and all those celebrating birthdays this week; for David & Pat Smith, and all those celebrating wedding anniversaries; and for those blessings you would name either silently or aloud.

Silence

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 against God and our neighbor. *A time of silence.* Together, let us pray:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. 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

I appeal to you, siblings in Christ, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. *Romans 12:1*



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>.

You may be seated for the Offertory Hymn.

Offertory Hymn

O Spirit of the Living God

#531 Hymnal 1982

1 O Spi - rit of the liv - ing God, in
2 Give tongues of fire and hearts of love, to
3 Be dark - ness, at thy com - ing, light; con -
4 Con - vert the na - tions! far and nigh the

all thy plen - i - tude of grace, wher - e'er the foot of
preach the rec - on - cil - ing word; give power and unc - tion
fu - sion, or - der in thy path; souls with - out strength in -
tri - umphs of the cross re - cord; the Name of Je - sus

man hath trod, de - scend on our a - pos - tate race.
from a - bove, when - e'er the joy - ful sound is heard.
spire with might, bid mer - cy tri - umph o - ver wrath.
glo - ri - fy, till ev - ery peo - ple call him Lord.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt. Music: *Melcombe*, Samuel Webbe (1740-1816).

Please stand as you are able when the offering is brought forward.

The Doxology *Come Holy Ghost, Creator Blest* **#112 Lift Every Voice and Sing II, Verse 4**

4. Praise we the Lord, Fa - ther and Son, And Ho - ly

4. Spir - it with them one; And may the Son

4. on us be - stow All gifts that from the Spir - it

4. flow, All gifts that from the Spir - it flow.

The image displays a musical score for a four-part vocal setting. It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: '4. Praise we the Lord, Fa - ther and Son, And Ho - ly', '4. Spir - it with them one; And may the Son', '4. on us be - stow All gifts that from the Spir - it', and '4. flow, All gifts that from the Spir - it flow.' The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C

(2024 Update Approved by General Convention)

May God 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.

God of all power, Source and Sustainer of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: shining light and enfolding dark; the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with the capacity for memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of your creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your eternal Word, born of your servant Mary, to fulfill your Law, opening for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus

#S129 Hymnal 1982

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est._____

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate Christ's death and resurrection as we await the day of his coming.

Therefore, O God, we who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Sanctify us also, and let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

God of our ancestors; Redeemer and Mother of Israel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us.

Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only and not for strength; for pardon only and not for renewal.

Accept these prayers and praises, Almighty God, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **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 celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.
 A period of silence follows, and then the following anthem is sung.*

The Fraction

#873 Wonder, Love, and Praise

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Those who

eat my flesh and drink my blood a - bide in me and

I in them. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

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.

All who desire a relationship with God through Jesus Christ are welcome at communion, regardless of age or tradition. Please come forward at the invitation of an usher.

If you wish to receive the bread and sip from the chalice, please go the right side of the altar.

If you prefer to receive the bread and have a minister dip it in the chalice, please go the left side of the altar.
 If you prefer, you may come forward for a blessing. Indicate this by crossing your arms across your chest.
Gluten free wafers are available on request. Please indicate to the minister when you come forward.
 There will be no healing prayers during communion today. If you desire prayers for healing—for yourself or for others—please see Rev. Fran after the service.

Communion Hymn

My God, Thy Table Now is Spread

#321 Hymnal 1982

1 My God, thy ta - ble now is spread, thy cup with
 2 O let thy ta - ble hon - ored be, and fur - nished
 3 Drawn by thy quick-en-ing grace, O Lord, in coun - tless
 4 Nor let thy spread - ing Gos - pel rest till through the

love doth o - ver - flow; be all thy chil - dren
 well with joy - ful guests; and may each soul sal -
 num - bers let them come and gath - er from their
 world thy truth has run, till with this Bread shall

thith - er led, and let them thy sweet mer - cies know.
 va - tion see, that here its sa - cred pledg - es tastes.
 Fa - ther's board the Bread that lives be - yond the tomb.
 all be blessed who see the light or feel the sun.

Words: Sts. 1-3, Philip Doddridge (1702-1751), alt.; st. 4, Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: *Rockingham*, melody from *Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature*, ca. 1780; adapt. Edward Miller (1731-1807); harm. Samuel Webbe (1740-1816).

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

Prayer for Spiritual Communion on Zoom

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.

Please kneel as you are able for the post-communion prayer

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 Fr. Will Drosos*

The Blessing

Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Now, go in peace to follow the good road and may the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you always. **Amen.**

From Saint Clare

Announcements



1 Thou, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard,
 2 Thou who didst come to bring on thy re - deem - ing wing
 3 Spi - rit of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly Dove,
 4 Ho - ly and bless - ed Three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,

and took their flight; hear us, we hum - bly pray, and, where the
 heal - ing and sight, health to the sick in mind, sight to the
 speed forth thy flight! Move on the wa - ters' face bear - ing the
 wis - dom, love, might; bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in

Gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light!
 in - ly blind, now to all hu - man - kind, let there be light!
 gifts of grace, and, in earth's dark - est place, let there be light!
 full - est pride, through the world, far and wide, let there be light!

Words: John Marriott (1780-1825), alt. Music: *Moscow*, Felice de Giardini (1716-1796); harm. *The New Hymnal*, 1916, based on *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1875, and Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Worship Participants

Presider	Fr. Will Drosos
Preacher	Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith
Acolyte	Lynne Montgomery
Healing Minister	Rev. David Smith
Altar Guild	Louise Armitage
Flower Guild	Louise Armitage
Digital Usher	Bruce Allan
Digital Verger	Jeff Crigler
Eucharistic Minister	Louise Armitage
Lector & Intercessor	Debby Reed
Usher	Louise Rosenburgh
Fellowship Hour Host	Jan & Chuck Grimes
Counters	Will Ferris

AUGUST VESTRY PERSON

Allison Pruitt

alpruitt@verizon.net

Questions, comments, concerns, compliments, all welcome.

Worship continues tonight at 5pm at our High Mass.

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*
Fr. David Lucey, *Assisting Priest*
Dr. Lori Lind, *Minister of Music*
Susan Schreiner, *Parish Administrator*
Holly Zarazinski, *Accountant*
Nicole Warga, *Cribbery Caregiver*

540-532-5665 – fran.gardnersmith@stthomasmcleanva.org
513-638-8800 – will.drosos@stthomasmcleanva.org
571-587-9568 – luceyd@gmail.com
443-226-8270 – lori.lind@stthomasmcleanva.org
703-442-0330 – susan.schreiner@stthomasmcleanva.org
703-442-0330 – accountant@stthomasmclean.org
703-476-9476 – ncwarga00@hotmail.com

THE VESTRY

Rick Howe, <i>Senior Warden</i>	Administration	rhowelaw@gmail.com	515-229-8414
Anne Spear, <i>Junior Warden</i>	Pastoral Care	amspear@yahoo.com	703-915-4300
Chris Johnston	Stewardship	christopher.a.johnston@gmail.com	410-299-9776
Chuck Grimes	Education for all ages	Chuck.Grimes@outlook.com	571-455-5326
Jim Ventrini	Fellowship	jventorini@cox.net	202-999-0484
Alan Thode	Finance	afthode@hotmail.com	
Will Ferris	Worship	vox54@aol.com	703-801-1256
Jane Frierson	Outreach	jane.frierson@gmail.com	703-536-4490
Alison Pruitt	Evangelism	alpruitt@verizon.net	

OTHER LEADERS

David Alton Smith	Register	dapy.smith@gmail.com	703-488-0442
Lynne Montgomery	Treasurer	lkrmontgomery@gmail.com	703-298-7181
Pat Smith	Asst. Treasurer	pysmith51@gmail.com	703-338-0974
Steve Wickman	Diocesan Delegate	wickmansb@msn.com	571-393-8544

Dear Friends at St Thomas,

I am writing to share some unexpected and significant news with you. I have been selected as one of three candidates for election as the 11th Bishop of the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire.

I know this news may come as a surprise, so I want to share openly about how this journey came to be and what lies ahead for us.

My intention has always been to remain here as your Rector until my retirement. However, the Holy Spirit often calls us down unexpected paths.

- **A Deep Connection:** From 2008 to 2013, I served as rector of a church in New Hampshire's North Country and on the diocesan staff in New Hampshire under Bishop Gene Robinson. It was a time I loved, and it left me with many close friends.
- **An Unexpected Invitation:** When their current bishop announced his retirement last year, a close friend from that diocese urged me to consider entering the search. I agreed to consider it, initially quite certain that I was not called to this role in the church.
- **Discerning the Call:** Upon reading the diocesan profile, I began to see a genuine possibility. After seeking counsel from respected bishops and trusted friends—and trying to listen closely to the Holy Spirit at every turn, I entered the process. Of course, David and I talked and prayed together along every step of the way, and he has been unwavering in his support. Each moment where I have been invited to continue in discernment has been a surprise.

Last week, I traveled to New Hampshire for an extended interview process alongside the other semifinalist candidates. At the conclusion of the weekend, the Search Committee shared their desire to nominate me as one of the candidates. The Standing Committee in the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire confirmed the nomination on Tuesday, and the information has just been released publicly. I wanted you to hear this news directly from me as soon as I was free to share it.

Over the next nine weeks, I will continue to engage in the remaining steps of the search process.

- **Mid-October:** David and I will travel to New Hampshire for a series of "Meet and Greets" so the broader Episcopal Church of New Hampshire has an opportunity get to know me and all the candidates.
- **The Nominees:** There are currently three nominees, though a standard 8-day petition period will be open through next Sunday for any possible additions to the ballot.

- **The Election:** The election will take place at the annual convention for the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire, October 23-24, 2026.

During my closing statement to the Search Committee, I spoke about my love for St. Thomas, your incredible resiliency, and the joy I have felt serving as your rector for these past 8.5 years.

Please know that you remain my priority, and I am committed to walking through this period with transparency, care, and deep gratitude for each of you. I ask for your prayers for David and me, for the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire, and for our own beloved community as we navigate this next chapter together.

With love and blessings,
Fran

Dear St. Thomas Friends,

A major reason that we are all here at St. Thomas is Fran. Fran's sermons, leadership, advice, support and love for us all help us to see Christ in the world and be better Christians.

Since we all know of Fran's many gifts, it is not surprising that she is being considered for a position where her positive impact will be felt by many more people than our congregation. Even being considered for the position of Bishop of New Hampshire, is such an honor, and one that Fran has earned.

Fran informed the vestry of the possible change on Wednesday. Everyone agreed that what would be a loss for us would be a real gift to the people of New Hampshire. We all support Fran in this chapter, whether she leaves or stays with us. We have been assured that there is a very good transition officer who would guide us through the search process, if that does come to pass.

We intend to show Fran the support and love that we know she holds for us all, and continue our work on behalf of St. Thomas. We will keep you advised about the process as things unfold.

Rick Howe, Senior Warden
Anne Spear, Junior Warden

The Skinny at St. Thomas
Sunday, August 16th, 2026



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

Grill Night
August 27 @ 6pm

Join us on Thursday August 27 at 6pm in Hudson Hall for the second Grill Night of the summer. We'll provide hot dogs, burgers, vegan options, and all the toppings! Scott's planning a reprise of a fabulous hot dog bar with fancy toppings! Please bring a salad, side, or dessert to share! We'll have paper products. Come join the fun and good food!

Ladies Lunch Bunch
Aug 24th – 11:15am
Kalypso Sports Tavern
1617 Washington Plaza N, Reston, VA

Please join us if you can. Our mission statement is: To provide Christian fellowship for women of St. Thomas that builds friendship and supports each other in a low-stress environment.

Fundraiser for Haitian School
Aug 23rd 6-8pm

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
201 E Frederick Dr, Sterling, VA

EAT WELL. DO GOOD. MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Soak up the last moments of summer with award-winning BBQ, live music and family fund all while helping to feed and educate 300+ children at Saint Mathieu School in Chapoteau, Haiti. For more info, go to [Haiti Concert | St. Matthew's Episcopal Church](#)

Interreligious Community Picnic
Aug 29th 5-7pm

In June, representatives from eight congregations gathered to pray, sing, and talk. We prayed together. We sang America the Beautiful and This Land is Your Land, and we talked about The Declaration of Independence – its beauty and its flaws – as one of our founding documents. Eight folks from St. Thomas took part. I won't speak for them, but I will say that for me, it was a powerful experience of respectful conversation across differences. My new friends at my table came from many different religious backgrounds and political perspectives.

We will gather a final time for conversation, food, and reflection on Saturday August 29. We hope you will join us. More details will follow.

Pints with Doubting Thomas
2nd & 4th Wednesdays

Have Questions? We've got you! We will be meeting in Hudson Hall. Reach out to Fr. Will with questions!

Usher Sign Up through Nov. 1 Now Live!

If you would like to try your hand at ushering, we'd love to have you on our team! This is wonderful ministry and great way to participate in Sunday services. Scan the QR code to access the sign up. If you need any help, reach out to Mary Lee maryleemontfort@gmail.com



Giving Statements Emailed

Giving statements for the period Jan 1 – July 31, 2026, were emailed on August 6th. If you did not receive, or if you have any questions, please contact Susan at susan.schreiner@stthomasmcleanva.org. Thank you for your generous support of St. Thomas.

Share Most Needed Items

Our ministry partner SHARE is always in need of food and personal care items for our neighbors in McLean, Tysons and Pimmit Hills. The list for most needed items may be found here: https://www.shareofmclean.org/files/ugd/891f83_5b0df323942544a2a12e9b0eab50c311.pdf

Now Hiring! Coffee Hour Hosts for August and September!

We are seeking hosts for light refreshments which will be served following the 10:00am service each Sunday. You can sign up using the QR code below. coffee hour will be very casual served in the Narthex with lemonade, iced tea (optional) and a few simple snacks. Reach out to the office if you have questions at parishadmin@stthomasmclean.org



Share Garden Deliveries

The Share Garden Project has started making regular deliveries to share. If you would like to participate in this whether by an occasional delivery to Share or helping with some light garden maintenance, please contact Jon Spear@ jon.spear1@verizon.net.

This Week

- Monday August 17th
12 pm – Noonday Prayer
- Tuesday August 18th
12 pm – Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayer
- Wednesday August 19th
12 pm – Noonday Prayer
- Thursday August 20th
12 pm – Noonday Prayer
- Friday August 21st
11:00 am – McLean Islamic Center Worship
- Sunday August 23rd
9:30 am – Choir Rehearsal
10 am – Worship
3:30 pm – Confession (with Fr. Will)
5 pm – High Mass