ST. THOMAS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost



This is our divine purpose statement. If it resonates with you, we invite you to join us.

WE BELIEVE that without exception, all people are made in God's image, loved by God, and invited into a relationship with God. Therefore, all people are welcome here no matter where they are on their spiritual journey.

WE WORSHIP God in Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We welcome all people to join us in praising God through music and in our worship services of Scripture and Sacraments as expressed through the Episcopal *Book of Common Prayer*.

WE SERVE our local, regional, and global communities in need. We are committed to reaching out to people who are hungry, homeless, suffering, persecuted, immigrants, and newcomers to our community. We remain ready to expand our outreach when new needs arise.

Holy Eucharist, Rite II—10:00 AM

October 25, 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. Children are welcome to stay with us in the sanctuary and are encouraged to be full participants in the worship service.

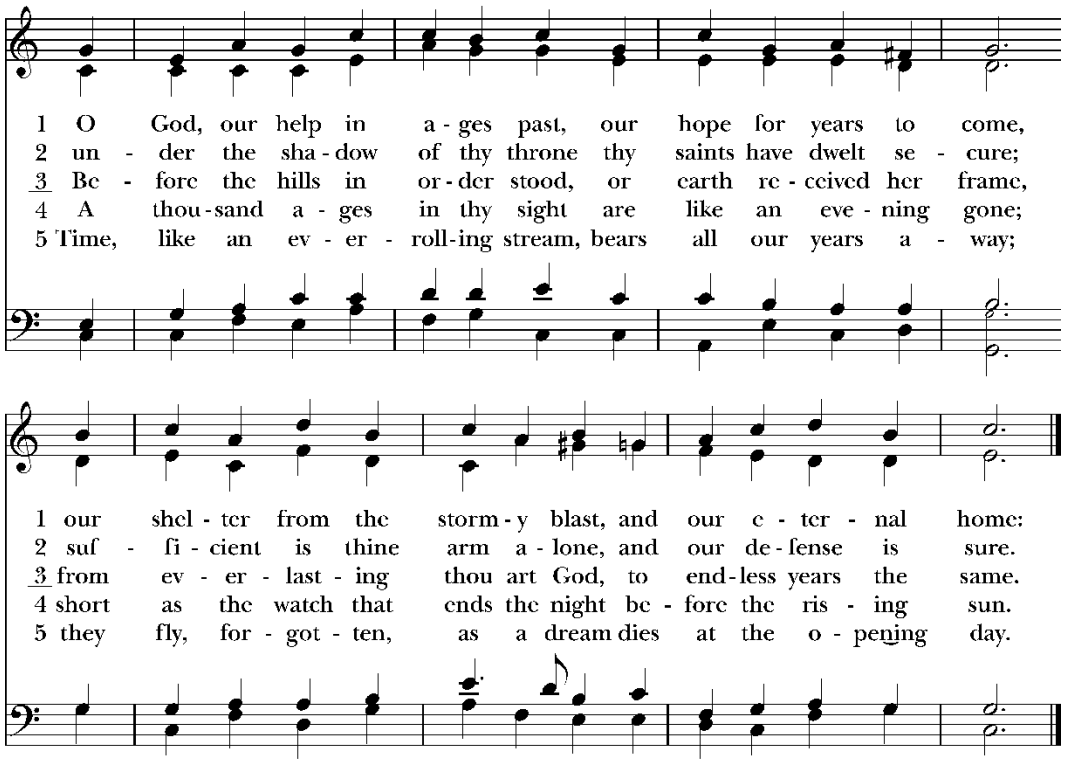
THE WORD OF GOD

Welcome **Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith**

Prelude

Please stand as you are able.

Processional Hymn *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* **#680 Hymnal 1982**



6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guide while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.; para. of Psalm 90. Music: *St. Anne*, melody att. William Croft (1678-1727), alt.; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

The Acclamation

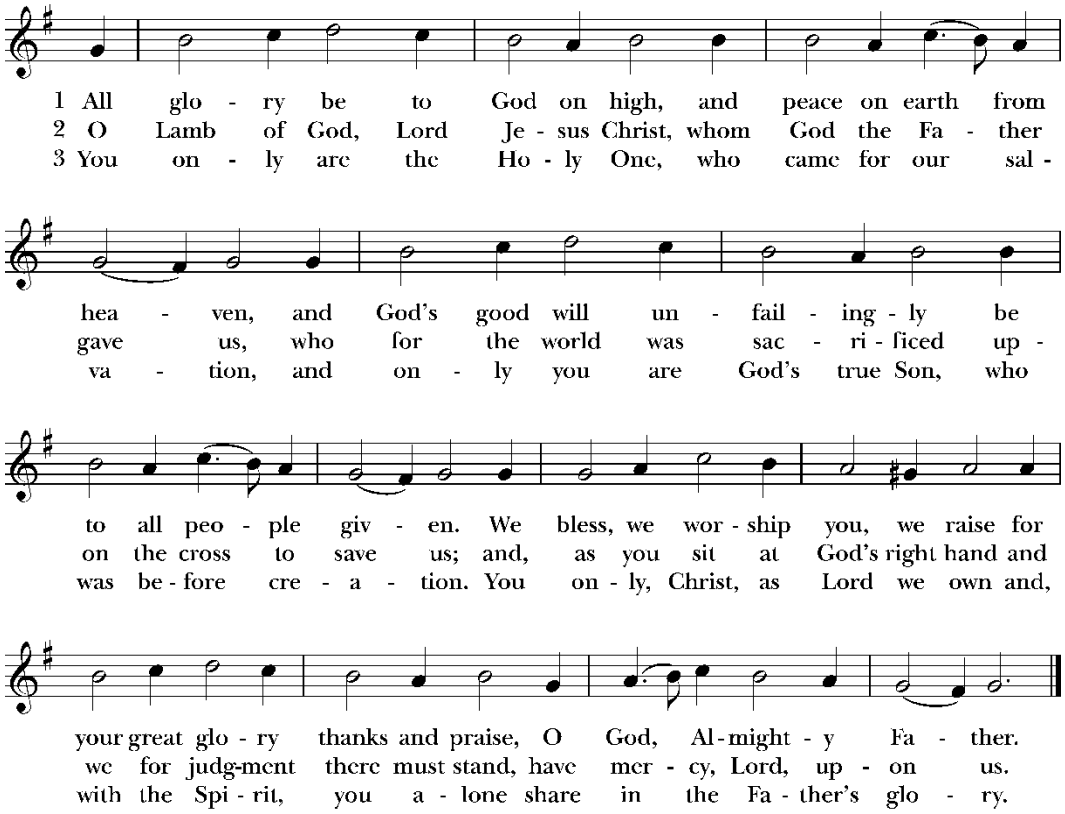
Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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**.

Gloria *All Glory Be to God on High* **#421 Hymnal 1982**



Words: Nikolaus Decius (1490?-1541); tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984), rev.; para. of *Gloria in excelsis*. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Allein Gott in der Höh*, melody att. Nikolaus Decius (1490?-1541); harm. Hieronymous Praetorius (1560?-1629).

The Collect of the Day

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

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the lessons.

The First Lesson **Leviticus 19:1-2,15-18**

A reading from the Book of Leviticus.

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the Lord. You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 1 (*We will pray a portion of the psalm responsively by half verse*)

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

2 Their delight is in the law of the LORD, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.

4 It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

The Second Lesson **1 Thessalonians 2:1-8**

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians.

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have

made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

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 *I Love to Tell the Story* **#125 Voices Found**

Found on next page.

The Gospel **Matthew 22:34-46**

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

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

> 'The Lord said to my Lord,
> "Sit at my right hand,
> until I put your enemies under your feet"'?

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon **Mr. Anthony Amato**

Sequence Hymn *I Love to Tell the Story* **#125 Voices Found**

(Verses 1,2 before the Gospel and Verses 3,4 after the Gospel)





Words: Katherine Hankey (1834–1911).
Music: *Hankey*, William G Fischer (1835–1910).

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 III**

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you, especially Susan, Lori, Holly, Nicole, Anthony and Ginny, for the teachers at the Early Learning Center, and for the Vestry and Officers at St. Thomas;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons, especially, Mark, Gayle, Mark, Fran and Will;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world,
especially Donald our President and Abigail our Governor;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, especially **Ethan, Vincent, Lynn, Emily and Dave, Yusuf, Erin, Andy, Diane, Alison, Bill, Chuck, Skeets, Debby, Karen, Tricia, Janette, Barry, Abby, Kathy, Wes, Yan, Eric and Em, Dan, Eddie, Joe, Audrey, Richard, Berta, Larry, Cameron, Wade, Tobin, Toby, Steve, Jim, Brad, Bernie, Anne, Lucy, Henry, and Deborah,** and those you would name [PAUSE], praying**;**
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest, including those you would name [PAUSE], praying;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. [PAUSE]

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the gifts of this life; for those celebrating birthdays including Becky Ventorini, Katie Ryder, and Fred Young, and for those celebrating anniversaries, including Cleta & Ray Raymond, and for those blessings you would name. [PAUSE]

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

Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, but you take no delight in burnt-offerings. The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. *Psalm 51:17-18*

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.

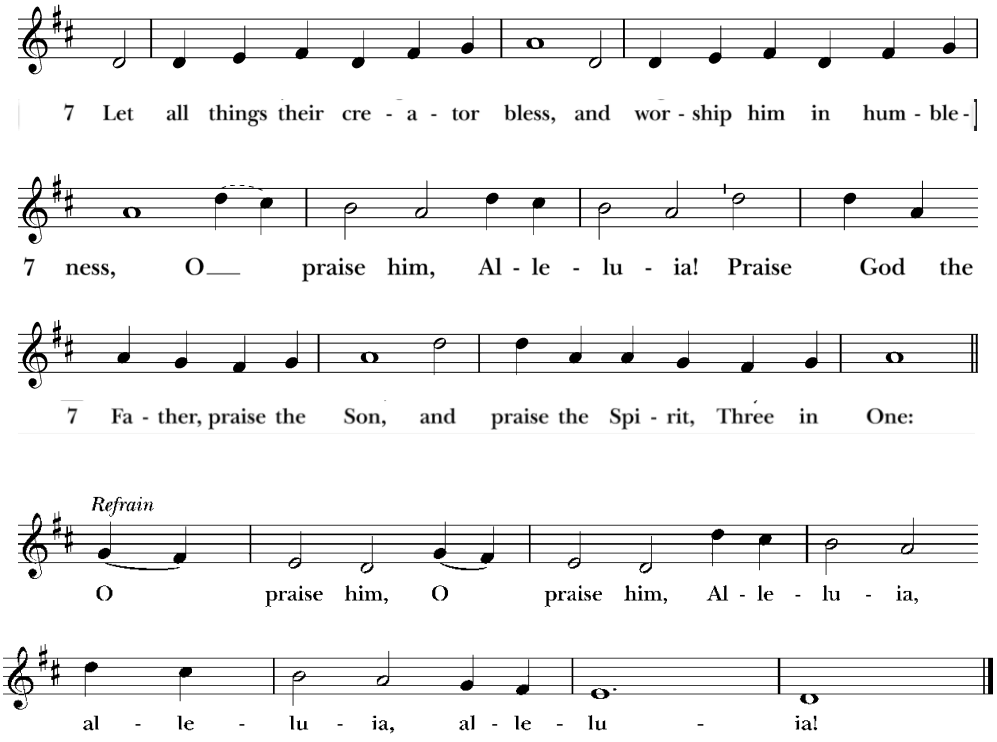
You may be seated for the Offertory Anthem.

Offertory Anthem *All Glory Be to Thee Most High* **Rachel Aarons**

All glory be to thee, Most High,
to thee all adoration;
In grace and truth thou drawest nigh
to offer us salvation;
Thou showest thy good will to men,
And peace shall reign on earth again;
We praise thy Name for ever.
O Jesus Christ, our God and Lord,
Son of the Heavenly Father,
O thou who hast our peace restored,
The straying sheep dost gather,
Thou Lamb of God, to thee on high
Out of the depths we sinners cry:
Have mercy on us, Jesus!

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

The Doxology *All Creatures of Our God and King* **#400 Hymnal 1982, Verse 7**



The refrain may be sung antiphonally, by phrase; all join in the final Alleluia.

Words: St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226); tr. William H. Draper (1855-1933), alt. Music: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, melody from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistiche Kirchengeseng*, 123; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). By permission of Oxford University Press.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving **Eucharistic Prayer A**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

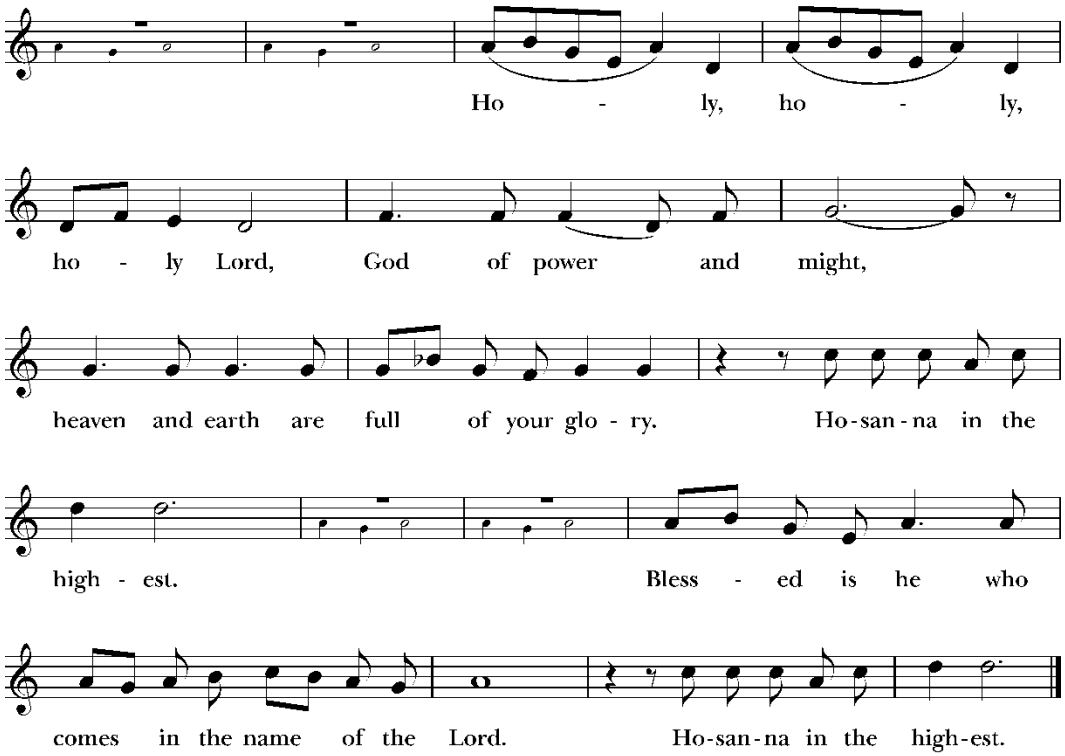
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord* **#S128 Hymnal 1982**



Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

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

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

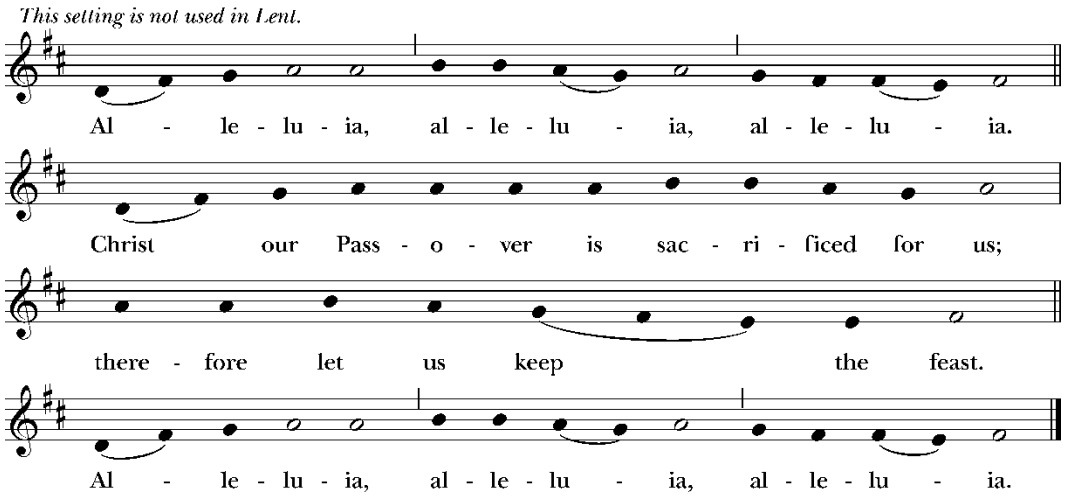
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, 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 celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.
A period of silence follows, and then the following anthem is sung.

The Fraction *Alleluia, Christ Our Passover* **#S154 Hymnal 1982**



Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

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 to the right side of the altar. If you prefer to receive the bread and have a minister dip it in the chalice, please go to 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.

If you desire prayers for healing—for yourself or for others—please come to the healing minister behind the lectern on the right as you face the altar.

Communion Hymn *How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place* **#517 Hymnal 1982**



Words: Para. of Psalm 84; sts. 1-2, *The Psalms of David in Meeter*, 1650, alt.; sts. 3-4, Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944). Sts. 3-4, Copyright © 1982 by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL. 60188). All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Brother Jame's Air*, J. L. Mcbeth Bain (1840?-1925). By permission of Oxford University Press.

While some are receiving communion at church, those worshiping 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

The wisdom of God, the love of God, and the grace of God, strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in this world, and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Announcements

Recessional Hymn *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* **#423 Hymnal 1982**

Found on next page.

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Recessional Hymn *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* **#423 Hymnal 1982**



Words: Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908), alt. Music: *St. Denio*, Welsh hymn, from *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839; adapt. John Roberts (1822-1877); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906, alt.

Worship Participants

Presider	Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith
Assisting Priest	Fr. Will Drosos
Preacher	Mr. Anthony Amato
Acolytes	Will Ferris & Ed Rhodes
Healing Minister	Ginny Leebrick
Altar Guild	Louise Armitage
Flower Guild	Jan Grimes
Digital Usher	Mary Lee Montfort
Digital Verger	Walt Lazear
Eucharistic Minister	Pat Smith
Lector & Intercessor	Pat Smith
Usher	Jan Hamilton
Fellowship Hour Host	Audrey Adair & Walter Lazear
Counters	Ed Rhodes

OCTOBER VESTRY PERSON

Chuck Grimes

Chuck.Grimes@outlook.com

571-455-5326

Questions, comments, concerns, compliments, all welcome.



BISHOP STEVENSON WILL VISIT ST. THOMAS ON ALL SAINTS' DAY, NOVEMBER 1ST!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP – ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10AM IN THE SANCTUARY.

RECEPTION FOR THE BISHOP AND CONFIRMANDS AND FORUM WITH BISHOP STEVENSON TO FOLLOW

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA

NEXT SUNDAY THE LOOSE PLATE OFFERING WILL BE GIVEN TO BISHOP STEVENSON'S DISCRETIONARY FUND. PLEASE BE GENEROUS!

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*	540-532-5665 – fran.gardnersmith@stthomasmcleanva.org
Fr. William Drosos, *Associate Rector*	513-638-8800 – will.drosos@stthomasmcleanva.org
Fr. David Lucey, *Assisting Priest*	571-587-9568 – luceyd@gmail.com
Dr. Lori Lind, *Minister of Music*	443-226-8270 – lori.lind@stthomasmcleanva.org
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Anthony Amato, *Seminarian*	530-863-0692 – aamato@vts.edu
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Holly Zarazinski, *Accountant*	703-442-0330 – accountant@stthomasmclean.org
Nicole Warga, *Cribbery Caregiver*	703-476-9476 – ncwarga00@hotmail.com

THE VESTRY

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Chuck Grimes	Education for all ages	Chuck.Grimes@outlook.com	571-455-5326
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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	

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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

The Skinny at St. Thomas
Sunday, October 25th, 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.

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Bishop Stevenson Visit – Nov. 1, 2026
10 AM Service

Mark your calendars for this special day which will include baptisms and confirmations. A special reception is planned after the service. Please plan on joining either in person or online.

Please note the loose plate offering for next week will be given to Bishop Stevenson's Discretionary Fund.

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THANKSGIVING BAGS

It is that time of year when we begin to collect Thanksgiving Bags for our ministry partners at Second Story. This year, you may pick up a bag and a shopping list in the Narthex (the list has changed slightly from years past so please do grab a list). Or, if you would prefer for us to do the shopping, you can make a donation on line or by placing a check in the collection plate, and we will shop for you. Then, on November 22nd, we'll assemble the Thanksgiving Bags in Hudson Hall after worship. Helpers who can help to deliver bags on Monday November 23rd at 11am are also needed. Please reach out to Fran if you have any questions!

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Thank you for your generosity!

Once again, St. Thomas has responded with overwhelming generosity to the request for food and donations for the Bishop's Visit and Confirmands' Reception. The Sign Up Genius for food and donations is now closed. It will be a wonderful feast and opportunity to celebrate baptisms, confirmations (and one reception)!

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Ladies Lunch Bunch
Monday, October 26 @ 11:30AM
Red's Table, South Lakes Shopping Center
11150 South Lakes Dr., Reston

Ladies, please join us at Red's Table for lunch. Feel free to text Audrey at (913) 956-7550 if you plan to attend.

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Pints with Doubting Thomas
2nd & 4th Wednesdays in Hudson Hall
This Wednesday, October 28th

Have Questions? We've got you! Our Adult Forum offers an engaging and intellectually stimulating experience that goes deeper than traditional Sunday School. We will have a variety of snacks and drinks, and you are free to bring your own. Reach out to Fr. Will with questions.

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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 of most needed items may be found here.

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Volunteer to Support Fairfax Diapers
Thursday, November 5th at 10am

Every month, a few of us gather to complete the simple task of repackaging diapers from bulk quantities to household-size bundles to be distributed to needy families. Scan the QR code to access the sign-up.

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ECW Book Club
Wednesday, November 18th @ 7:30PM
Hudson Hall & Zoom

The book for November is "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Please join us for lively discussion and fellowship. Contact the parish office for the Zoom information.

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Coffee Hour - Hosting Opportunities
November 22nd & 29th Still Open

We are seeking hosts for refreshments which will be served following the 10:00am service each Sunday. You can sign up using the QR code below. We ask hosts to provide 2-3 items, including fresh fruit or veggies, and you can indicate if you'd like to make the coffee. Scan the QR code below to sign up or contact church office.

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This Week

Monday October 26th
12 pm – Noonday Prayer
Tuesday October 27th
12 pm – Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayer
Wednesday October 28th
12 pm – Noonday Prayer
6:30 PM – Pints with Doubting Thomas
Thursday October 29th
12 pm – Noonday Prayer
Friday October 30th
11:00 am – McLean Islamic Center Worship
Sunday November 1st - Bishop's Visit
9:00 am: Choir Rehearsal
10 am – Worship
3:30 pm – Confession (with Fr. Will)
5 pm – High Mass

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