

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 19, 2025 at 8:00 & 10:30 AM



St. Thomas at Pride in the 'Peake

Love In Action



St. Thomas Episcopal Church Stewardship Campaign 2026

A life of faith is a life of action. When we love, we give – of our time, talent, and treasure. Our annual fall campaign is an invitation to deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ through intentional giving and prayerful generosity. As we walk through this process, we will hear testimonies, connect with one another at house gatherings, and discern our individual and collective pledges for 2026. The campaign ends on October 26, Ingathering Sunday, as we celebrate our growing community with a Liturgy of Belonging and collectively submit our pledges to God.

Welcome to St. Thomas Episcopal Church!

We warmly welcome you to our parish and are glad you are worshipping with us today. Our ushers and welcome team are ready to assist you and answer your questions.

Guests

If you are new, visiting, or a guest today, please scan this QR code to connect with us! We would like to greet you by name. Please see our welcome team for a nametag. You can find them near the counter in the narthex (lobby).



Children

Children are welcome in all our services! Activities for them are available in the narthex (lobby). Childcare is also available in our nursery for children up to age five. Just ask an usher.

Restrooms

Gendered restrooms are located in the hallway off of the parish hall. A non-gendered and accessible restroom is available in the same hallway. An usher can guide you.

Hearing Assist Devices

Hearing assistance devices are available in the narthex (lobby).

Service Notes

Today you will see and hear cues to stand, kneel, and be seated. Instructions are printed in *italics* and spoken congregational responses in **bold**. Feel free to observe these traditions as you are able, but please, do what works best for you. Stand when you want to stand, sit when you want to sit, look up at the stained-glass windows, sing, laugh, cry, pray – just be comfortable here in God’s house. Our services are streamed live on YouTube.

After the Service

Please join us in the parish hall for refreshments following the 10:30 service.

Today’s Offering

Our work as a church continues by your generosity in all ways. Thank you for your support. For online giving, visit stthomaschesapeake.org/giving or scan here:



Our Mission and Core Values

St. Thomas Episcopal Church is a diverse community that seeks unity with God and each other in Christ.

Muffins With Mark+

If you feel new to St. Thomas, come enjoy some baked goods and an informal chat with Rev. Mark and other newcomers. Muffins With Mark+ is held every few weeks, after the 10:30 service. The next date is November 9. If you would like to visit with Mark sooner, just call the church office at 757-547-4662, ext. 6.



Worship Ministry Fair Today

Today there is a Worship Ministry Fair after both services in the breezeway. Stay and chat with ministry representatives about everything related to Sunday services! Scan this QR code to learn about and sign up for opportunities to serve:



PRELUDE: Down to the River

Pepper Choplin

GATHERING SONG: Rise and Shine

Booklet #22, 10:30 only

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: Praise to the Living God!

1982 Hymnal 372

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

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

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

the first, the last, be - yond all thought his time - less years!
and ev - ery - where a - bove, be - low, his will o - beys.
deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, on sea, on land.
who was, and is, and is to be, for ay the same.

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

OPENING SENTENCES

Celebrant
People

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be God's 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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE: Gloria WLP 900, setting by John Rutter

spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30

Glo-ry to God in the high- est, and
peace to his peo-ple on earth. Lord God, heav'n - ly King, al-
might - y God_ and Fa- ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for_ your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ,
on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you
take a - way_ the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.
For you a - lone are the Ho-ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
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.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT: Jeremiah 31:27-34

A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the Lord. In those days they shall no longer say: "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge." But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of everyone who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt-- a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 119:97-104 *Read responsively by half verse*

97 Oh, how I love your law! *

all the day long it is in my mind.

98 Your commandment has made me wiser than my enemies, *

and it is always with me.

99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, *

for your decrees are my study.

100 I am wiser than the elders, *

because I observe your commandments.

101 I restrain my feet from every evil way, *

that I may keep your word.

102 I do not shrink from your judgments, *

because you yourself have taught me.

103 How sweet are your words to my taste! *

they are sweeter than honey to my mouth.

104 Through your commandments I gain understanding; *

therefore I hate every lying way.

PEOPLE'S EPISTLE

Sean and Anne Evans

At 10:30, sing verse 1 before the gospel and verse 2 after the gospel.

Words: William Watkins Reid, Jr. (b. 1923), alt. Copyright © 1959 by the Hymn Society. (admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.) All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *St. Ethelwald*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

THE GOSPEL: Luke 18:1-8

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus told his disciples a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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

SERMON

The Rev. Mark McKone-Sweet

THE NICENE CREED *Please stand as able*

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Form III, Book of Common Prayer, modified

The Leader and People pray responsively

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;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons, especially Susan, our bishop;
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 Glenn, 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.

We pray for those who need healing, especially Gordon Kay, William, the Huff family, Barbara Gecek, Josh Smith, Amy Sherrill, Paige Proctor, Joyce Carter, Charles and Karren Cress, Henry Grant, Jenn Briggs, Al Davis, Junior Harper, Maggie Nipper, Bob Smalley, Sam Minner, Bailey Rogers, Rachel Wootten, Ann Quezada, Alice Miller, Dorothy Deckelman, Dennis Ackerman, Vernon Brinkley, Lee Martin, Jonathan, Linda Hammond, Eric Brummitt, Tim Kerr, Angela Mott, Debbie Oliveti, Kathy Garafola, Robert Butler, Andrew Curtin, Johnny Guess, and those we now name silently or aloud.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

We pray for those who have died, especially RG Huff, Jaylen Grimes, and those we now name silently or aloud.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
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.

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

People **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.**

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

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Please share a sign of peace with others.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: Thy Word Is a Lamp Unto My Feet
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Jack Schrader (8:00)

Cynthia Dobrinski (10:30)



*Our work as the church continues by your generosity in all ways. Thank you for your support.
For online giving, please visit stthomaschesapeake.org/giving or scan this code:*

DOXOLOGY

Tune: Old 100th

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Enriching Our Worship Form I

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say/sing:

spoken at 8:00

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Santo, Santo, Santo, WLP 785 *Sing once in Spanish, then in English*

sung at 10:30

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zon te a - do - ra! Mi
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

cor - a - zon te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Se - ñor.
 heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, Lord.

The Celebrant continues

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, 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.”**

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”**

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

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

The Celebrant continues

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with St. Mary, St. Thomas, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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

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.

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People: We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

FRACTION ANTHEM: This Is My Body, LEVAS 155

10:30 only

This is my bod - y__ giv-en up for you,___ this is my blood_ poured out for you._

___ This is my bod - y__ giv-en up for you,___ this is my blood_ poured out for you._

___ Bod - y of Christ, A - men,___ Blood of Christ, A - men,___

___ Bod - y of Christ, A - men,___ Blood of Christ, A - men.____

This is the table, not of the Church, but of God. It is made ready for those of us who love God, and for those who want to love God more. So, come, those of us who have much faith, and those who have little; those of us who have been here often, and those who have not been here long; those of us who have tried to follow, and those who have failed. Come, because it is God who invites us. It is God's will that we should meet here.

COMMUNION MUSIC: Adoro Te Devote

Anne Krentz Organ

COMMUNION HYMN: Sweet Hour of Prayer

LEVAS 178

1. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, That calls me from— a
 2. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, Thy wings shall my— pe -
 3. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, May I thy con - so -

1. world of care, And bids me at my Fa - ther's throne Make
 2. ti - tion bear To Him whose truth and faith - ful - ness En -
 3. la - tion share, Till from Mount Pis - gah's loft - y height I

1. all my wants— and wish - es known. In sea - sons of dis -
 2. gage the wait - ing soul to bless; And since He bids me
 3. view my home— and take my flight: This robe of flesh I'll

1. tress and grief My soul has of - ten found re - lief.
 2. seek His face, Be - lieve His word and trust His grace.
 3. drop, and rise To seize the ev - er - last - ing prize.

1. And oft es - caped the tempt - er's snare By
 2. I'll cast on Him my ev - 'ry care, And
 3. And shout, while pass - ing through the air, "Fare -

1. thy re - turn, ——— sweet hour of prayer.
 2. wait for thee, ——— sweet hour of prayer.
 3. well, fare - well, ——— sweet hour of prayer!"

Words: William Walford (1772-1850). Music: William B. Bradbury (1816-1868).

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made 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 redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

VESTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS FOR BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN: I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

1982 Hymnal 524

1 I love thy king-dom, Lord, the house of thine a - bode, the
 2 For her my tears shall fall; for her my prayers a - scend; to
 3 Be - yond my high - est joy I prize her heaven - ly ways, her
 4 Je - sus, thou friend di - vine, our Sa - vior and our King, thy
 5 Sure as thy truth shall last, to Zi - on shall be given the

1 Church our blest Re - deem - er saved with his own pre - cious blood.
 2 her my cares and toils be given, till toils and cares shall end.
 3 sweet com - mun - ion, so - lemn vows, her hymns of love and praise.
 4 hand from ev - ery snare and foe shall great de - liv - erance bring.
 5 bright - est glo - ries earth can yield, and bright - er bliss of heaven.

Words: Timothy Dwight (1725-1817). Music: *St. Thomas* (Williams), melody Aaron Williams (1731-1776); harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

DISMISSAL

Presider Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in Peace.

People We go in the name of Christ.

POSTLUDE: O Bless the Lord, My Soul!

Jason W. Krug