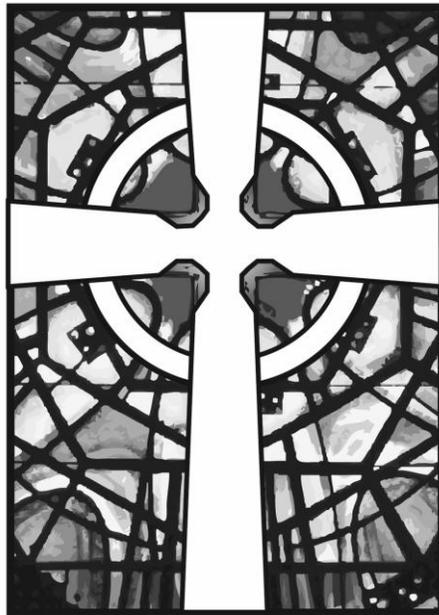


ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 10, 2025

8:00 & 10:30 AM



We welcome Brad Norris as our guest organist today.

Any hymns and service music not printed in this bulletin can be found in your pew in one of our three hymnals: The Hymnal 1982 (blue cover), Wonder, Love, and Praise (WLP, green cover), and Lift Every Voice and Sing II (LEVAS, red and black). See the color-coded hymn boards in the front of the sanctuary. All music is used by permission under One License #A-717375 and CCLI #21653437.

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 help 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.

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 or so, after the 10:30 service. The next date is September 14.

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

1982 Hymnal 68

1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!
 2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;
 3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve-ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
 a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark-ened sphere!

The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;
 The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.
 rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride-groom is at hand!
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907), alt. Music: *Llangloffan*, melody from *Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasanaeth yr Eghwys yng Nghymru*, 1865.

OPENING SENTENCES

Celebrant

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

People

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 S280, setting by Robert Powell

spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30

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.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; 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: Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats. When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more; bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation – I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity. Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me, I am weary of bearing them. When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood.

Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

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

PSALM 50:1-8, 23-24 *Read responsively by half verse*

- 1 The LORD, the God of gods, has spoken; *
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- 2 Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, *
God reveals himself in glory.
- 3 Our God will come and will not keep silence; *
before him there is a consuming flame, and round about him a raging storm.
- 4 He calls the heavens and the earth from above *
to witness the judgment of his people.
- 5 "Gather before me my loyal followers, *
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice."
- 6 Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; *
for God himself is judge.
- 7 Hear, O my people, and I will speak: "O Israel, I will bear witness against you; *
for I am God, your God.
- 8 I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices; *
your offerings are always before me.

23 Consider this well, you who forget God, *
lest I rend you and there be none to deliver you.
24 Whoever offers me the sacrifice of thanksgiving honors me; *
but to those who keep in my way will I show the salvation of God."

THE EPISTLE: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old – and Sarah herself was barren – because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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

SEQUENCE HYMN: Spirit of the Living God

LEVAS 115, 10:30 *only*

**Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me.**

THE GOSPEL: Luke 12:32-40

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailling treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his

belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

"But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

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

At 10:30, repeat Spirit of the Living God

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 IV, modified

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. *Silence*
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; in that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray especially for Donald, our president, Glenn, our governor, and all public servants. *Silence*
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. We give thanks for access to clean water and clean air, for birds, fish, and all forms of life, for all who work our land and produce our food, and all who work tirelessly for the conservation of our resources for generations to come. *Silence*
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Open our hearts, ears, and eyes to the needs of people in our community, nation, and the world, and guide us into faithful service of all your people. *Silence*
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation; especially Mark Martin, John Wright, Ginger and Shannon Gray, Robert Eklund, Angela Vicik, Maya McKone-Sweet, Jonathan, Dave Long, Mary Rushak, Don Ross, Peggy and Michael Attamanchuk, Debbie Evans, Linda and Greg Mahue, Ben Sokolow, Ann Quezada, Linda Hammond, Eric Brummitt, Tim Kerr, Mike Mazingo, Angela Mott, Debbie Oliveti, Michael Thomas, Kathy Garafola, Robert Butler, Andrew Curtin, Henry Grant, and Johnny Guess, and those we now name silently or aloud. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom; especially Bettye Martin, Shannon Tate Gray and Robert Dillard, and those we now name silently or aloud. *Silence*
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. **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: My Faith Looks Up to Thee
This Little Light of Mine

arr. Jon Spong
George Mabry (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. Amen.**

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.

Sanctus S125, setting by Richard Proulx

sung at 10:30



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



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



Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



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

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/sing:

spoken at 8:00

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.

Our Father in Heaven (The Lord's Prayer) by Eric Wyse

sung at 10:30

Our Fa-ther in hea-ven, hal-lowed be your Name, your king-dom come, your
will be done on earth as in heav'n. Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins
as we for-give those who sin a-gainst us, Save us from the time of trial, and de-liv-er us from e-vil.
For the king-dom, the pow-er, and the glo-ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

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.

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 SONG: Sanctuary by Scruggs and Thompson

10:30 only

Sing three times:

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary

Pure and holy, tried and true

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you

COMMUNION HYMN: This Is the Hour of Banquet and of Song

1982 Hymnal 316 (blue cover)

- 1 This is the hour of banquet and of song;
this is the heavenly table spread for me;
here let me feast, and feasting, still prolong
the brief, bright hour of fellowship with thee.
- 2 Too soon we rise; we go our several ways;
the feast, though not the love, is past and gone,
the Bread and Wine consumed: yet all our days
thou still art here with us—our Shield and Sun.
- 3 Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
yet, passing, points to the glad feast above,
giving us foretaste of the festal joy,
the Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

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: Blessed Assurance

LEVAS 184 (red and black cover)

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His spirit, washed in His blood.

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *(Refrain)*

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my savior all the day long.*

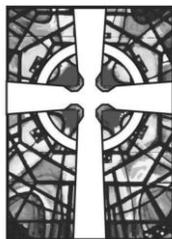
3 Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.
(Refrain)

DISMISSAL

Presider Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in Peace.
People **We go in the name of Christ.**

POSTLUDE: Concerto in D Major (III)

Antonio Vivaldi



St. Thomas
Episcopal Church