

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
FALL CAMPAIGN CELEBRATION
October 26, 2025 at 8:00 & 10:30 AM



St. Thomas Choir

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 our relationship with Jesus Christ through intentional giving and prayerful generosity. Today 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.



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, 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.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT: Joel 2:23-32

A reading from the Prophet Joel.

O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 84:1-6 *Read responsively by half verse*

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *
**My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

SEQUENCE HYMN: Help Us, O Lord, to Learn

1982 Hymnal 628

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 18:9-14

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

Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

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.

LITURGY OF BELONGING: A Celebration of Membership

Rector We now welcome these persons who wish to join with this Body of Christ, the people of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Chesapeake. I would like to introduce:
Rector speaks the name of everyone before him and those not able to attend today.

Rector Is it your wish to make St. Thomas Episcopal Church your church family, the people with whom you will share your journey of faith? Is this the place and are these the people with whom you will seek to make sense of the issues of your life, your dreams, and who God calls you to be?

New Persons **Yes, that is my wish.**

Rector Is it your wish to make this the place where you continue your journey into greater health and wholeness, where you listen to the story of God's salvation and the Good News of Jesus Christ, where you are called to a life of ministry and justice, and where you are fed at the table of new life?

New Persons **Yes, that is my wish.**

Rector Will you commit yourself to seek and serve Christ in union with this community of faith?

New Persons **I will, with God's help.**

Rector Will you pledge your spiritual, social, and financial support to this parish?

New Persons **I will, with God's help.**

Rector asks the congregation to stand as able.

Rector Will you, who are members of this faith community and are witnessing the promises of these persons, share their joys and sorrows, and do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

Congregation **We will.**

Rector Will you welcome the persons before us into this family, embrace their gifts, their needs, and their dreams, and recognize their presence and participation, which will change the shape of this body and help us grow in new ways?

Congregation **We will.**

Rector Will you support them in their journeys and assist them in their ministries?

Congregation **We will.**

All **Loving God, send your Holy Spirit to be among us, knitting us one to another. Help us to grow, love, and support each other, that by our common life in this community we may come to know and serve you and all our sisters and brothers. In Christ's name, we pray.**

Rector As rector of this congregation and speaking for everyone who is a part of it, I welcome each of you as active members of St. Thomas.

Congregation welcomes new members.

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: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
Show Us How to Love

Mark Hayes (8:00)

Mark Miller (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 here:



BLESSING OF THE PLEDGES

Please come forward and present your pledge to God. Place your card in the basket on the altar.

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

The musical score is written in 4/4 time. The first system contains the Spanish lyrics: "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". The second system contains the English lyrics: "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 score includes a treble clef and a bass clef for both systems, with a double bar line at the end of the second system.

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.**

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: Andante Sostenuto

Robert Lau

COMMUNION HYMNS: Humbly I Adore Thee
Now the Silence

1982 Hymnal 314 (blue cover)

1982 Hymnal 333 (blue cover)

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

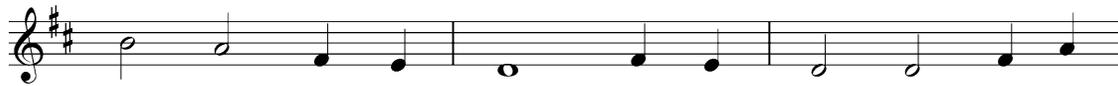
BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1982 Hymnal 686



1 Come, thou fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my
 2 Here I find my great - est trea - sure; hith - er,
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly



heart to sing thy grace! Streams of mer - cy nev - er
 by thy help, I've come; and I hope, by thy good
 I'm con - strained to be! Let thy good - ness, like a



ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee:



Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by
 Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger wan - dering
 prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to



flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise the mount! Oh, fix me
 from the fold of God; he, to res - cue me from
 leave the God I love; here's my heart, oh, take and



on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.
 dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
 seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Words: Robert Robinson (1735-1790), alt. Music: Nettleton, melody from *A Repository of Sacred Music, Part II*, 1813; harm.
 Gerre Hancock (b. 1934).

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE: Tuba Tune

Phil Lehenbauer