“WELCOME TO THE MOTHER CHURCH”
“Enter His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise.
Give thanks unto Him and bless His name” Psalm 100:4

Grace and Peace to you from God on this Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost, The Feast of All Saints/All Souls.

On behalf of the Clergy, Wardens, Vestry and People of God, welcome to the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, founded in 1792 as the first Black Episcopal Church in the USA, and proudly a part of the world-wide Anglican Communion. The first rector of this historic parish, The Rev. Fr. Absalom Jones was also the first Black Episcopal priest in the nation.

Our parish boldly proclaims the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are an active, mission-minded and growing church family. Whoever you are and wherever you may find yourself on your spiritual journey of faith, you are always welcomed at St. Thomas Church, where we are joyfully and enthusiastically committed to Jesus’ message of love, hope, prayer and faith. Today, as you worship in this place, may you experience and feel the presence of the Lord, and may you leave feeling renewed, refreshed and revived. Again, welcome!

Faithfully,
The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw
17th Rector and
Dean of the Schuylkill Deanery



Please use the QR Code or Text “AECST” to 73256 to contribute to the church ministries.

The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
The Feast of All Saints/All Souls
November 1, 2026

The Celebrant and Homilist: The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw
Assisting: The Rev. Patricia Downing
Vergers: Dr. Naomi Johnson Booker, Eugene Golson and Karen Ragland
Music Ministry: St. Thomas Chancel Choir
Livestream/Sound Ministry: Yaseen Farooq and Ryan Chatman

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Order of Service

The Opening Meditation The Verger

The Prelude St. Thomas Music Ministry

The Opening Hymn- "For All the Saints" **1982 Hymnal #287 (vv. 1-4)**

1) For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who Thee by faith before the world confessed;
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

2) Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress and their Might;
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

3) O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win, with them, the vicotr's crown of gold.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

4) O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

A Word of Welcome The Celebrant

The Opening Salutation **Book of Common Prayer (BCP) Pg. 355**
The Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
The People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity **BCP Pg. 355**
The Celebrant: 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.**

The Gloria in Excelsis
The Celebrant and the People *(sung)*
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

The Collect of the Day
The Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
The People: And also with you.
The Celebrant: Let us pray:
Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The First Reading: Revelation 7:9-17 Jenelle Wilson-Johnson
A Reading from the Book of Revelation.
After this I, John, looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

"For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."
The Reader: The Word of the Lord.
The People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 34:1-10, 22 Renard Golden
Psalm Response: "His Love is Everlasting" **Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS) #273**
I will bless the LORD at all times; *
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

I will glory in the LORD; *
let the humble hear and rejoice.

Response: His love, His love
His love is everlasting.

Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD; *
let us exalt his Name together.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me *
and delivered me out of all my terror.

Response: His love, His love
His love is everlasting.

Look upon him and be radiant, *
and let not your faces be ashamed.

I called in my affliction and the LORD heard me *
and saved me from all my troubles.

Response: His love, His love
His love is everlasting.

The angel of the LORD encompasses those who fear him, *
and he will deliver them.

Taste and see that the LORD is good; *
happy are they who trust in him!

Response: His love, His love
His love is everlasting.

Fear the LORD, you that are his saints, *
for those who fear him lack nothing.

The young lions lack and suffer hunger, *
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.

The LORD ransoms the life of his servants, *
and none will be punished who trust in him.

Response: His love, His love
His love is everlasting.

The Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-3 Caryn Rivers

A Reading from the First Letter of John.

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The Reader: The Word of the Lord.

The People: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn- "Do Lord, Remember Me" **Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS) #164 (vv. 1-2)**

1) Do Lord, do Lord, Do remember me.
Do Lord, do Lord, Do remember me,
Do Lord, do Lord, Do remember me,
O do Lord, remember me.

2) When I'm in trouble, Do remember me.
When I'm in trouble, Do remember me,
When I'm in trouble, Do remember me,
O do Lord, remember me.

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12 The Rev. Patricia Downing

The Priest: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

The People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”
The Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.
The People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily Hymn- “Do Lord Remember Me” **LEVAS #164 (vv. 3-4)**

3) When I'm dyin', Do remember me,
When I'm dyin', Do remember me,
When I'm dyin', Do remember me,
O do Lord, remember me.

4) When this world's on fire, Do remember me.
When this world's on fire, Do remember me,
When this world's on fire, Do remember me,
O do Lord, remember me.

The Homily The Rector

The Call to Christian Discipleship

The Liturgy of Holy Baptism **BCP 301**

Baptismal Candidates:
Rayne Josephine Wallace
Tobias Scott Williams

Presentation of Bibles to the Newly Baptized Guild of the Christ Child

The Peace

The Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
The People: And also with you.

The Holy Eucharist

The Offertory Sentence and Offering The Celebrant

Offer your gift now via text: Text “AECST” to 73256

Or use the QR Code on page 1

The Musical Offertory Selection St. Thomas Chancel Choir

The Great Thanksgiving **BCP Pg. 361**
The Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
The People: And also with you.
The Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
The People: We lift them to the Lord.
The Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

The People: It is right to give God 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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Sanctus
The Celebrant and the People *(sung)*
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.

The Celebrant: 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:

The Memorial Acclamation *(sung)*
The Celebrant and the People
Jesus Christ has died.
Jesus Christ is risen.
Jesus Christ will come again.

The Celebrant: 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 forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer *(sung)*
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 Breaking of the Bread
The Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
The People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Agnus Dei *(sung)*
The Celebrant: Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
The People: Have mercy upon us.
The Celebrant: Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
The People: Have mercy upon us.
The Celebrant: Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
The People: Grant us thy peace.

The Prayer of Humble Access
Let us pray: We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy; Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Celebrant: 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.

The Distribution of Communion

All baptized persons who accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, are invited to receive the Holy Sacrament.
If you only wish to receive a blessing, please cross your arms on your chest.

The Communion Selection St. Thomas Chancel Choir

The Post Communion Prayer **BCP pg. 365**

The Celebrant and the People:
Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending Forth of the Lay Eucharistic Visitors
The Celebrant: In the healing name of Jesus and with the compassionate embrace of this parish family, I send you forth bearing these Holy Gifts to those to whom you go today, so that they may share with us in the Communion of Christ's Body and Blood.
The People: We who are many are one body, and we all share one bread and one cup.

Rededication of Vows **The St. Thomas Chapter of The Order of the Daughters of the King**

The Announcements Richard Jones, Rector's Warden

The Recognition of Visitors and Guests

The Blessing of Birthdays, Anniversaries and Travel

The Final Blessing The Celebrant

The Closing Hymn - "When We All Get To Heaven" **LEVAS #20**

1) Sing the wondrous love of Jesus,
Sing His mercy and His grace;
In the mansions bright and blessed,
He'll prepare for us a place. [Refrain]

Refrain:
When we all get to heaven,
What a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
We'll sing and shout the victory!

2) While we walk the pilgrim pathway,
Clouds will overspread the sky;
But when trav'ling days are over
Not a shadow, not a sigh. [Refrain]

3) Let us then be true and faithful,
Trusting, serving ev'ry day;
Just one glimpse of Him in glory
Will the toils of life repay. [Refrain]

4) Onward to the prize before us!
Soon His beauty we'll behold;
Soon the pearly gates will open
We shall tread the streets of gold. [Refrain]

The Dismissal The Rev. Patricia Downing

The Postlude St. Thomas Music Ministry

The Parish Necrology

Remembering St. Thomas parishioners who have died since
All Saints'/All Souls' Day 2025

Lynn Marie Harris
Linda Holmes
Denise "Rae" Scott Jones
Doris Matthews
Francina Norris
Stephen Pugh
Anita Reid

THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS/ALL SOULS

The Candle Memorials on the Columbarium

are lit in memory of the following loved ones:

Brenda Battle
In memory of: Renee Crawford; Sandra Dixon; Ruth Fuller; Elaine Grooms; George Warren; Shirley Anita Winkfield; Karl Joseph Winkfield; Lloyd Emmett Winkfield.

J. R. & Alfreda Brockman
In memory of: Alfred & Naomi Adjahoe; Edgar Adjahoe; Stacey Alexander; Rudolph J. & Alberta Brockman; Mocile Brickhouse; Gloria Gaffney; Malcolm Gaffney; Agnes Gasu; Learline Wallace; Marie Quearles.

William Burke, Jr.
In memory of: Louise Young Burke; William J. Burke, Sr.

Cassandra & Santee Dean
In memory of: Carrie & Judson Cunningham; Docia Cunningham; Mary Alice Cunningham; Gertrude & Mohammed Dean; Sara & Stanley Dean; Norma & James Minus; Jimmie Minus; Thelma & Santee Ruffin, Sr.; Vincent Ruffin; Wadous Cunningham.

Gladyce DuBrey
In memory of: Cedric Babb; Joseph Brown III; Alton L. DuBrey, Jr.; Edward DuBrey, Sr.; Edward ("Marc") DuBrey, Jr.; Gary DuBrey; Courtland Hines; Mercedes Stapleton; Gladys Wilson Tucker; Howard & Armita Wilson.

Elaine C. Gillison
In memory of: Lucille C. Willingham; Robert Willingham; Ronald L. Willingham.

Simone Jeffers and Sarah Williams
In memory of: Pearl Bacchas; Garnett Clarke; Dalia Clifford; Angela Jeffers; Solomon & Sybil Jeffers; Faiz Mohammed; Randye Peters.

Karen Jackson Vaughn
In memory of: Rev. & Mrs. Luther T. Hughes; Dr. & Mrs. Arthur F. Jackson, Sr.; Carl Jones Jackson; Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Jones.

Stephen & Michelle Mack
In memory of: Katherine Baxter; Wilbur Mack; Ella Mae Mack; Lucille Salley Pinkett.

Charlene Mitchell Wiltshire
In memory of: The Clifton Family; The Gordon Family; Roland & Lucinda G. Harper; Charles T. Mitchell, Jr.; Pastor Sadie S. Mitchell; The Stridiron Family.

Cynthia R. Muse
In memory of: Joan Logan Gordon; Camilla Jenkins Janey; Edward L. Muse; Peale & Ruth Robinson.

Debbie Otey
In memory of: George Otey; Elanor Simms.

Theresa Bramwell
In memory of: Geraldine ("Deenie") Bramwell; Jackie DeKnight; Hattie McDonald; Sandra McCrae; Grace Moore; Jack Moore; Kathy Moore; Maidie Moore; Randall ("Buddy") Moore; Randle Moore, Sr.; Vivian Motley; James Patterson; Lydia Ravernell; Ted Bramwell.

Catherine Stafford
In memory of: Otis L. Daniels; Grace H. Daniels; Julius ("Cleveland") Daniels; Otis R. Daniels, Jr.; Otis ("Reggie") Daniels; William ("Bo") Daniels; Delores ("Lois") Mattie Mitchell; Anthony ("Tony") Mitchell; Stanley L. Pankey, Jr.; Lydia Ruth ("Girly") Rooks; Langston Smith; William ("Bill") Smalls; Elizabeth ("Tootie") Stanley; Dorothy ("Dottie") Wilson.

The Sudler Family
In memory of: Harvey J. Sudler, Sr.; Harvey J. Sudler, Jr.; Cordelia K. Sudler; Ruth V. Tucker; William Tucker, Jr.

Carlia Wallace
In memory of: Phillip H. Miller.

Alice R. Young
In memory of: Donald A. Young.

The Sunday Spearhead
The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
Feast of All Saints/All Souls
Sunday November 1, 2026

The **St. Thomas Chapter of The Order of the Daughters of the King** will observe Corporate Communion and the reaffirm their vows this Sunday, joining fellow chapters throughout the United States in this sacred observance.

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Congratulations to the newly baptized: **Rayne Josephine Wallace** and **Tobias Scott Williams.** May God bless them both.

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The Church family continues to grow! We welcome **Leslie Labess** and **Latonia Rhodes** into the church family. Leslie's shepherd is Elaine Gillison and Latonia's shepherd is Deborah Camp-Frye. We look forward to getting to know them.

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With deep appreciation and gratitude, the **Men's Ministry & Fellowship** extends our thanks for supporting the annual "Old School Cabaret." Fun was had by all! We know it's always a great way to get together and have a party, laughing, dancing and sharing our favorite dishes and beverages with our friends, family and especially our church family. We are very grateful for your support. We are all truly blessed to belong to such a supportive and loving church family! Thank you very much!

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NOTES FROM THE RECTOR

- The 2027 Annual Stewardship Drive has begun. Please prayerfully consider an increase in your 2027 Faithful Giving Pledge towards the vibrant ministries of St. Thomas. Remember that our individual goal should be to become a biblical tither, 10% of your time, talents and treasures. Are you working towards that spiritual goal? Please use the Giving Chart found on *page 19* to assist you with your Faithful Giving Pledge for 2027. Please bring your completed Faithful Giving card to the altar during offertory or directly submit it online using the link **https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScDERUxYZeOi_K4tSTrqKh6JVVnGNhwaTEd_4ndPNLYpM08tw/viewform or QR code:**

- Our exciting ministry plans and activities for the remaining two months of this year are in place. I am urging each parishioner to please ensure that your financial pledge for 2026 is current and up to date. I am hopeful that all pledges will be fulfilled by *December 31, 2026*. If you are unsure about your balance, please contact Judy Tillman, stewardship chair, at **stewardship@aecst.org** as soon as possible. Enormous thanks for your continued support and generous contributions.

- **IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Do not park in the Overbrook Presbyterian Church parking lot on Sundays! Their office has told us this rule is still being violated! Thank you.

- Following the call to worship the Verger, or designated person, requests that the congregation maintain a spirit of reverence and silence as we prepare our hearts and minds for the worship of Almighty God. Please refrain from conversation.
- As a sign of reverence and respect for the worship of God and others, kindly remain in the church for the entirety of the liturgy, unless you have an unavoidable reason to leave early. Please refrain from exiting the church until after the closing hymn and the dismissal, as our worship is not complete until we are sent forth into the world to love and serve the Lord.

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STRICTLY PROHIBITED-FIRE LANE PARKING

Parking in the fire lanes located in the church parking lot is ILLEGAL AND STRICTLY PROHIBITED. Fire lanes are NOT temporary parking spaces for any reason. They must remain clear and unobstructed at all times to ensure emergency vehicles have immediate access when needed.

DO NOT PARK IN THE FIRE LANE-NOT EVEN TEMPORARILY!

This is a matter of safety, not convenience. **No exceptions. Please comply with this rule at all times.**

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THE SISTERHOOD GUILD

- **Can we bring back the tradition of being St. James School's Sweet Potato Church?** The Sisterhood Guild is collecting cans of sweet potatoes for St. James School. This year's goal is 300 cans. St. James is trying to provide 300 meals for families in the community. The guild will have a tote bin at the rear of the church. The deadline to donate is *Sunday, November 8th*.

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DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Thanksgiving project - bring joy to families during the Thanksgiving season

- Daughters of The King will be collecting donations until November 15, 2026. The funds collected will be used to assist families with purchasing food for Thanksgiving dinner. No donation is too small, please prayerfully consider donating. Daughters will be collecting before and after church. Thank you in advance for your support.

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TREE OF LIFE PRISON MINISTRY (TOLPM)

Donations are being requested to help support the following initiatives:

- **Angel Tree Christmas Party**: This is the annual Christmas party for children who have an incarcerated parent. The party will be held Sunday, December 20th after morning worship. There are two (2) ways you can support this project;
  - a financial donation, any amount, to offset the cost of preparing the meal for the families at the party; or
  - during the month of November, we are asking you to support at least one child by purchasing a holiday gift that will be distributed at the Christmas party.

- **Family Support Assistance**: Children who have an incarcerated parent are often being cared for by a relative. The TOLPM will query families and determine what is most needed, food, clothing, children's books, etc. Funds will be used to help these families; including providing support to travel to St. Thomas for the Christmas party.

- **Tighty-Whities Project:** Incarcerated men are not always provided with a sufficient number of undergarments. The TOLPM is asking for donations of men's, WHITE ONLY underwear including Hanes (brand)Tag less T-Shirts, Hanes (brand) Tag-less briefs, and crew length socks. *All sizes are needed.* If you have questions contact J.R. Brockman at **brock.man@verizon.net** or call 609-381-9981.

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VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE

Veterans Day will be observed on Sunday November 8th. Veterans are encouraged to wear their uniform, and/or medals. All Veterans are asked to email J.R. Brockman, **brock.man@verizon.net**, the following information:

- Name
- Date of Birth (optional)
- Branch of Service
- Rank
- Combat Service if any, (i.e., Viet Nam, Afghanistan, Iraq, etc.)
- Purple Heart (Y/N)
- Other awards

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AECST LEGACY PATH CAMPAIGN

Leave a lasting legacy at The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas.

Personalized commemorative bricks are now available for purchase and will be permanently installed on the church grounds. Each engraved brick honors a loved one, marks a special occasion, or reflects your commitment to the future of AECST.

Your support strengthens our ministries, preserves our heritage, and helps ensure that St. Thomas continues to be a beacon of faith, hope, and love for generations to come. Each brick is $125. Please contact Victoria Rivers at memorialtribute@aecst.org for information. Design and Personalize Your Brick at:
https://share.google/OwnV8VD0cvLfbPcQQ

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CATTO MINISTRY UPDATE

"No one will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves- and the only way they could do so is by failing to vote." — Franklin D. Roosevelt

Your vote is crucial. This election will have a far-reaching effect on this country. Civil liberties are eroding and democracy is threatened by a "pay-to-play" system being created. **Vote on Tuesday, November 3, 2026**. Most polls will be open by 7:00 AM and close at 8:00 PM.

Thanks to those who have already voted or made a commitment and plan to vote. If you have any questions, please contact: Evelyn Johns, Houssein Gharavi, Stephenie Smith or Gloria Thomas. These Catto committee members also serve as Election Day poll workers. They will be happy to help you.

Voting is your ***SUPERPOWER***--use it or lose it.

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CHRISTIAN FORMATION

The Pilgrims on a Journey Adult Bible Study Group will hold an Election Day Prayer meeting, November 3rd from 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM, via Zoom. Anyone can participate and join the call.
Zoom credentials are:

- **https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83742158811?pwd=QU84aktrVWE2NE00a1Y0c0NacjVMdz09**
- Meeting ID: 837 4215 8811
- Passcode: 225298

If you are interested in joining the ministry, please email Fr. Jay, **associatepriest@aecst.org.**

AECST MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

- **NOTE: Effective November 1st,** the Church office is no longer able to provide printing services for flyers or notices for distribution to the congregation, including inserts to the Sunday Bulletin. If you wish to have flyers included in the Sunday Bulletin, organizations must provide printed copies of the document and bring them to the church by Tuesday at 3:00 PM. A digital copy may be submitted for the Digital Spearhead.

- Announcements for Sunday Bulletin and Digital Spearhead are to be submitted to the church office by Monday, 12 Noon (emailing **1792@aecst.org** is preferred). If there are any questions please contact Gladyce, 215-473- 3065.

- To request meeting space usage in the church or church campus, please submit the "request for meeting space" document two weeks prior to the event. If you have questions or need the document contact the church office.

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OUR DEDICATED OUT OF TOWN FAMILIES

We give thanks to God for these active and dedicated members of St. Thomas who presently live in other cities, states, and countries, but remain connected weekly through various media platforms:

Constance Anderson- Florida
The Reverend Dr. Paul Bach and Dr. Julie Hergerather-Washington
Deadra Cannon-Georgia
Dr. Tracy Collins-North Carolina
Nora Corbin-Illinois
Paula Cropper-North Carolina
Lee Daniels-New York/California
Stacey Davis-New York
Andrew and Lisa Renee Dumas-Portugal
The Rev. Fr. Daren Evans-Texas
Rashid, Christie, and Gabrielle Faisal-Michigan
The Reverend Dr. Wil Gafney-Texas
Bradley Hammond-Tennessee
Richard and Gwenda Hart-South Carolina
Yvonne Hyde-Carter-New York
Dr. Calvin Johnson-Florida
Bettie Jones-North Carolina
Richard Jones, Jr.-Virginia
Dr. Sheila Jones-Smith-South Carolina
Steven and Jameela Lewis-Colorado/California
Nohjay Nimpson-Texas
Zennetta Peters-North Carolina
Richard and Rebecca Scales-Florida
Shelly and Ann Stewart-Florida/Massachusetts
Jillian Theorgood- Georgia
Howard Tucker-Brazil/Philadelphia
Allison Young- Maryland

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MUSIC MINISTRY CORNER



- Come celebrate the Holidays with Waltier Blocker and the St. Thomas Gospel Choir as they return to the Kimmel Center for "A Philly Holiday Spectacular." In addition to STGC, the concert will feature vocalists Ryan Shaw and Morgan James, The Philadelphia Boys Choir, The Philly Pops Chorus, The Philly Pops Orchestra and a special visit from Santa Clause! Concerts dates are as follows:

  Friday, December 11th - 7:30 PM
  Saturday, December 12th - 2:00 PM
  Sunday, December 13th - 7:00 PM

Tickets may be purchased through **phillypops.org** or call the Kimmel Center box office at 215.893.1999.

- The St. Thomas Chancel Choir is a dynamic music ministry that sings on 1st and 3rd Sundays of every month, in addition to special services. We welcome anyone who loves to sing, regardless of age or skill level. The choir sings a wide variety of musical styles, including anthems, Spirituals, and Gospel, among others. Our rehearsal schedule is as follows:

  Saturday, November 7th - 10:00 AM
  Saturday, November 21st - 10:00 AM
  Saturday, December 5th - 10:00 AM
  Saturday, December 21st - 10:00 AM

- Vocalists and Musicians Wanted! You are invited to join the professional recording St. Thomas Gospel Choir. The Gospel Choir (STGC) is directed by Waltier Blocker and sing on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month, in addition to special services. Rehearsals are every Wednesday at 7:30 PM in Anderson Hall.

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The Readings for the Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
The Feast of All Saints/All Souls
November 1, 2026

The First Reading - Revelation 7:9-17
Psalm 34:1-10, 22
The Second Reading - 1 John 3:1-3
The Holy Gospel - Matthew 5:1-12

The Holy Gospel Readings for the week of November 1, 2026

Monday - Luke 12:49-59
Tuesday - Luke 13:1-9
Wednesday - Luke 13:10-17
Thursday - Luke 13:18-30
Friday - Luke 13:31-35
Saturday-Luke 14:1-11

This Week at AECST – November 1, 2026

Monday, November 2nd

- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. meeting in Anderson Hall 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Tuesday, November 3rd

- **Election Day-Anderson Hall is a polling place 6:00 AM-9:00 PM**
- Election Day Prayer Meeting (with Fr. Jay) via Zoom 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- OPC Advocacy Outreach Group meeting in the Undercroft 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Wednesday, November 4th

- St. Thomas Gospel Choir Rehearsal in Anderson Hall 7:30 PM

Saturday, November 7th

- Chancel Choir rehearsal in Anderson Hall 10:00 AM

SICK AND SHUT-IN / SPECIAL PRAYERS REQUESTS
In the hospital: Verger Karen Ragland- Abington Hospital; Vernette Dow-Presbyterial Hospital

In Rehab: Verger Stephen Hannum- St. Francis Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
In Long Term Care Residences: Helena Allen- Simpson House; Gwendolyn Langford- Arden Courts of Cherry Hill; Ola Bass- Atria, Lafayette Hill, Elizabeth (Betty) Trulear- Riddle Village Assisted Living

At Home: Robert Brown, Cornelia Camp, Regina Meacham Devero, Vernette Dow, Virginia DuBrey, Patricia Walker-Ellison, D. Lynn Joell, Karen Ragland, Joyce Stewart, Marilyn Brown, Arnott Trottman

Special Prayers: Carmen Brown, Edita Gauthney, Joan Hall, Richard Jones Jr., Dr. Santee Ruffin, Cathy Stafford, Carolyn Summers, Daryn Stewart, Justin Trotman, Lisa Woodley, Charlene M. Wiltshire, Bettie Jones, Thomas Harris, The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach, Gail Harris, Roosevelt Harris, Sr., Garry Jones, Bill Burton, Dorothy Smith, The Rev. Dr. Wil Gaffney, Paula Lamb, Dr. Julie Hergerather

We pray for those who are incarcerated and their families, as well as those affected by their actions.
If you have prayer requests and wish to be added to the list, the church office, or email 1792@aecst.org

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

November 1st
- Celebration of the Feast of All Saints/All Souls
- Daughters of the King Corporate Communion and Reaffirmation

November 8th
- Observance of the birthdays of Blessed Absalom Jones, 1st rector and Fr. Shaw, 17th rector, both born on November 6th
- Observance of Veterans Day

November 15th
- Members of The Links Incorporated will be worshiping with us in celebration of their 80th Anniversary. Dr. Gwendolyn Boyd, Executive Director, The Links Foundation, Incorporated, will be the guest homilist.

November 22nd
- Annual Judicial Sunday - The Honorable Natasha Taylor-Smith, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County, will be the guest speaker.

November 29th
- The First Sunday of Advent
- Health Ministry Sunday
- Youth and Young Adults Sunday

youth

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS' NEWS

IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE RECTOR
St. Thomas celebrates children and youth not only as the church of TOMORROW, but also the church of TODAY! We welcome and encourage their full presence and participation in our Sunday worship.

Church School begins at 10:00 AM in the Undercroft. All Students must be registered in order to attend Church School. Please use the QR Code below to register your child for this Church School year.

Interested in help our children grow in their faith and understanding of God's love? Become a **Church School Teacher.** Please use the QR Code below to apply. No teaching experience required.

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SCOUT TROOP #133

- The Scout program has resumed! All children are welcome to participate. If you know of a child interested in exploring, learning new skills and developing confidence, the Scout Program might be for them.
- The Cub Scout Program is open to children in grades 1-5 and meet from 2:00 - 4:00 PM on Saturdays.
- The Scout Program is open to children 11-17 years old and meet are on Saturdays from 1:00 - 3:00 PM in the Undercroft. For more information contact Scout Master Howard Chapman at **howchaman@gmail.com**

Scouting for Food

- Troop 133, Scouting America, is participating in the nationwide "Scouting for Food" campaign. This year, donations will benefit Families Forward, a Philadelphia nonprofit that provides emergency housing for families experiencing homelessness.
- Please bring donations of canned goods and other nonperishable food items to the church by November 22, 2026. The troop will collect and deliver all donations to Families Forward.

Thank you for your generosity and support! *It's a great day to be a Scout!*

GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY (GFS)
GFS are up and running! The next meeting is November 14th in the Undercroft at 11:00 AM. All girls are invited to join.

If you would like to join GFS as an adult Sponsor or be on the mailing list for future events, please contact our Branch Advisor, Nikkol Simms at **njsimms@verizon.net** for the schedule.
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AECST ACOLYTE MINISTRY
Attention Young Adults:
Becoming an Acolyte is a meaningful way to deepen participation in worship and connect to the liturgy. It's not just for the kids. Email Nikkol Simms at **njsimms@verizon.net** or call, 267.934.3016. You can also email Juanita Miller at **juanitamiller91@gmail.com** or call, 267.283.8011 to discuss any questions and interest in this ministry.
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ALTAR FLOWERS

To order flowers, please return this form (please print) with payment to Alfreda Brockman or the Church Office. You can also order via the church website to order and pay for flowers; http://www.aecst.org/donations.htm

_ I would like to place flowers on the High Altar- $80 each.

_ I would like to place flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar- $70 each.

_ I would like to place flowers on the Columbarium- $60 each.

In memory of _____

In Thanksgiving for_____

Given by_____ Envelope_____ Amount $_____

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STEWARDSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

This is just a reminder regarding Faithful Giving. Thank you everyone for sending in your tithes and keeping up with your pledge. Your pledge helps with day-to-day operational expenses. For example:

- keeping heat on in the winter and air conditioning in the summer heat
- landscaping of the entire church campus
- all utilities and expenses

By not meeting your pledge, this puts the operating budget at a deficit.

There are three (3) ways to make your pledge:

- Submit the **2027 Faithful Giving Card** that can be found in the bulletin or ask for one from an Usher
- Visit the church website-**www.aecst.org**
- Login to the **Realm Connect app**

Please remember that your pledged contribution must be *paid in full* to run for a seat on the Vestry and to vote during the Annual Meeting.

Year-End Giving Reminder:
To ensure your pledge is credited to this year; ***all contributions must be received by December 31, 2026.***

- If you place your offering in the alms basin on Sundays, your pledge must be received no later than Sunday, December 27th, so it can be processed and deposited by December 31st.
- If you give electronically through Realm, please allow 1-2 business days for processing. All Realm donations should be submitted by December 29th.
- Any contributions received after December 31st will be credited to the 2027 giving year.

Realm Announcement

"…BUT I DON'T WANT TO USE REALM"

Some of you have this thought in the back of your mind; but your church data is already there! Church administrators and financial managers are reconciling your donations, email addresses and phone numbers by using REALM Connect.

New methods and changes can be challenging for all of us. The REALM and Stewardship teams are here to assist you through the process. Download the Realm Connect app today. It's available to Apple iOS and Android users. If you have questions please email realm@aecst.com or stewardship@aecst.com we will get you connected!

HOW CAN YOU BE FAITHFUL TO GOD AND THE CHURCH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP?

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, For God loves a cheerful giver." II Corinthians 9:7

The Stewardship Committee of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas recognizes that stewardship may take form in several ways: your time, talent, or treasures. The one commonality is that each of us must prayerfully ask God to guide us in making the right choices and have faith that He will guide us to the right decision.

Our church has a tremendous congregation that is thriving and growing. The ministries that we have serve all of God's children near and far. These endeavors require all three forms of stewardship, but especially your sharing of treasure. Prayerfully consider donating to one or all the special requests below.

Other ways to continue to be Faithful to God and the Church through Stewardship:
1) Sunday Offering Plate

2) Church website - http://www.aecst.org/donations.htm the button on the page that represents where you'd like your payment to be applied for, i.e., pledge, the AJ House, Easter, etc.

3) Members and visitors who previously donated through GIVI will use **Realm Connect**. If you donate via the church website, either directly or by using the QR code, you will see a new webpage and a corresponding QR code.

4) Cellphone: Text "AECST" to 73256 to donate.

A CHART TO ASSIST WITH FAITHFUL GIVING
Holy Scripture commends a minimum tithe of 10% of our earnings.
Where are you on your spiritual journey?
(suggested guidelines)

Yearly Income	2%	5%	10%
$10,000.00	$200.00	$500.00	$1,000.00
$15,000.00	$300.00	$750.00	$1,500.00
$20,000.00	$400.00	$1,000.00	$2,000.00
$25,000.00	$500.00	$1,250.00	$2,500.00
$30,000.00	$600.00	$1,500.00	$3,000.00
$40,000.00	$800.00	$2,000.00	$4,000.00
$50,000.00	$1,000.00	$2,500.00	$5,000.00
$60,000.00	$1,200.00	$3,000.00	$6,000.00
$70,000.00	$1,400.00	$3,500.00	$7,000.00
$80,000.00	$1,600.00	$4,000.00	$8,000.00
$90,000.00	$1,800.00	$4,500.00	$9,000.00
$100,000.00	$2,000.00	$5,000.00	$10,000.00
$110,000.00	$2,200.00	$5,500.00	$11,000.00
$120,000.00	$2,400.00	$6,000.00	$12,000.00
$150,000.00	$3,000.00	$7,000.00	$15,000.00
$175,000.00	$3,500.00	$8,750.00	$17,500.00
$200,000.00	$4,000.00	$10,000.00	$20,000.00

2027 Faithful Giving Cards

Enormous thanks to these individuals who have submitted their 2027 Faithful Giving Pledge.
Is your name included yet? Please submit your pledge today by using the QR Code below.

The Clergy Leadership
The Rev. Fr. Martini Shaw
The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins
The Rev. Patricia Downing

Vestry
Tim Barksdale
Deborah Booker-Matthews
William Burke
Deborah Camp-Frye
Deadra Cannon
Albert Dandridge
Clara Mae Daniels
Mary Dean
Elaine C. Gillison
Eugene Golson
Pamela Johnson
Richard Jones
Monica Lewis-Jones
Judith Simkins-Booth
Judith Tillman

Auxiliary Vestry
Sharon Bullock
Ronnie Collins
Gwenda Hart
D. Lynn Joell
Kelvin Johnson
Monica Johnson Taylor
Brenda Johnson-Best
Cynthia Muse
Darryle (Bobby) Tillman

Membership
Patricia Akins
Dorothy & Michael Archey
Paul Bach & Julie Hergenrather
Brenda Battle
Susan Ben
Guy Booth
Ricardo Bostic
I. Page Bowser, Jr.
Theresa Bramwell
Conchetta Brewer
Lorita Brockington
Alfreda & J. R. Brockman
Jane & Robert Brown
Phyllis Brown
Phyllis B. Cater
Eleanor Chestnut
Suzanne Closson
Gwendolyn Cottman
Karen M. Davis
Stacey N. Davis
Carl Dean
Lisa-Renee & Andrew Dumas
Quincina & William Edmonds
Deidre & Larry Farmbry
Loretta Ferguson
Wendella Fox & Herb Wetzel
Barry Frye
Irenda Gates
Kathryn & Edward Geiger
Barbara L. Glenn
Swanie Goldsmith
Marie Golson
Clarice Grant
Michele Green
Derek Griffith
Teleia & Tyrone Gunby
Thomasina Hack
Nicole & Walter Harris
Gail & Roosevelt Harris
Richard Hart
Maurice Hayes
Rene Hayes
Denise McDaniel Henderson
Synethia Hill
Fleta Howell
Robert Hugh
Patricia & Donald Hunt
Kim Hyde
Yvonne Hyde-Carter
Diann Jacox
Simone Jeffers
Bobby Johnson
Frank Johnson
Naomi Johnson Booker
Vernetta Johnston
Bettie Jones
Evelyn C. Johns
Sheila B. Jones
Tyrone Keller
Sherilynn & Reggie Kimble
Nancy C. Lee
Jameela & Steven Lewis
Karen Leys
Adriene Logan
Alonda Lord
C. Adjoa Love-Dorsey
James Lowe
Winston Lowe
Pat Lynch
Thomas Lynch
Constance Lyons
Michelle J.P. & Stephen Mack
Derrick McBride
Michael McIntosh
Laura McNeill
Mueni Mwanzia
Lisa & Vincent Napoleon
Chinwe Onyekere
Deborah Otey
Carolyn Paige
Tiana Pankey
Kim Phillips
Mary Ann Phillips

Michael Pyles
Kareem Ragin
Dolores Redmond
Clarence H. Rice
Cassandra A. Ruffin
Barbara Savage
Rebecca & Richard Scales
Leah Sheppard
Kayma Sherman
Dorothy Smith
Catherine Stafford
H. Lynn Starr
Shelly Stewart, Jr.
Michele & Arthur Sudler
Arnott Trotman
Lee Anne & JustinTrotman
Louise Trotman
Karen J. Vaughn
Barbara Wiley
Michelle Wilkinson
Stephanie Williamson
Rufus Seth Williams
Jenelle Wilson-Johnson
Charlene M. Wiltshire
Wanda A. Wood
Khalita N. Wright
Paula Wright
Alice Young



Happy Birthday to the following members of our church family born in November

11/1	Tyrone Gunby
11/2	Elsie Moto
11/3	Nohjay Nimpson, Kathy Geiger
11/4	Steve Burg, Gregory Lyles, Ladene Kershaw, Eugene Phillips, Evelyn Johns
11/5	Michele Sudler, David King
11/6	Absalom Jones, The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw
11/7	Jonathan Edwards
11/8	David McGillberry, Toddrick Ricks
11/9	Gregory Allen, Cathy Seay
11/10	Teri Tillman, Maria McWilliams-Zayzay, Adanna Clark
11/11	Betty Myers, Melvin Seegars
11/12	Thomasina Hack, Amelia Phillips
11/13	Brenda Johnson-Best
11/14	Pauline Bantom, Catherine Stafford, Regina Meecham Devero
11/15	Sheila Stubbs, Jeremiah Scales
11/17	Rashid Faisal
11/18	Alexandra McFadden Rodriguez
11/22	Grace Wetzel, Cassandra Ruffin
11/23	Ola Bass, Gail Harris
11/24	Richard Hart
11/25	Laura Falusi
11/26	Brenda Battle, Rebecca Scales, Tyleencia Wilson
11/27	Ronovan Bundy, Ruth Mugwanya, Thomas Rolland, Shane Bryant Simms
11/29	Anthony Carter
11/30	Loretta Ferguson, Grace Lincoln, Kaeson Rodney