“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-second Sunday after Pentecost, Youth and Young Adults Sunday.

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.

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The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

Youth and Young Adults Sunday
October 25, 2026

The Celebrant and Homilist: The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw
Youth and Young Adults Homilist: Mayla Jackson
Vergers: Dr. Naomi Johnon Booker, Eugene Golson and Karen Ragland
Music Ministry: St. Thomas Gospel Choir
Livestream/Sound Ministry: Teri Tillman and Kym Hyde

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Order of Service

The Opening Meditation The Verger

The Prelude St. Thomas Music Ministry

The Opening Hymn- "Have Your Way Lord"

1) Have your way Lord, Have your way
Have your way Lord, Have your way
Do what you want to do, as long as you want to
Have your way Lord, have your way Lord
We're here right now have your way
We're here right now have your way

2) In this service, have your way
In this service, have your way
Do what you want to do, as long as you want to
Have your way Lord, have your way Lord
We're here right now have your way
We're here right now have your way

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
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 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 First Reading: Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Thomas Jackson, V
A Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy.
Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees--as far as Zoar. The LORD said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants'; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there." Then Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, at the LORD's command. He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. He was unequaled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed
The Reader: The Word of the Lord.
The People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 Axel Trotman
Lord, you have been our refuge *
from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born, *
from age to age you are God.

You turn us back to the dust and say, *
"Go back, O child of earth."

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past *
and like a watch in the night.

You sweep us away like a dream; *
we fade away suddenly like the grass.

In the morning it is green and flourishes; *
in the evening it is dried up and withered.

Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry? *
be gracious to your servants.

Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning; *
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us *
and the years in which we suffered adversity.

Show your servants your works *
and your splendor to their children.

May the graciousness of the LORD our God be upon us; *
prosper the work of our hands;
prosper our handiwork.

The Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 Ava Gordon
A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Church of the Thessalonians.
You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.
The Reader: The Word of the Lord.
The People: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn– "We Will Understand It Better By and By" Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS) # 207 (vv. 1-2)

1) We are often tossed and driv'n
on the restless sea of time,
Somber skies and howling tempest
oft succeed a bright sunshine;
In that land of perfect day,
when the mists have rolled away,
We will understand it better by and by.

Chorus: By and by when the morning comes,
when the saints of God
are gathered home,
we'll tell the story how we're overcome;
For we'll understand it better by and by.

2) We are often destitute of the things that life demands, want of food and want of shelter
thirsty hills and barren lands;
We are trusting in the Lord, and according to His word, We will understand it better by and by. [Chorus]

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:34-46 The Rector
The Priest: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
The People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.
When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,
'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'?

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.
The Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.
The People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily Hymn - "We Will Understand It Better by and By" **LEVAS 207 (vv. 3-4)**

**3)Trials dark on every hand,
and we cannot understand,
All the ways that God would lead us
to that blessed promised land;
But He guides us with His eye
and we'll follow till we die,
for we'll understand it better by and by.**

**Chorus: By and by when the morning comes,
when the saints of God are gathered home,
we'll tell the story how we're overcome;
For we'll understand it better by and by.**

**4)Temptations hidden snares often take us
unawares, and our hearts are made to bleed
for many a thoughtless word or deed; and we
wonder why the test when we try to do our best,
but we'll understand it better by and by.
[Chorus]**

The Homily The Rector

The Youth and Young Adults Homily Mayla Jackson

The Call to Christian Discipleship

The Nicene Creed
**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped 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.

The Prayers of the People Triniti Miller

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; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.
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.
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.
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.
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.
Silence
Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

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

The Concluding Collect The Celebrant

The Confession

The Celebrant: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us kneel and confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
(Silence is kept)

The Celebrant and the 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.

The Absolution
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

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 Gospel 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
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
The Celebrant and the People
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
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
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
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 Gospel 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.
The Announcements Richard Jones, Rector's Warden

The Youth and Young Adults Announcements Avery Jones

The Recognition of Visitors and Guests

The Blessing of Birthdays, Anniversaries and Travel

The Final Blessing **The Celebrant**

The Closing Hymn - "Yield Not Temptation" **LEVAS # 170**

1) Yield not to temptation,
for yielding is sin.
Each vict'ry will help you
some other to win.
Fight valiantly onward;
dark passions subdue.
Look ever to Jesus;
He'll carry you through. [Refrain]

Refrain:
Ask the Savior to help you,
comfort, strengthen, and keep you.
He is willing to aid you;
He will carry you through.

2) Shun evil companions;
bad language disdain.
God's name hold in rev'rence,
nor take it in vain.
Be thoughtful and earnest,

kind-hearted and true.
Look ever to Jesus;
He'll carry you through. [Refrain]

3) To him that o'ercometh
God giveth a crown.
Through faith we will conquer,
though often cast down.
He who is our Savior
our strength will renew.
Look ever to Jesus;
He'll carry you through. [Refrain]

The Dismissal

The Postlude St. Thomas Music Ministry

The Sunday Spearhead
The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost
Youth and Young Adults Sunday
Sunday October 25, 2026

Calling all ghosts, ghouls, superheroes, princes and princesses, meet in the parking lot after SUNDAY service for Trunk or Treat!

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Welcome to the members of the South Jersey (NJ) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated worshiping with us this morning.

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Condolences to Nikkol Simms, Carlia Wallace, Demetrius Miller, Juanita Miller, Alliyah Miller, and Triniti Miller; Grandson Shaine Bryant Simms, Granddaughter Rayne Wallace and family on the death their father and grandfather**, Phillip Miller.** His service will be held on Friday, October 30, 2026, at St. Luke Community Christian Church, 320 Tilghman Street, Chester, PA. Viewing from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM. Service at 11:00AM. May the soul of Phillip rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.

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Condolences to Karen Ragland and her family on the death of her brother-in-law, **Charles Player.** May the soul of Charles rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.

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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 22* 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 three 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.

- ***Thank you*** to everyone that purchased a pew memorial plaque that will memorialize your loved one. The Memorial Tribute Ministry will notify you once the plaques are ready for installation.

- **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 PROBIBITED-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

- Will hold a meeting in the Absalom Jones House **Sunday October 25th** after service.

- **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 beginning Sunday, October 25th. The deadline to donate is Sunday, November 8th.

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WOMEN'S MINISTRY THANK YOU

With heartfelt gratitude and appreciation, the Women's Ministry expresses sincere thanks for your generous support of the 2026 popcorn fundraiser. Your kindness, generosity and willingness to support are truly appreciated. We are grateful to be part of such a loving and supportive church family. May God continue to strengthen our fellowship and bless each of you abundantly!

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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.

- Sunday November 1, 2026, the St. Thomas Chapter of The Order of the Daughters of the King will celebrate the Feast of All Saints and All Souls Day. On this special day, we will join Daughters of the King chapters throughout the United States and beyond in observing this day through the sacrament of Holy Communion, received together as a chapter. We kindly ask all Daughters to be present for this meaningful occasion, if possible, as we gather in worship, fellowship and remembrance.

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:** Often children who have an incarcerated parent are 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 to including providing support to travel to St. Thomas for the Christmas party.

- **Tidy Whites Project:** Often incarcerated men are not 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, Briefs Tag-less 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 DIRECTORY- Suzanne Closson and Ashley Hines, Co-chairs
This project is in its final stages. If you did not take a picture and would like to have *only* your contact information listed in the Church Directory please submit your name, home address, telephone number and email address to Suzanne Closson, **msclosson@live.com**. The deadline is ***October 30,2026.*** Thank you.

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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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HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS
October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

- Early detection remains one of the most effective tools in the fight against breast cancer.

- Other than skin cancer, breast cancer is the most common cancer among American women.
- Mammograms are the best way to find breast cancer early when it is easier to treat. Mammograms can find cancer before it is big enough to feel or cause symptoms.
- 1 in 8 women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime. But there is hope. When caught in its earliest, localized stages, the 5-year relative survival rate is over 99%.
- Advances in early detection and treatment methods have significantly increased breast cancer survival rates in recent years.
- Men also get breast cancer, but it is not as common. The lifetime risk of male breast cancer is about 1 in 755 men.
- Learn more about the importance of routine screenings and mammograms, understand when to begin screening based on age and risk factors, and discover ways to take charge of your breast health. Talk to your healthcare provider about screening or schedule a screening by calling Mainline Health at 484.580.1800. Please visit **www.komen.org** for more information.

Welcome to Week 4 of your 4-Week Fall Walking Challenge!

- We hope you enjoy getting out while the weather is still good.
- Be sure to check with your physician if you have any questions/concerns.
- Pick any 5 days this week to walk and use the other 2 days for rest.

Week 4: The Autumn Finale

- **Goal:** Walk 25 minutes per day, 5 days this week.
- **Pace:** Mix it up. Try 15 minutes of moderate walking and 10 minutes of a brisk, purposeful pace.
- **Fall Tip:** Celebrate the end of your challenge by checking out a local nature trail, a local pumpkin patch, or a corn maze to get your final steps in.

- Scan the QR Code for the full 4 Week Program:

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CATTO MINISTRY UPDATE

Mark Your Calendars! Make A Plan! Move Your Feet!

- **PA** deadlines are fast approaching for the upcoming election
- Oct. 27th - Mail ballot application deadline
- ***Nov. 3rd - Election Day***

Remember ***VOTING is your SUPERPOWER***!

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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-Seattle, 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-Second Sunday after Pentecost
October 25, 2026

The First Reading - Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
The Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
The Holy Gospel - Matthew 22:34-46

The Holy Gospel Readings for the week of October 25, 2026

Monday - Luke 11:14-26
Tuesday - Luke 11:27-36
Wednesday - Luke 11:37-52
Thursday - Luke 11:53-12:12
Friday - Luke 12:13-31
Saturday-Luke 12:32-48

This Week at AECST – October 25, 2026

Tuesday, October 27th

- Adult Bible Study with Fr. Jay via Zoom 7:00 PM
- OPC Advocacy Outreach Group meeting in the Undercroft 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Wednesday, October 28th

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

Saturday, October 31st

- GFS meeting in the Undercroft 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- Acolyte Rehearsal in the Sanctuary 1:30 PM

SICK AND SHUT-IN / SPECIAL PRAYERS REQUESTS

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

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

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

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

October 25th

- Youth & Young Adults Sunday
- Members of the South Jersey Chapter of Links, Incorporated worshipping with us
- Church School Trunk or Treat in the parking lot after service

November 1st

- Celebration of the Feast of All Saints/All Souls
- Daughters of the King Corporate Communion

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 of Philadelphia County, will be the guest speaker.
- Youth and Young Adults Sunday

November 29th

- The First Sunday of Advent
- Health Ministry 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.
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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**

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GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY (GFS)
GFS is in full swing. The next meeting is October 31st 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.

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

Flowers on the High Altar are in celebration of the birthday of **Gladyce DuBrey**, given by Virginia DuBrey, Courtney and Cheyenne Williamson.

Flowers on the High Altar are given in memory of **Matilda "Tillie," Bernard, and Keith Smith** Given by Paula and Wayne Wright

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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ALL SAINTS/ALL SOULS MEMORIAL CANDLES

All Saints/All Souls Observance: November 1st
On Sunday, November 1st we will observe the Feast of All Saints and All Souls. You are invited to bring photographs of your loved ones to place on the Columbarium. Parishioners who have died within the past year will also be remembered.

You may also dedicate a Memorial Candle in honor of a loved one:

- $2.00 per single name
- $4.00 per married couple

To participate, please submit your completed form and payment to Alfreda Brockman, or mail them to the church office. **The deadline is Monday, October 26th.**

(Please Print)
I would like to dedicate a Memorial Candle to:

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

Given by _____ Envelope # _____ Amount $_____

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
Judy 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
Michael & Dorothy Archey
Brenda Battle
Susan Ben
Ricardo Bostic
I. Page Bowser, Jr.
Theresa Bramwell
Conchetta Brewer
Lorita Brockington
J.R. & Alfreda. Brockman
Robert & Jane Brown
Phyllis Brown
Eleanor Chestnut
Suzanne Closson
Gwendolyn Cottman
Karen M. Davis
Carl Dean
William & Quincina Edmonds
Loretta Ferguson
Barry Frye
Irenda Gates
Edward & Kathryn Geiger
Barbara L. Glenn
Marie Golson
Clarice Grant
Tyrone & Teleia Gunby
Thomasina Hack
Roosevelt & Gail Harris
Richard Hart
Maurice Hayes
Rene Hayes
Synethia Hill
Fleta Howell
Robert Hugh
Kim Hyde
Simone Jeffers
Bobby Johnson
Frank Johnson
Naomi Johnson Booker
Evelyn C. Jones
Sheila B. Jones
Tyrone Keller
Reggie & Sherilynn Kimble
Nancy C. Lee
Steven & Jameela Lewis
Karen Leys
Adriene Logan
C. Adjoa Love Dorsey
James Lowe
Winston Lowe
Pat Lynch
Constance Lyons
Derrick McBride
Michael McIntosh
Laura McNeill
Chinwe Onyekere
Deborah Otey
Carolyne Paige
Kim Phillips
Mary Ann Phillips
Michael Pyles
Kareem Ragin
Cassandra A. Ruffin
Barbara Savage
Richard & Rebecca Scales
Leah Sheppard
Kayma Sherman
Catherine Stafford
H. Lynn Starr
Arthur & Michele Sudler
Arnott Trotman
Louise Trotman
Karen J. Vaughn
Wendella Fox & Herb Wetzel
Rufus Seth Williams
Jenelle Wilson-Johnson
Charlene M. Wiltshire
Paula Wright
Alice Young