

**The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Stewardship Kick-off
October 5, 2025**

The Celebrant: The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw
Assisting: The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans
Homilists: Fr. Shaw, Fr. Evans, Eugene Golson and Karen Leys
Verger: Karen Ragland
Music Ministry: St. Thomas Chancel Choir

Order of Service

The Prelude

St. Thomas Music Ministry

The Opening Hymn- “We’ve Come This Far By Faith”
Refrain: We’ve come this far by faith, Leaning on the Lord
Trusting in His holy word, He’s never failed me yet.
O can’t turn around, we’ve come this far by faith.

Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS) #208

1) Don’t be discouraged when trouble’s in your life.
He’ll bear your burdens and move all misery and strife’
That’s why we’ve [Refrain]

2) Just the other day I heard someone say
He didn’t believe in God’s word;
But I can truly say that God had made a way
And He never failed me yet.
That’s why we’ve [Refrain]

A Word of Welcome

The Celebrant

The Opening Salutation

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

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 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, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our

conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

The First Reading: Lamentations 1:1-6

Deborah Camp Frye

A Reading from the Book of Lamentations.

How lonely sits the city that once was full of people! How like a widow she has become, she that was great among the nations! She that was a princess among the provinces has become a vassal. She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks; among all her lovers she has no one to comfort her; all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they have become her enemies. Judah has gone into exile with suffering and hard servitude; she lives now among the nations and finds no resting place; her pursuers have all overtaken her in the midst of her distress. The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to the festivals; all her gates are desolate, her priests groan; her young girls grieve, and her lot is bitter. Her foes have become the masters, her enemies prosper, because the LORD has made her suffer for the multitude of her transgressions; her children have gone away, captives before the foe. From daughter Zion has departed all her majesty. Her princes have become like stags that find no pasture; they fled without strength before the pursuer.

The Reader: The Word of the Lord.

The People: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 137

Sharon Harper

By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept, *
when we remembered you, O Zion.

As for our harps, we hung them up *
on the trees in the midst of that land.

For those who led us away captive asked us for a song,
and our oppressors called for mirth: *
"Sing us one of the songs of Zion."

How shall we sing the LORD's song *
upon an alien soil.

If I forget you, O Jerusalem, *
let my right hand forget its skill.

Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth
if I do not remember you, *
if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy.

Remember the day of Jerusalem, O LORD,
against the people of Edom, *
**who said, "Down with it! down with it!
even to the ground!"**

O Daughter of Babylon, doomed to destruction, *
**happy the one who pays you back
for what you have done to us!**

Happy shall he be who takes your little ones, *
and dashes them against the rock!

The Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

Kim Phillips

A Reading from the Second Book of Timothy.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

I am grateful to God-- whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did-- when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

The Reader: The Word of the Lord.

The People: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn- "My Faith Looks up to Thee"

LEVAS #88 (vv. 1-2)

1) My faith looks up to Thee,

Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!

Now hear me while I pray, Take all my guilt away;

O let me from this day Be wholly Thine.

2) May Thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart,

My zeal inspire;

As Thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee

Pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire.

The Holy Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

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

The People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

"Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'"

The Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

The People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily Hymn- "My Faith Looks up to Thee"

LEVAS #88 (vv. 3-4)

3) While life's dark maze I tread,

And griefs around me spread, Be Thou my Guide;

Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow's tears away,

Not let me ever stray From Thee aside.

4) When ends life's transient dream,

**When death's cold, sullen stream Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then in love, fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, A ransomed soul.**

**The Homily
The Call to Christian Discipleship**

Fr. Shaw, Fr. Evans, Eugene Golson and Karen Leys
The Celebrant

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 worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.
AMEN.**

The Prayers of the People

Alaina Farooq

**Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.**

**Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

**We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

**We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

**Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

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

The Concluding Collect

The Celebrant

The Confession

BCP 360

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 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

The Celebrant

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

Stewardship Mechanics for Giving

Patricia Lynch and Judy Tillman

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

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

The Offertory Selection

St. Thomas Chancel Choir

The Great Thanksgiving

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. *(Celebrant adds a short Proper Preface)*

Therefore, we praise you, joining with Angels and Archangels and all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Sanctus (Sung)

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 (Sung)

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 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, forever and ever. AMEN.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed.

The People: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The Agnus Dei (Sung)

The Celebrant: Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world.

The People: Have mercy upon us.

The Celebrant: Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world.

The People: Have mercy upon us.

The Celebrant: Lamb of God you take 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

The Post-Communion Prayer

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 Blessing and Commissioning of the New Parish Verger – Eugene Golson

The Blessing of a Recent Marriage

The Recognition of Visitors and Guests

The Blessing of Birthdays, Anniversaries and Travel

The Final Blessing

The Celebrant

The Closing Hymn- "I Will Trust in the Lord"

LEVAS #193

1) I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the Lord;

I will trust in the Lord, 'til I die;

I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the Lord;

I will trust in the Lord, till I die.

2) Sister will you trust in the Lord,

Sister will you trust in the Lord,

Sister will you trust in the Lord 'til you die;

Sister will you trust in the Lord,

Sister will you trust in the Lord 'til you die.

3) Brother will you trust in the Lord,

Brother will you trust in the Lord,

Brother will you trust in the Lord, 'til you die;

Brother will you trust in the Lord,

**Brother will you trust in the Lord,
Brother will you trust in the Lord 'til you die.**

**4) I'm gonna treat my neighbor right,
I'm gonna treat my neighbor right,
I'm gonna treat my neighbor right, 'til you die;
I'm gonna treat my neighbor right,
I'm gonna treat my neighbor right,
I'm gonna treat my neighbor right, 'til you die;**

**5) I'm gonna hold my Savior's hand.
I'm gonna hold my Savior's hand.
I'm gonna hold my Savior's hand, 'til you die;
I'm gonna hold my Savior's hand.
I'm gonna hold my Savior's hand.
I'm gonna hold my Savior's hand, 'til you**

**The Dismissal
The Postlude**

St. Thomas Music Ministry