

“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 **Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost and Youth and Young Adults Sunday. Welcome to the members of the Ye Olde Philadelphia Club worshipping with us this morning.**

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 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Youth and Young Adults Sunday
September 27, 2026**

The Celebrant and Homilist: The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw

Assisting: The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins

Children's Homily: Dr. Samira Savoury, DBA

Vergers: Dr. Naomi Johnson Booker, Eugene Golson and Karen Ragland

Music Ministry: St. Thomas Gospel Choir

Livestream/Sound Ministry: Marie Golson, Harold Townsend and Dominic Bowrin

Order of Service

The Opening Meditation

Verger Eugene Golson

The Prelude

St. Thomas Music Ministry

The Opening Hymn- "Lord Here We Are Again"

**Lord, here we are again, giving Your Name the praise
For all that you've done for us, In oh, so many ways.
We've come to give you the Honor,
we've come to give you the Glory,
because you've been good Lord,
we've come to give You the praise.**

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 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:

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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: Exodus 17:1-7

Christopher McNeal

A Reading from the Book of Exodus

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with

Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

The Reader: The Word of the Lord.

The People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

Cooper Etlen

Hear my teaching, O my people; *

incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable; *

I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *

we will not hide from their children.

We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *

and the wonderful works he has done.

He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *

in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

He split open the sea and let them pass through; *

he made the waters stand up like walls.

He led them with a cloud by day, *

and all the night through with a glow of fire.

He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *

and gave them drink as from the great deep.

He brought streams out of the cliff, *

and the waters gushed out like rivers.

The Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

Avery Jones

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you

that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death--even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Reader: The Word of the Lord.

The People: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn-- "Oh, How I Love Jesus"

**1) There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
It sounds like music in mine ear,
The sweetest name on earth.**

Refrain:

**O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus,**

**Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS) # 95 (vv. 1-2)
O how I love Jesus,
because he first loved me!**

**2) It tells me of a Savior's love,
Who died to set me free;
It tells me of His precious blood,
The sinner's perfect plea. [Refrain]**

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

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

The People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not;' but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir;' but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

The Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

The People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily Hymn - "Oh How I Love Jesus"

**3) It tells me what my Father hath
In store for every day,
And though I tread a darksome path,
Yields sunshine all the way. [Refrain]**

LEVAS # 95 (vv. 3-4)

**Refrain:
O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus,**

**O how I love Jesus,
because he first loved me!**

**Can feel my deepest woe,
Who in each sorrow bears a part,
That none can bear below. [Refrain]**

4) It tells of one whose loving heart

The Homily

The Rector

The Children's Homily

Dr. Samira Savoury, DBA

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

Sarah Williams

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.

Make us instruments of reconciliation and peace and teach the nations of the earth to walk together in the ways of justice, mercy, and love.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer

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

The Concluding Collect

The Celebrant

Almighty and everlasting God, whose providence has sustained your people throughout every generation:

Receive these prayers we offer with thankful hearts, and grant that, trusting in your mercy and guided by your Spirit, we may continue to serve you faithfully; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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 Oblation Bearers**

The Celebrant
Dr. Walter Harris and Barry Frye, Ye Olde Philadelphia Club

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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 Music Ministry

The Post Communion Prayer

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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

Chase Miller

The Recognition of Visitors and Guests

The Blessing of Birthdays, Anniversaries and Travel

The Final Blessing

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, 'til 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,
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;
The Dismissal**

The Postlude

**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 I die;
I'm gonna treat my neighbor right,
I'm gonna treat my neighbor right,
I'm gonna treat my neighbor right 'til I 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 I 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 I die.**

St. Thomas Music Ministry