St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

WELCOME TO ST. THOMAS'. WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE TODAY, AFFIRMING OUR SHARED FAITH IN CHRIST, AND WORSHIPING IN THE EPISCOPAL TRADITION. IF YOU ARE NEW TO ST. THOMAS', BE AT PEACE HERE, FIND GOD AT WORK, AND KNOW THAT WE ARE GRATEFUL TO PRAY WITH YOU TODAY.

Holy Eucharist—Rite II

November 8, 2026 • The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost • 8:00 & 10:00 AM (Proper 27)

Consecration Sunday

Abbreviations found in this bulletin refer to: **BCP**—Book of Common Prayer (red book), **HYMN**—The Hymnal 1982 (blue book), **WLP**—Wonder, Love & Praise (green book), and **LEVAS**—Lift Every Voice and Sing (red & black book) **** indicates 10 am only***

The Entrance Rite

EXPLANATORY NOTES & RUBRICS

VOLUNTARY

***HYMN 11** "Awake, my soul" *Morning Hymn*

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

COLLECT OF PURITY **BCP 355**

The Collect for Purity is a prayer of preparation as we enter worship.

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 "S" numbers are found in the beginning of the Hymnal 1982.

THE GLORIA **BCP 356 / *S-280**

The Collect of the Day is a traditional prayer, following a particular formula, that is part of the Propers for the day (assigned set of texts, including the readings).

COLLECT OF THE DAY **BCP 236**

The Liturgy of the Word

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON Joshua 24: 1-3a, 14-25

In the Episcopal Church, we read a full complement of lessons from Scripture each Sunday. We follow the Revised Common Lectionary used by many denominations. The Old Testament Lesson and the Gospel are usually chosen to complement each other.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. "Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom

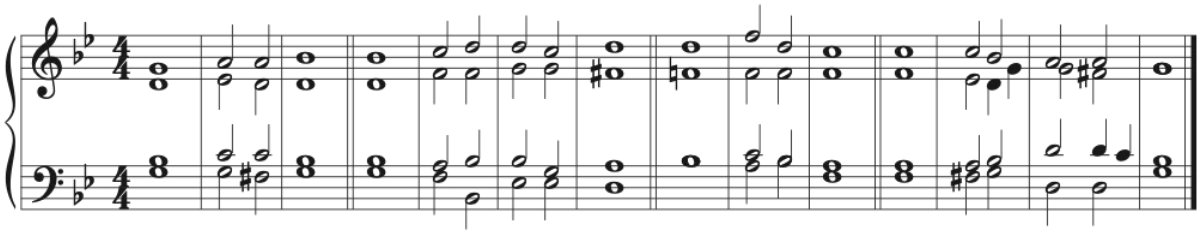
we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God." But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm highlights a theme in one or both of those lessons.

At 8 AM, we recite the Psalm together. At 10 AM, the choir will chant the psalm. The congregation is welcome to join if they wish.

PSALM 78: 1-7 *Attendite, populo* Rev. L. Flintoft (1680-1727)



HEAR my | law · O my | people; *
incline your | ears un·to the | words of · my | mouth.
2 I will open my | mouth · in a | parable; *
I will declare hard | senten-|ces of | old;

3 Which we have | heard and | known, *
and | such as · our | fathers · have | told us;
4 That we should not hide them from the children of the gener-|ations · to | come; *
but to show the honour of the LORD *(*)*
his mighty and wonderful | works that | he hath | done.

5 He made a covenant with Jacob and gave | Israel · a | law, *
which he commanded our | forefathers · to | teach their | children;
6 That their post-|erity · might | know it, *
and the | children · which were | yet un-|born;
† 7 To the intent that | when they · came | up, *
they might | show their | children · the | same;

In general, we stand to praise God, we sit to listen and be instructed, and we kneel to pray. At times, the directions in the Book of Common prayer give options, listing the Prayer Book's preference first.

SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

The New Testament lesson is read in a semi-contiguous pattern and does not normally interact thematically with the other lessons.

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

***HYMN 608** "Eternal Father, strong to save" *Melita*

GOSPEL

Matthew 25: 1-13

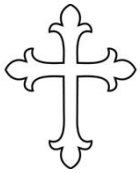
Please stand as you are able.

The Gospel is the most important reading of all the lessons, and is accompanied by more ceremony. It, like all the lessons, is proper to the day.

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

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**



Sermon

The Rev. David B. L. Gould

Please be seated when the preacher so indicates.

Nicene Creed

Please stand as you are able.

The Nicene Creed is the official and ecumenical (meaning agreed upon by most of the churches) statement of the faith and of the Universal Church, accepted by the Councils of Nicaea and Constantinople in the fourth century AD. Many people choose to bow their heads in reverence at the portion of the creed that mentions the incarnation.

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.

Prayers of the People

Please continue standing, or kneel. The Leader and the People pray responsively.

At St. Thomas', we take our prayers from a book called Intercessions for the Christian People *that ties the themes and language of the prayers to the readings for that day, or from* Times and Seasons, *which is an authorized book of prayers from the Church of England. What these prayers do well is challenge us to pray for people, events, and things that we might not always think about. You are encouraged to add your own prayers to the petitions printed either silently or aloud.*

Through baptism, God has made us the people of hope. Our hope is in God and our help comes from God. Since God promises to make all things new, let us offer our cares and concerns to God, saying, O God, who is our hope: **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Creator, ruler of the universe, we know neither the day nor the hour when the Lord Christ shall return to claim the faithful. Through your saving and sustaining grace, enable us to remain in readiness and to welcome his appearing. O God, who is our hope: **hear our prayer.**

Eternal Creator, author of unity, bind your people together into one holy church. Remove the barriers that separate Christian from Christian, and enable all the baptized to offer common praise to you and common witness to the world. O God, who is our hope: **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Creator, source of all compassion, look with pity upon our world. Help us overcome the ravages of war, disease, hunger, and injustice; give dignity and well-being to all the human family. We especially pray for FAST and Benison Farm. Visit us with your love; grant us peace; point us to the way that leads to fulfillment and sufficiency for all. O God, who is our hope: **hear our prayer.**

Almighty Creator, protector of all life, we plead with you to grant healing and wholeness to the sick, especially remembering those on our parish prayer list and those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts: _____. Lay upon them your hand of mercy; renew and restore them, giving them cause to proclaim and praise your name. O God, who is our hope: **hear our prayer.**

Divine Creator, perfecter of all life, behold the dying, who no longer await the return of the bridegroom, but rush to meet him through their death. Grant them peace at the last and welcome them into your heavenly dominion. When our last hour shall come look not on our sins but accept us on the merits of our gracious redeemer, Jesus Christ. O God, who is our hope: **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Accept the prayers of your people, O God. Assure us anue that you give heed to our cries and that you respond to our petitions according to your divine will. Through Jesus Christ our Savior we pray. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

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.

People **Amen.**

All kneel as you are able.

Another way we respond to the proclamation of God's word and pray for ourselves is with the Confession. Confession prior to receiving the Holy Communion is not only good practice, but a biblical requirement: we are taught that we must examine our consciences before receiving Communion with the goal of true amendment of life. See the Exhortation on BCP p. 316 for further instruction.

The Celebrant alone stands and pronounces the Absolution.

The Peace

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

All Stand for the Peace.

Exchange, with your Christian brothers and sisters the peace of Christ which passes all understanding, the peace that Jesus himself left to us. This is not just "good morning," and if we demote it to that, we do ourselves a disservice.

Please be seated.

Veterans Recognition and Blessing **BCP 823**

Announcements (*See upcoming events on page 8*)

*Offertory Anthem "My heart is steadfast, O God" Eugene Butler (1935-2024)

My heart is steadfast, O God,
My heart is steadfast in Thee,
Be exalted, Lord, above the heav'ns,
Let Thy glory be over the earth!

I will sing and make melody,
For Thy steadfast love is great.

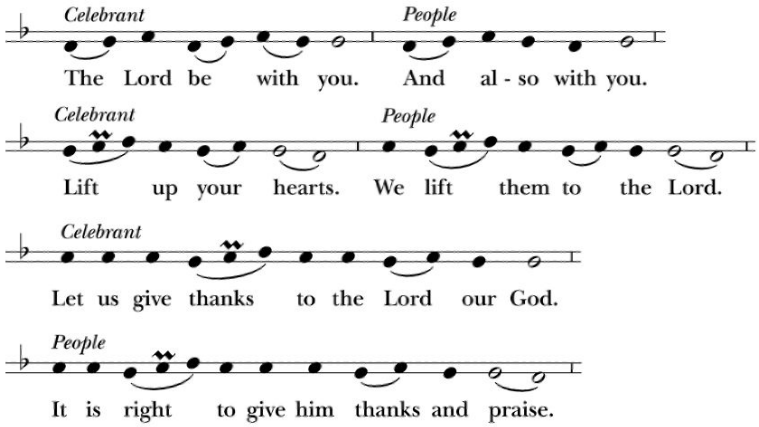
Awake, my heart, O harp and lyre!
Awake the dawn, awake, O harp and lyre!

Give thanks among the peoples,
Sing praise to Thee,
Sing praise among the nations!

Online Giving: To make a donation or pay your pledge online, visit our website and click the Giving tab, or use the QR Code shown on the side.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A — BCP 361



Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing,... joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS — BCP 362 / *S-125

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.

...Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

... 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 for ever.



THE LORD'S PRAYER — BCP 364

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD — BCP 364

THE FRACTION ANTHEM — "Agnus Dei" — *S-161

An intentional period of silence is kept as the priest breaks the bread. An appropriate devotion is to say quietly or silently the confession of St. Thomas, "My Lord and my God."

All Christians baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, regardless of denomination, are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Come forward and kneel or stand at the Altar rail. If you do not wish to receive wine from the chalice for any reason, indicate by crossing your arms over your chest. Communion in one kind is as communion in both.

During communion, there are healing prayer ministers stationed by the baptismal font who will confidentially listen, love and pray for those who need healing prayer, or to offer intercessory prayer for others.

*COMMUNION ANTHEM "Love bade me welcome" Roland E. Martin (b. 1955)

Love bade me welcome, yet my soul drew back, Guilty of dust and sin. But quick-ey'd Love, observing me grow slack From my first entrance in, Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning If I lack'd anything. A guest, I answer'd, "worthy to be here"; Love said, "You shall be he." "I, the unkind, the ungrateful? ah my dear, I cannot look on thee." Love took my hand and smiling did reply, Who made the eyes but I? "Truth, Lord, but I have marr'd them; let my shame Go where it doth deserve." And know you not, says Love, "who bore the blame?" My dear, then I will serve. You must sit down, says Love, "and taste my meat." So I did sit and eat.
-George Herbert (1593-1633)

***HYMN 341** "For the bread which you have broken" *Omni die*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Please kneel or stand.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen

Please stand.

***HYMN 436** "Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates" *Truro*

During the final verse of the hymn, the clergy and altar party will form the closing procession.

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

The Celebrant gives the blessing and the Deacon pronounces the dismissal.

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The service is now concluded. The Acolytes will lead the Choir and the Altar Party out of the Nave. Once they have left, the Congregation may depart, though we strongly encourage you to remain for the entirety of the closing Voluntary, for which you may be seated.

THE PROCESSION

VOLUNTARY

*Thanks to those who are serving today (*denotes 8am):*

Audio Visual: Jackson Ball.
Greeter: Linda Sordan.
Healing: Kay Mahoney.
Lay Eucharistic Minister: Dudley Savage.
Lectors: *Nancy Day, Mary Ellen Shevlin, Liz Stiles.
Oblation Bearers: Trevor Whitley, Gabe Whitley.
Prayers of the People: *Nancy Day, Kanika Tomalin.
Usher: Tom Shevlin.

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Altar Guild: Joanna Ritch, Linda Sordan.
Coffee Hosts: Ellen Burkhart, Viki Sheahan.
Counter: Diane Robinson.
Flower Guild: Caron Burgess, Laura Vrooman.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Ongoing: Geoff B., Carol W., Larry S., Laura V., Rene C., Marty G., Sue M., Jim R., Lore A., Carrie J., Helen D., Carole C. , Aida M., Carrie C., Pat M., Diane O., Bob S., Tracy S., Pete R., Charles R., Jeanine R., Oliver Q., Michelle Q., Luis Q., Tricia S., Marcella R., Haiwen C., Brook F., Stanton C., Ricardo R., Gerry G., Barb C., Jim C., Lore A., Terry H.
Upcoming Weddings: Vinny N. and Bryce F. | **Upcoming Baptisms:** Ashlyn B., Oliver Z. | **Happening (Nov. 6-8)** Stuart Hine.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. THOMAS' THIS WEEK

11/8 - Today is Consecration Sunday-Pledge Cards will be Blessed; Veteran's Day Celebration; Christian Education (all ages), 9:10 am | **11/9** - Morning Prayer, 9:00 am; Staff Meeting, 9:30 am: Keeping St. Thomas' Healthy, 6:00 pm | **11/10** - Morning Prayer, 9:00 am; MA Meeting, 4:00 pm; STAR, 5:00 pm; Stewardship, 6:30pm | **11/11** - Men's Bible Study, Morning Prayer, 9:00 am; STAR, 5:00 pm; Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 5:15 pm; Supper, Song, & Prayer, 6:00 pm; Compline, 6:45 pm; Adult Christian Formation, 7:00 pm | **11/12** - Morning Prayer, 9:00 am; Women's Bible Study, 9:30 am, Zoom Happy Hour, 6:00 pm; Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 pm | **11/14** - Cullom Memorial Service, 10:00 am; STAR, 10:00 am; Al-Anon, 7:00 pm | **11/15** -Giving Plate Sunday; Women's Social Club, 12:00 pm

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

The Right Rev. Douglas F. Scharf,
VI Episcopal Bishop of Southwest Florida

Clergy & Staff
The Very Rev. Ryan R. Whitley, *Rector*
The Rev. David B. L. Gould, *Assistant*
The Rev. Martha E. Goodwill, *Deacon*
Jordan R. Markham, *Organist & Choirmaster*
Diego Castro, *Organ Scholar & Chorister*
Russ Martin, *Parish Administrator*
Jon Ward, *Sexton*
Haleigh McGrath, *Nursery Attendant* · Tristen Patterson, *Nursery Attendant*

Vestry
(*Class of 2026*)
Colin Burkhart · Michael Labbee, *Senior Warden* · Tom Shevlin
(*Class of 2027*)
Ted Badger, *Junior Warden* · Ed Lanctot · Kanika Tomalin
(*Class of 2028*)
Cathy Ball · Jay Hill, *Treasurer* · Greg Prescott

OUR MISSION
Making a difference for others, because God is making a difference for us.

OUR VISION
To create a safe, loving, and accepting place for all people to grow in their faith and spread love out into the beloved community.

