



# The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 7, 2025 8 a.m.

The Holy Eucharist Rite One

*Welcome visitors and newcomers; we are glad you are here! If you would like more information about the community of St. Thomas, please speak to a greeter or a member of the clergy. To receive information by email, please fill out a visitor card found in the pew and give to an usher or place in the offering plate.*

## Opening Acclamation (BCP p. 323)

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People*

**And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

*The Celebrant says*

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

*The following is sung, all standing*

**Glory be to God on high,  
and on earth peace, good will towards men.  
We praise thee, we bless thee,  
we worship thee,  
we glorify thee,  
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,  
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,  
have mercy upon us.  
For thou only art holy;  
thou only art the Lord;  
thou only, O Christ,  
with the Holy Ghost,  
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant*

The Lord be with you.

*People*

**And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant*

Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, we pray thee, to trust in thee with all our heart; seeing that, as thou dost alway resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so thou dost not forsake those who make their boast of thy mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## The Lessons

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of Deuteronomy [30:15-20]

<sup>15</sup>See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence may follow.*

## Psalm 1

*Remain seated.*

<sup>1</sup>**Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, \*  
nor lingered in the way of sinners,  
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!**  
<sup>2</sup>**Their delight is in the law of the LORD, \*  
and they meditate on his law day and night.**  
<sup>3</sup>**They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; \*  
everything they do shall prosper.**  
<sup>4</sup>**It is not so with the wicked; \*  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**  
<sup>5</sup>**Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, \*  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.**  
<sup>6</sup>**For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, \*  
but the way of the wicked is doomed.**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from Paul's letter to Philemon [1-21]

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,  
To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, <sup>2</sup>to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God <sup>5</sup>because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. <sup>7</sup>I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

<sup>8</sup>For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, <sup>9</sup>yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup>Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. <sup>12</sup>I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. <sup>13</sup>I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; <sup>14</sup>but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. <sup>15</sup>Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave

but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup>So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup>If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. <sup>19</sup>I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup>Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup>Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence may follow.*

*All stand.*

*Deacon*           The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke [14:25-33]

*People*            **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

<sup>25</sup>Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup>saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

*Deacon*           The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*            **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

## The Sermon

## The Creed

*All stand.*

**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**

*All remain standing.*

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.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect. Prayers for birthdays, anniversaries, and travel may be offered.*

## **Confession of Sin**

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

**Almighty God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
maker of all things, judge of all men:  
We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins  
and wickedness,  
which we from time to time most grievously have committed,  
by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,  
provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.  
We do earnestly repent,  
and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;  
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us,  
the burden of them is intolerable.  
Have mercy upon us,  
have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
forgive us all that is past;**

**and grant that we may ever hereafter  
serve and please thee in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of thy Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Priest stands and says*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11:28*

*All stand.*

*Celebrant*            The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*             **And with thy spirit.**

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## The Holy Communion



*Necessary announcements may be made; the people may be seated.*

*The people stand as the offerings are brought forward. Online Offerings: Scan the QR Code or click the Donate Button on our website ([www.stthomascamden.org](http://www.stthomascamden.org))*

## The Great Thanksgiving

*The People remain standing.*

*Celebrant*            The Lord be with you.  
*People*             **And with thy spirit.**  
*Celebrant*            Lift up your hearts.  
*People*             **We lift them up unto the Lord.**  
*Celebrant*            Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People*             **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Creator of the light and source of life, who hast made us in thine image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

*Celebrant and People*

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:  
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.  
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people kneel or stand.*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once

offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *AMEN.*

*The Celebrant then continues*

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

**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**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

*The following prayer may be said. The People may join in saying this prayer*

**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 we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.***

*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*The People may join in saying this prayer*

**Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.***

*The priest blesses the people.*

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

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### **Liturgical Ministers**

Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Paul Briggs

Deacon: The Rev. Kristen Burkholder

Eucharistic Minister: Pam Bardon

Reader: Terry Mello

Usher: Carlos Mello

### **People in our Prayers**

**Healing:** Br. Richard Biernacki BSG, Dorothy Foltz-Gray, David Bridges, Kathy Bridges, Donald, Diana Mohr, Gwen, Charles Lewis, Jeanie, Timothy Jackson, Catherine, Gay Schueler, Kristina Shea, Tony, Mya Delisle, Andrew Moran, Debra and Amy, Ned and Kathleen Bachus, Anna and her child Brody, Ruth Tolman, Helene, John, Phyllis, Michael, Bob, Sylvia, Marlene, Percy, Joan Grey, Cathy, James, Ken, Joseph, Jo Panayotoff, Joyce S, Jan Schaefer, Christine & Paul M, Jason, Kristen, Jeanie, Cathie, Brian, Bob S., Gary P., Timothy Darling, Leah, Sandy, Ezra, Chris Strazzulla, Fr. Tom Pike, Evie Bridges, Luke Morelli, Tim Peters, Janice Boetsch, Lucy Ebbert, Shirley, Budge Walen, Chris, Vicki Boetsch, Catherine G, Annabel, Pam Kaler, Margery, Stephanie, Kyle R.

**Repose of the soul:** Rosalind Bowley

**September Birthdays:** Pam Bardon (4), Deborah Whittaker (7), Diane Purkey (12), Lucy Ebbert (17), Ruth Tolman (18), Evie Bridges (19)

**Diocese Cycle of Prayer:** St. George's, Sanford, For Christian Education programs, For the reverent care of all creation



### **This Week at St. Thomas'**

#### **Sunday, September 7:**

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II (*Coffee Hour follows in Parish Hall*)  
4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer (*Lady Chapel*)

#### **Wednesday, September 10:**

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Healing  
11:00 a.m. Bible Study (*online*)

#### **Sunday, September 14:**

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II (*Coffee Hour follows in Parish Hall*)  
4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer (*Lady Chapel*)

**A.A. meetings are held daily at 6:30 p.m.**

**Personal hygiene items** are being received through 9/7 to benefit middle school students in the Camden Rockport area.

#### **Upcoming:**

Saturday, September 20, 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Comfort Food Dinner (Fundraiser for Outreach Ministries)  
Sunday, September 21, 9 a.m., All-Parish Pancake Breakfast to kickoff our 2026 Pledge Drive: "Tell out my soul!"  
Sunday, September 27, 4 p.m., "Paris in Camden"—Organ Concert with Jim Higdon (Fundraiser for Music Ministry)

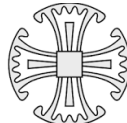
### **Church Staff and Parish Officers**

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The Rev. Paul Briggs, Interim Rector  
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The Rev. Dr. Rosalee Glass, *Deacon Emeritus*  
Tony Coyne, *Sexton*  
Elizabeth Moran, *Senior Warden*  
Br. Donovan Bowley, BSG, *Junior Warden*  
Terry Mello, *Treasurer*  
Anne Rogers-Popejoy, *Vestry Clerk*



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