

# The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 21, 2025

10 a.m.



## The Holy Eucharist Rite Two

*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.*

### Prelude

#### Entrance Hymn 432

1. O praise ye the Lord!  
Praise him in the height;  
rejoice in his word,  
ye angels of light;  
ye heavens, adore him  
by whom ye were made,  
and worship before him,  
in brightness arrayed.

2. O praise ye the Lord!  
Praise him upon earth,  
in tuneful accord,  
all ye of new birth;  
praise him who hath brought you  
his grace from above,  
praise him who hath taught you  
to sing of his love.

O praise ye the Lord

*Laudate Dominum*

3. O praise ye the Lord!  
All things that give sound;  
each jubilant chord  
re-echo around;  
loud organs, his glory  
forth tell in deep tone,  
and sweet harp, the story  
of what he hath done.

4. O praise ye the Lord!  
Thanksgiving and song  
to him be outpoured  
all ages along!  
For love in creation,  
for heaven restored,  
for grace of salvation,  
O praise ye the Lord!

### Opening Acclamation (BCP p. 355)

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

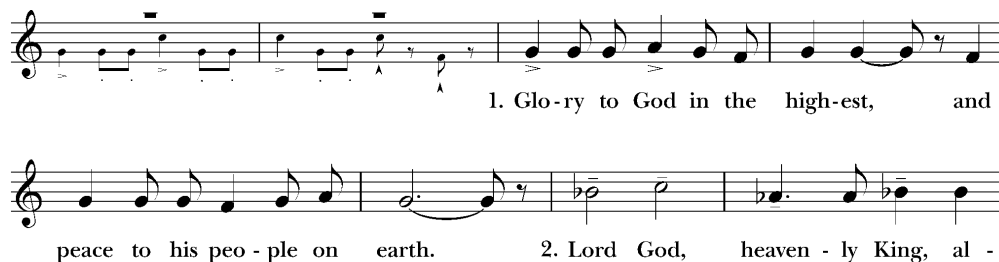
Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People*

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

*The Celebrant may say*

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.*



might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we  
praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,  
on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;  
5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
ceive our prayer. 6. For  
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the  
Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of  
God the Fa - ther. A - men.

*The Celebrant says to the congregation*

Will you pray for these young people and chaplains as they hear and receive God's Word?

*People*

**We will.**

*The Celebrant then says to the chapel participants*

Will you pray for us as we hear and receive God's Word?

*Chapel Participants*

**We will.**

*Celebrant*

The Lord be with you.

*People*

**And also with you.**

*Celebrant*

Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## The Lessons

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of the prophet Amos [8:4-7]

<sup>4</sup>Hear this, you that trample on the needy,  
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,  
<sup>5</sup>saying, “When will the new moon be over  
so that we may sell grain;  
and the sabbath,  
so that we may offer wheat for sale?  
We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,  
and practice deceit with false balances,  
<sup>6</sup>buying the poor for silver  
and the needy for a pair of sandals,  
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”

<sup>7</sup>The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:  
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

*Reader*

The Word of the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 113

*Remain seated.*

Robert Knox Kennedy  
(b. 1945)



<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah!

Give praise, you servants of the LORD; \*  
praise the Name of the LORD.

<sup>2</sup>Let the Name of the LORD be blessed, \*  
from this time forth for evermore.

<sup>3</sup>From the rising of the sun to its going down \*  
let the Name of the LORD be praised.

<sup>4</sup>The LORD is high above all nations, \*  
and his glory above the heavens.

<sup>5</sup>Who is like the LORD our God, who sits enthroned on high, \*  
but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?

<sup>6</sup>He takes up the weak out of the dust \*  
and lifts up the poor from the ashes.

<sup>7</sup>He sets them with the princes, \*  
with the princes of his people.

**<sup>8</sup>He makes the woman of a childless house \*  
to be a joyful mother of children.**

A Reading from Paul's First letter to Timothy [2:1-7]

<sup>1</sup>First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup>This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

<sup>5</sup>For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

<sup>6</sup>who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time. <sup>7</sup>For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

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

### **Sequence Hymn 671**

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound

*New Britain*

*All stand.*

1. Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,

that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost but now am found,

was blind but now I see.

*Deacon*            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke [16:1-13]

*People*            **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

<sup>1</sup>Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup>So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ <sup>3</sup>Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup>I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ <sup>5</sup>So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ <sup>6</sup>He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ <sup>7</sup>Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ <sup>8</sup>And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup>And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

<sup>10</sup>“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup>If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup>And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup>No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

*Deacon*            The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*            **Praise to you, Lord 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

God of Justice, let your mercy flow over us that we might experience your grace as we lift our prayers to you as we say,  
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

That your church might be known for its love and generosity, we pray.  
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That our nation may know peace and justice, we pray.  
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That the environment and climate that sustains us may be protected and restored, we pray.  
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That our parish might be a refuge for weary souls, and a place to reenergize our faith and compel our participation in Christ's mission, we pray.  
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That all who suffer might know your healing love we pray. Especially for...

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That the dead might experience your light and love for all eternity and that we may someday join them in your embrace, we pray.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, your way is the way of justice and mercy, of peace and reconciliation, of hope and generosity; hear and respond to the longings of our hearts offered in our prayers this day through the merits and love of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, who with you and Holy Spirit lives and reigns. **Amen.**

*Prayers for birthdays, anniversaries, travel may be offered.*

## **Confession of Sin**

*The Deacon says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Minister and 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 Priest stands and says*

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.**

*All stand.*

<i>Celebrant</i>	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
<i>People</i>	<b>And also with you.</b>

*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.*

*Online Offerings: Scan the QR Code or click the Donate Button on our website ([www.stthomascamden.org](http://www.stthomascamden.org))*

# Offertory Hymn 812

I, the Lord of sea and sky

*Unison*

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my  
 2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my  
 3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the

peo - ple cry. All who dwell in deep - est sin My hand will  
 peo - ple's pain. I have wept for love of them, They turn a -  
 poor and lame. I will set a feast for them, My hand will

save. I who made the stars of night,  
 way. I will break their hearts of stone,  
 save. Fin - est bread I will pro - vide

I will make their dark - ness bright. Who will bear my  
Give them hearts for love a - lone. I will speak my  
Till their hearts be sat - is - fied. I will give my

light to them? Whom shall I send?  
word to them. Whom shall I send?  
life to them. Whom shall I send?

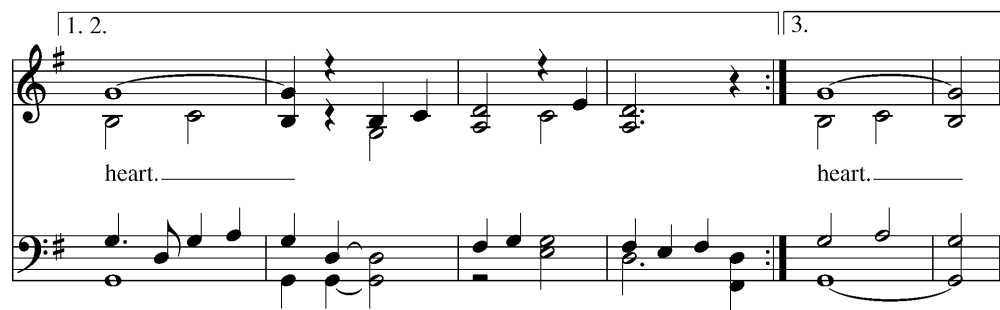
*Refrain*

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have

heard you call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord,

if you lead me, I will hold your peo - ple in my





## The Great Thanksgiving

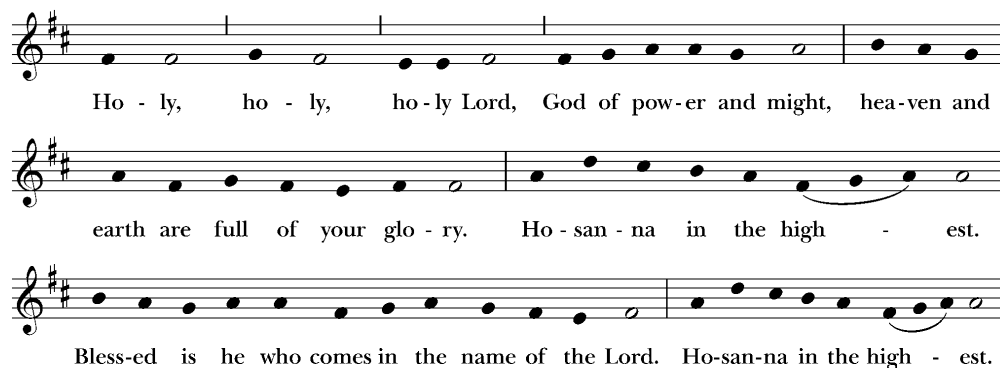
*The People remain standing.*

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	<b>And also with you.</b>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	<b>We lift them to the Lord.</b>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	<b>It is right to give him thanks and praise.</b>

*The Celebrant proceeds*

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 by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

Therefore we praise you, 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:



*The Celebrant continues*

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:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

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 for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has 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

*This setting is not used in Lent.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

there - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## The Communion

*This is God's table, all are welcome. Gluten-free wafers are available; ask the priest when you come to the altar rail. You can request that Communion be brought to your pew by letting an usher know.*

*When Communion is taken to the homebound, the Eucharistic Visitor comes forward and is commissioned with these or similar words*

*Celebrant* In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

*People* **We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People standing*

**God of abundance,  
you have fed us  
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;  
you have united us  
with Christ and one another;  
and you have made us one  
with all your people in heaven and on earth.  
Now send us forth  
in the power of your Spirit,  
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world  
and continue for ever  
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## Blessing

### Hymn LEVAS 109 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

1. What a friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Ev'rything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,  
Oh, what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Ev'rything to God in prayer!

2. Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged,  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness,  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

3. Are we weak and heavy laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge,  
Take it to the Lord in Prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in Prayer.  
In his arms He'll take and shield thee,  
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

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

## Postlude

*From riteplanning.com. Copyright © 2025 Church Publishing Inc. All rights reserved.*

*The Bible texts of the Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel lessons are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA and used by permission. The Collects, Psalms and Canticles are from the Book of Common Prayer, 1979. Hymn permissions (including streaming music) in this Service obtained from ONE LICENSE: License #A-712382. All rights reserved*

### ***Liturgical Ministers***

Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Paul Briggs  
Deacon: The Rev. Kristen Burkholder  
Guest Pianist: Chris Dawson  
Eucharistic Minister: Derek Reed, Sarah Groman  
Reader: Sue Foltz  
Prayers of the People: Sarah Groman  
Usher: Jim Ebbert, Lucy Ebbert

### ***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, Donovan, 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.

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

**Diocese Cycle of Prayer:** Cathedral Church of St. Luke, Portland, For those incarcerated, those who love them and those who minister to them

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

#### **Sunday, September 21:**

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I  
9:00 a.m. – All Parish Pancake Breakfast - Kickoff to our 2026 Pledge Drive: “Tell out my soul!”  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II (*Coffee Hour follows in Parish Hall*)  
4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer (*Lady Chapel*)

#### **Wednesday, September 24:**

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

#### **Sunday, September 28:**

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. “Paris in Camden” – Organ Concert with Jim Higdon (*Fundraiser for Music Ministry*)  
4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer (*Lady Chapel*)

#### **Monday, September 29:**

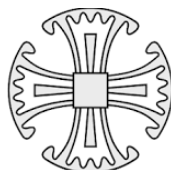
4:00 p.m. -6:00 p.m. Bell Tower Presentation (*Parish Hall*)

*Upcoming:*

#### **Sunday, October 5:**

Blessing of Animals

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



**St. Thomas' Episcopal Church**

33 Chestnut Street P.O. Box 631 Camden, ME 04843

**[www.stthomascamdenme.org](http://www.stthomascamdenme.org)**