

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, October 5, 2025

10 a.m.



Blessing of Animals & 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.

Gathering Song: “Canticle of Brother Sun”

from *Missa Gaia, Earth Mass*

Paul Winter

Opening Acclamation

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Presider Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **Who brings all things into being and calls them good.**
Presider Bless your Creator, all animals of the land.
People **Praise and exalt our Creator for ever.**
Presider Bless your Creator, all birds of the air.
People **Praise and exalt our Creator for ever.**
Presider Bless your Creator, all creatures of the sea.
People **Praise and exalt our Creator for ever.**
Presider Bless your Creator, all children of God.
People **With all of creation, we praise your name.**

Children and Chaplains may come forward

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.

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 Lessons

The people sit.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Habakkuk [1:1-4; 2:1-4]

¹The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

²O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?

Or cry to you “Violence!”
and you will not save?

³Why do you make me see wrongdoing
and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me;

strife and contention arise.
⁴So the law becomes slack
and justice never prevails.
The wicked surround the righteous—
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

^{2:1}I will stand at my watchpost,
and station myself on the rampart;
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me,
and what he will answer concerning my complaint.
²Then the LORD answered me and said:
Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it.
³For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end, and does not lie.
If it seems to tarry, wait for it;
it will surely come, it will not delay.
⁴Look at the proud!
Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faith.

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

Psalm 37:1-10

Remain seated.

¹**Do not fret yourself because of evildoers; ***
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
²**For they shall soon wither like the grass, ***
and like the green grass fade away.
³**Put your trust in the LORD and do good; ***
dwelt in the land and feed on its riches.
⁴**Take delight in the LORD, ***
and he shall give you your heart's desire.
⁵**Commit your way to the LORD and put your trust in him, ***
and he will bring it to pass.
⁶**He will make your righteousness as clear as the light ***
and your just dealing as the noonday.
⁷**Be still before the LORD ***
and wait patiently for him.
⁸**Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, ***
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
⁹**Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; ***
do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.
¹⁰**For evildoers shall be cut off, ***
but those who wait upon the LORD shall possess the land.

A Reading from Paul's Second Letter to Timothy [1:1-14]

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,
²To Timothy, my beloved child:
Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³I 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. ⁴Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I 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. ⁶For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; ⁷for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

⁸Do 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, ⁹who 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, ¹⁰but 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. ¹¹For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, ¹²and 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. ¹³Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence: “Sun Psalm”

from *Missa Gaia, Earth Mass*

Paul Winter

All stand.

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke [17:5-10]

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

⁵The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” ⁶The 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.

⁷“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’? ⁸Would 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’? ⁹Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? ¹⁰So 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!’”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Ministry Minute

Becca Berry

The Sermon

Fr. Briggs

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.

Litany for All Creation

Presider Call out the names of those animals for whom we care. Call out the names of those animals who are no longer with us.

Silence

Leader Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth,

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Leader Holy and Mighty, Redeemer of the world,

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Leader Holy Immortal One, Sanctifier of the faithful,

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Leader Grant that all your creatures may serve you with thanksgiving;

People **Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.**

Leader Grant favorable weather, temperate rain, and fruitful seasons, providing food and drink for all your creatures;

People **Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.**

Leader Open our eyes to the wonder of creation, that we may see you in all your works;

People **Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.**

Leader Stir in us the desire to care for your creation;

People **Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.**

Leader Make us wise and faithful stewards of creation, caring for the earth, the waters, the air, and all that live therein;

People **Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.**

Leader Forgive us who waste and pollute your creation and strengthen us to restore what we have disregarded;

People **Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.**

Leader Look with compassion on those that are abused and mistreated, show us their dignity in your creation;

People **Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.**

Leader Remember those creatures that have died yet remain dear to us, that they may rejoice in your new creation;

People **Pour out your blessing on earth, O God.**

Presider Holy Immortal One: No sparrow falls without your knowing it; nothing dies but is remembered by you; nothing comes into being that you do not see. Give us courage and resolve to build up the common good, holding fast to the hope of a new creation in which all shall dwell eternally, through Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior. Amen.

The Blessing of Animals

Presider God's animals inhabit the skies, the land, and the sea; we share the earth with them, and like them rely on God's blessing to sustain and preserve us. We gather today in communion and friendship with Francis of Assisi who preached to animals and moved throughout the known world sharing God's unconditional love for all beings. Remembering Francis's love for all God's creatures, bring forward the animals entrusted to your care that we may bless them.

Presider N., May God who created and preserves you bless, defend, heal, and keep you, this day and always. Amen.

When all have been blessed the Presider prays

Let us pray. God of all creation: We give you thanks and praise. Open our eyes to see your hand at work in all creation. May your bountiful blessing be upon us all, God our Redeemer, now and for ever. Amen.
Prayers for birthdays, anniversaries, and travel may be offered.

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

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)

Offertory: “For the Beauty of the Earth”

from *Missa Gaia, Earth Mass*

Paul Winter

The Great Thanksgiving

The People remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

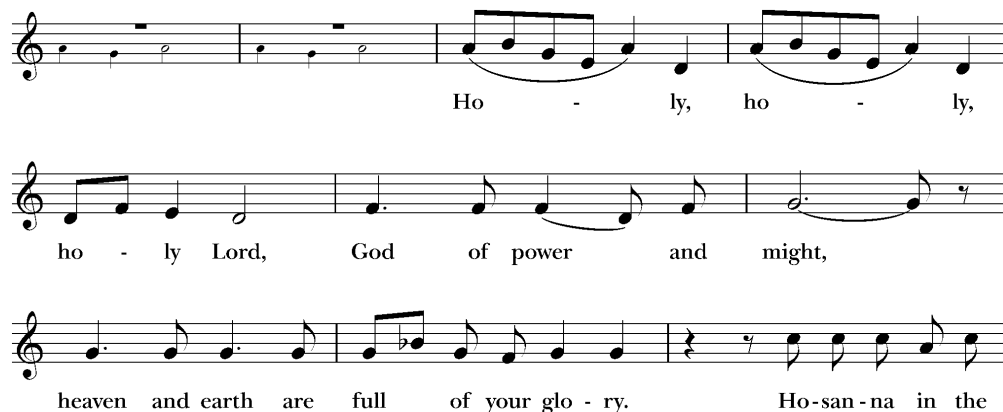
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

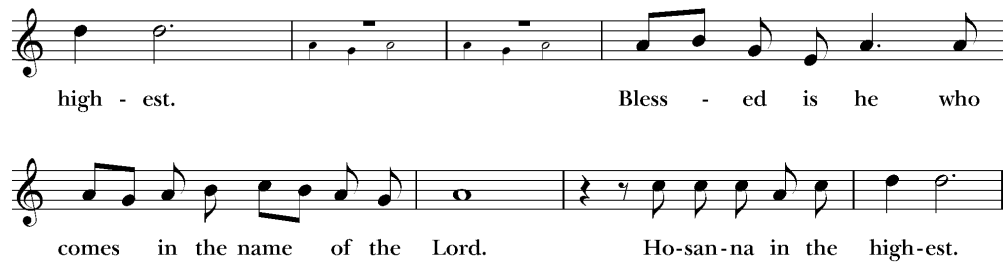
People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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.

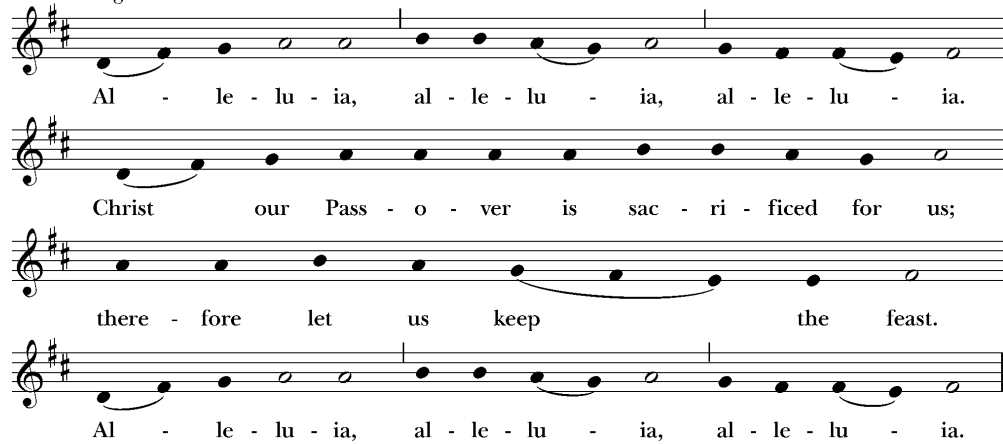
**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**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.



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

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

“Let Us Go Forth in Peace”

from *Missa Gaia, Earth Mass*

Paul Winter

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Liturgical Ministers

Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Paul Briggs
Deacon: The Rev. Kristen Burkholder
Guest Organist:
Eucharistic Minister: Bill Freeman, Doc Wallace
Reader: Jeff Conrad
Prayers of the People: Bill Freeman
Usher: Phil Groman, Cheryl White

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, Kelli McGuire, 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.

October Birthdays: Rosalee Glass (1), Lucy Lowry (6), Rebecca Vogt (7), Chris Groman (9), William Conrad (14), Phyllis Barry (17), Stephen Thomas (17), Benjy Lowry (18), Polly Chatfield (19), Nancy Wright (25), Doc Wallace (27), Kathleen Buchanan (27), Sam Cotton (31)

Diocese Cycle of Prayer: Trinity, Lewiston, Christ Church, Gardiner, For Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe
The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God with gratitude by Bob and Connie Bock

This Week at St. Thomas'

Sunday, October 5:

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

Wednesday, October 8:

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

Sunday, October 12:

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.

Love all God's creation, the whole and every grain of sand in it. Love every leaf, every ray of God's light. Love the animals, love the plants, love everything. If you love everything, you will perceive the divine mystery in things. Once you perceive it, you will begin to comprehend it better every day. And you will come at last to love the whole world with an all-embracing love.

-- The Brothers Karamazov by Fyodor Dostoevsky



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