



# The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, July 19, 2026

10:00 a.m.

*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.*

Entrance Hymn 273

Praise to the Living God

Leoni

*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.

*Celebrant* Almighty God,...

*People* 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.

*Chapel participants come forward as the following is sung*

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and

peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly

King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we

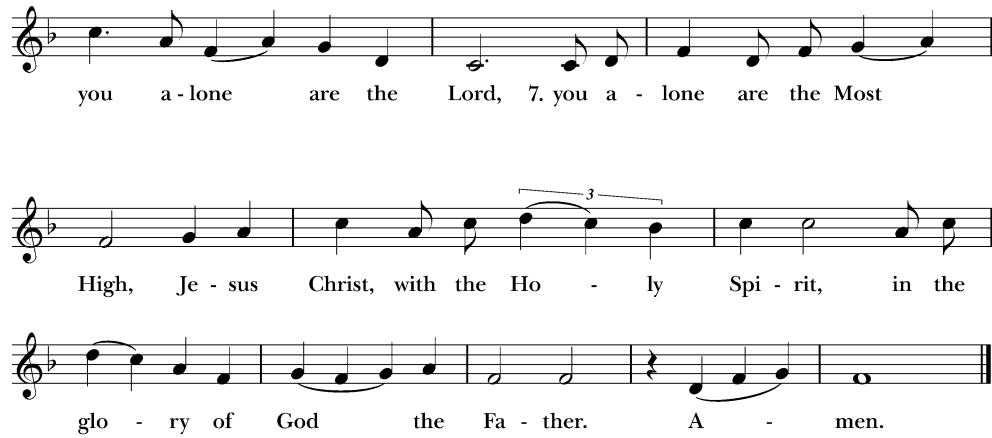
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus

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,



Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

*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 God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## The Lessons

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah [44:6-8]

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel,  
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:

I am the first and I am the last;  
besides me there is no god.

Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,  
let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?  
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

Do not fear, or be afraid;  
have I not told you from of old and declared it?  
You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me?  
There is no other rock; I know not one.

*Reader*

The Word of the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

*Silence may follow.*

Psalm 86:11-17 *Inclina, Domine*

**11 Teach me your way, O Lord,  
 and I will walk in your truth; \***  
**knit my heart to you that I may fear your Name.**  
**12 I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, \***  
**and glorify your Name for evermore.**  
**13 For great is your love toward me; \***  
**you have delivered me from the nethermost Pit.**  
**14 The arrogant rise up against me, O God,**  
**and a band of violent men seeks my life; \***  
**they have not set you before their eyes.**  
**15 But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, \***  
**slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.**  
**16 Turn to me and have mercy upon me; \***  
**give your strength to your servant;**  
**and save the child of your handmaid.**  
**17 Show me a sign of your favor,**  
**so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; \***  
**because you, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me.**

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome [8:12-25]

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

*Reader*            **The Word of the Lord.**

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

*All stand and sing*

**Sequence Hymn 536**

Open your ears, O faithful people

*Torah Song*

*Deacon*            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew [13:24-30, 36-43]

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

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with

fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

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

## **The Sermon**

*After a period of silence, 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.*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;  
***For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.***  
For this community, the nation, and the world;  
***For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.***  
For the just and proper use of your creation;  
***For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.***  
For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
***For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.***  
For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
***For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.***  
For Sean our Presiding Bishop, and Thomas our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;  
***For all who serve God in his Church.***  
For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*The People may add their own petitions*

Hear us, Lord;  
***For your mercy is great.***

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*The People may add their own thanksgivings*

We will exalt you, O God our King;  
***And praise your Name for ever and ever.***

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*The People may add their own petitions*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
***Who put their trust in you.***

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Leader and People*

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
in your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown,  
things done and left undone;  
and so uphold us by your Spirit  
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of your Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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. Prayers for Anniversaries, Birthdays, Travel, etc. may be offered.*

|                  |                                           |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <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



### Offertory Anthem Jesus Love Me by Bradley Phillips

*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.*

|                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| <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> |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------|

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, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

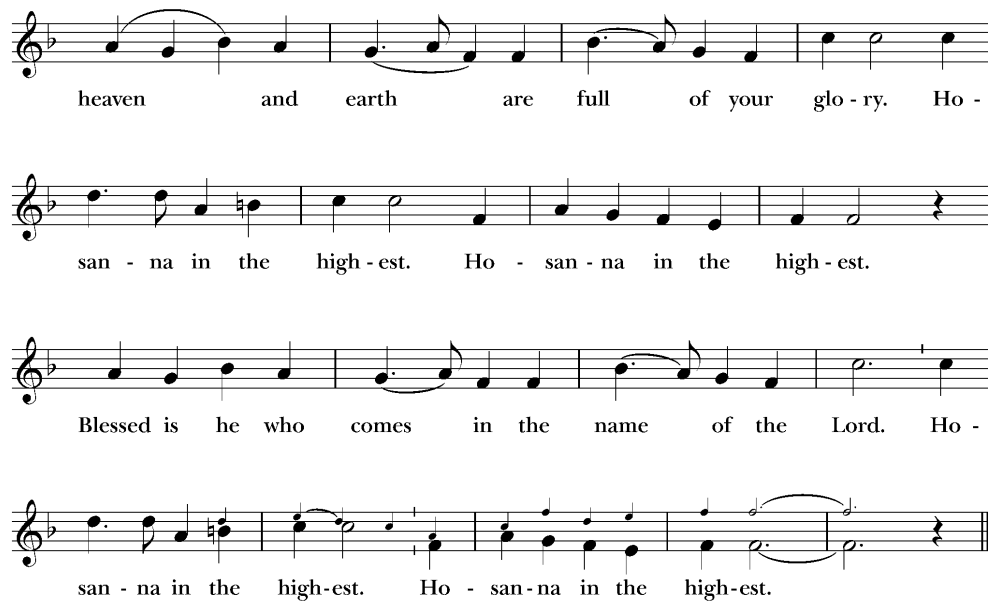
*Celebrant and People*

S 125

Holy, holy, holy

*Proulx*





*The Celebrant continues*

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all 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*

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with [ ] and] all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN**

*The Celebrant then continues*

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 S 164

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## The Communion

*This is God's table, all are welcome. You may receive at the altar or at the Communion station by the chancel steps. Gluten-free wafers are available by asking the minister. Communion can be brought to your pew by letting an usher know.*

*The following hymn is sung during the administration of Communion.*

627

## Jacob's Ladder

*American Negro Spiritual* 8.8.8.5.  
Arr. by Melvin West, 1984 (1930- )

1. We are climb-ing Ja-cob's lad-der. We are climb-ing Ja-cob's lad-der.  
2. Ev-ery round goes high-er, high-er. Ev-ery round goes high-er, high-er.  
3. Sin-ner, do you love my Je-sus? Sin-ner, do you love my Je-sus?  
4. If you love Him, why not serve Him? If you love Him, why not serve Him?

We are climb-ing Ja-cob's lad-der, Sol-diers of the cross.  
Ev-ery round goes high-er, high-er, Sol-diers of the cross.  
Sin-ner, do you love my Je-sus? Sol-diers of the cross.  
If you love Him, why not serve Him? Sol-diers of the cross.

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

Loving God,  
we give you thanks  
for restoring us in your image  
and nourishing us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.  
Now send us forth  
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;  
that we may proclaim your love to the world  
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

Announcements

Hymn 541

Come, labor on

*Ora Labora*

*People*

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



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### ***Liturgical Ministers***

Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Van Bankston  
Deacon: The Rev. Kristen Burkholder  
Organist: Scott Dyer  
Eucharistic Minister: Bill Freeman, Sarah Groman  
Reader: Dean Jackson  
Prayers of the People: Sarah Groman  
Ushers: Bobby Purkey, Diane Purkey

### ***People in our Prayers***

**Healing:** Rebecca Vogt, Sally Ann Williamson, Ronald Dunbar, Michelle Gabrielsen, Kim Murphy, Gordon, Karen Nolan, Paul H, Kate Pinson, Tim C, Jan & Bill, Jan L, Jeff, Sandra Covington, Peter Walker, Br Richard Biernacki, Donald Verdery, Charles Lewis, Timothy Jackson, Catherine, Gay Schueler, Ezra, Gwen Prosser, Lochlin, Mya Delisle, Andrew Moran, Donovan Bailey, Ned and Kathleen Bachus, Anna and her child Brody, Ruth Tolman, Percy, Joan Grey, Jan Schaefer, Jason, Jeanie, Brian, Corey and his mom Heidi, Fr Tom Pike, Evie Bridges, Vicki Boetsch, Janice Boetsch, Margery, Stephanie, Helen Russell, Kim Murphy

**July Birthdays:** Cheryl White (12), Peggy Daniels (14), Taylor Pohlman (14), Yuliia Chompyska (19), Sarah Cotton (20), Dean Jackson (28)

**Diocese Cycle of Prayer:** Christ Church Dark Harbor, Islesboro, St. Ann's, Kennebunkport, For the mission and ministry of Camp Bishopswood

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

#### **Tuesday, July 21:**

10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal (*Music Room*)

#### **Wednesday, July 22:**

11:00 a.m. Bible Study on Zoom (*Contact Donvan Bowley for link*)

#### **The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, July 26:**

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer, Rite I (*Lemonade and iced tea on the front lawn*)

10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer, Rite II (*Refreshments on the front lawn and parish hall*)

4:00 p.m. Contemplative Prayer (*Lady Chapel*)

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

**Office is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

### **Announcements**

Lemonade and iced tea are available on the front lawn after both services, weather permitting. Additional refreshments are also available in the parish hall following the 10 a.m. service.

There will be no Wednesday Eucharist for the remainder of July. Eucharist with Healing Prayer will resume on August 5.

Seeking a trustworthy Helper for my Mother-in-law in Owl's Head. Schedule: 3-4 days/week; 2-3 hrs/day.

Light housekeeping (dishes, laundry, basic cooking). Confirmation (not actual dispensing) of medication. Possible errands including doctor appointments. Dressing & personal hygiene NOT needed. Contact: Jean Ver Hoeven, 856-304-5830, [jeanann@voicenet.com](mailto:jeanann@voicenet.com)

Father Briggs will be away until July 29, 2026. In the event of pastoral emergency, please contact the Rev. Kristen Burkholder, Senior Warden Elizabeth Moran (207-789-5967) or Junior Warden Dr. Benjy Lowry (207-466-4992).

## Church Staff and Parish Officers

Carrie Rossiter, Parish Administrator

[admin@stthomascamdenme.org](mailto:admin@stthomascamdenme.org)

Office: 207-236-3680

The Rev. Paul Briggs, Interim Rector

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(860) 384-9193

The Rev. Kristen Burkholder, Deacon

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(207) 322-7816

Scott Dyer, Director of Music Ministry

[musicminister@stthomascamdenme.org](mailto:musicminister@stthomascamdenme.org)

The Rev. Dr. Rosalee Glass, *Deacon Emeritus*

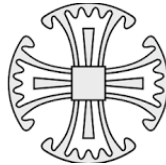
Tony Coyne, *Sexton*

Elizabeth Moran, *Senior Warden*

Benjy Lowry, *Junior Warden*

Terry Mello, *Treasurer*

Anne Rogers-Popejoy, *Vestry Clerk*



### Our Transition Vision Statement

*"We will be a healthy and thriving multigenerational church whose rich liturgical tradition inspires us to live out God's love in our actions and decisions to better meet the needs of our community."*

## St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

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