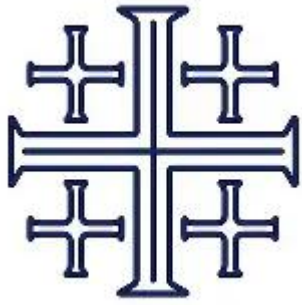




The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Morning Prayer

Sunday, July 26, 2026 8:00 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.

Opening Sentence

BCP p. 37

The Officiant says

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:2*

Confession of Sin

BCP p. 41

The Officiant says to the people

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together, all kneeling

**Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,
we have offended against thy holy laws,
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
spare thou those who confess their faults,
restore thou those who are penitent,
according to thy promises declared unto mankind
in Christ Jesus our Lord;
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.**

The Officiant remains kneeling and says

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant us absolution and remission of all our sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

The Invitatory and Psalter

BCP p. 42

All stand

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips.
People And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Officiant and People

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen. Alleluia.**

The earth is the Lord's for he made it:

O come, let us adore him.

Venite *Psalms 95:1-7*

O come, let us sing unto the Lord; *

let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, *

and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are all the corners of the earth, *

and the strength of the hills is his also.

The sea is his and he made it, *

and his hands prepared the dry land.

O come, let us worship and fall down *

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is the Lord our God, *

and we are the people of his pasture

and the sheep of his hand.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *

let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth, *

and with righteousness to judge the world

and the peoples with his truth.

The earth is the Lord's for he made it:

O come, let us adore him.

Psalms 119:129-136 *Mirabilia*

Your decrees are wonderful; *

therefore I obey them with all my heart.

When your word goes forth it gives light; *

it gives understanding to the simple.

I open my mouth and pant; *

I long for your commandments.

Turn to me in mercy, *

as you always do to those who love your Name.

Steady my footsteps in your word; *

let no iniquity have dominion over me.

Rescue me from those who oppress me, *

and I will keep your commandments.

Let your countenance shine upon your servant *

and teach me your statutes.

My eyes shed streams of tears, *

because people do not keep your law.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

The people sit.

A Reading from the First Book of Kings [3:5-12]

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give

your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow; then the people stand and say

1 A Song of Creation *Benedicite, omnia opera Domini*

Song of the Three Young Men, 35-65

I Invocation

O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord; *
praise him and magnify him for ever.

O ye angels of the Lord, bless ye the Lord; *
praise him and magnify him for ever.

III The Earth and its Creatures

O let the earth bless the Lord; *

O ye mountains and hills, bless ye the Lord;

O all ye green things upon the earth, bless ye the Lord; *
praise him and magnify him for ever.

O ye wells, bless ye the Lord; *

O ye seas and floods, bless ye the Lord;

O ye whales and all that move in the waters, bless ye the Lord;
praise him and magnify him for ever.

O all ye fowls of the air, bless ye the Lord; *

O all ye beasts and cattle, bless ye the Lord;

O ye children of men, bless ye the Lord; *
praise him and magnify him for ever.

IV The People of God

O ye people of God, bless ye the Lord; *

O ye priests of the Lord, bless ye the Lord;

O ye servants of the Lord, bless ye the Lord; *
praise him and magnify him for ever.

O ye spirits and souls of the righteous, bless ye the Lord; *

O ye holy and humble men of heart, bless ye the Lord.

Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; *
praise him and magnify him for ever.

The people sit.

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome [8:26-39]

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who

was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

The people stand and say

2 A Song of Praise *Benedictus es, Domine*

Song of the Three Young Men, 29-34

**Blessed art thou, O Lord God of our fathers; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.**

**Blessed art thou for the Name of thy Majesty; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.**

**Blessed art thou in the temple of thy holiness; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.**

**Blessed art thou that beholdest the depths,
and dwellest between the Cherubim; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.**

**Blessed art thou on the glorious throne of thy kingdom; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.**

**Blessed art thou in the firmament of heaven; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.**

**Blessed art thou, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.**

The people sit.

A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew [13:31-33,44-52]

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

The Sermon

The Apostles' Creed

BCP p. 53

Officiant and People together, all standing.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers

The people stand or kneel

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

**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.**

V. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;
R. **And grant us thy salvation.**
V. Endue thy ministers with righteousness;
R. **And make thy chosen people joyful.**
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. **For only in thee can we live in safety.**
V. Lord, keep this nation under thy care;
R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**
V. Let thy way be known upon earth;
R. **Thy saving health among all nations.**
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. **And sustain us with thy Holy Spirit.**

O God, the protector of all that trust in thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us thy mercy; that, thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom: Defend us, thy humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of thy faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before thee for all members of thy holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and godly serve thee; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Prayers for Birthday, Anniversary, Travel may be offered.

The congregation may be seated for announcements.

Offerings may be received and placed on the altar



Online Offerings: Scan the QR Code or click the Donate Button on our website
www.stthomascamdenme.org

The General Thanksgiving

BCP p. 58

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we thine unworthy servants
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all men.
We bless thee for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for thine inestimable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we beseech thee,
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;
and that we show forth thy praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to thy service,
and by walking before thee
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,
be all honor and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

BCP p. 59

Officiant and People

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee, and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore.

Amen. 2 Corinthians 13:14

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Liturgical Ministers

Officiant: The Rev. Kristen Burkholder

Preacher: Dr. Benjy Lowry

Reader: Vicki Boetsch

Usher: Dwayne Robinson

People in our Prayers

Healing: Carmel, 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, Kathy Wolfe

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

Diocese Cycle of Prayer: North Haven Summer Services, For Bishop Shannon MacVean-Brown (VT) and Bishop Rob Hirschfeld (NH)

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.

All senior ladies and gents are warmly welcomed to a **Summer Memories Luncheon** on **Monday, August 3rd** in our parish hall at **11:30 a.m.**, offered by the Good Neighbor Ministry team. Please make your reservation today! Call or text Rev Kristen Burkholder at 322-7816, or email deacon@stthomascamdenme.org. The deadline to make your reservation is July 31st. Invite a friend who does not attend our church, and let us know if you need a ride and/or have food sensitivities.

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)

This Week at St. Thomas'

Tuesday, July 28

10 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, July 29:

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

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 2:

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucaharist, Rite II

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.

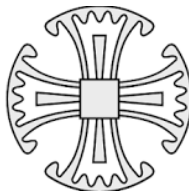
Church Staff and Parish Officers

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Tony Coyne, *Sexton*
Elizabeth Moran, *Senior Warden*
Benjy Lowry, *Junior Warden*
Haunani Wallace, *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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