

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Morning Prayer

Sunday, August 23, 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 *Psalm 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.

Psalm 138 *Confitebor tibi*

1 I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; *

before the gods I will sing your praise.

2 I will bow down toward your holy temple

and praise your Name, *

because of your love and faithfulness;

3 For you have glorified your Name *

and your word above all things.

4 When I called, you answered me; *

you increased my strength within me.

5 All the kings of the earth will praise you, O LORD, *

when they have heard the words of your mouth.

6 They will sing of the ways of the LORD, *

that great is the glory of the LORD.

7 Though the LORD be high, he cares for the lowly; *

he perceives the haughty from afar.

8 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; *

you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;

your right hand shall save me.

9 The LORD will make good his purpose for me; *

O LORD, your love endures for ever;

do not abandon the works of your hands.

The Lessons

The people sit.

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah [51:1-6]

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn, to the quarry from which you were dug.

Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you;

for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many.

For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places,

and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD;

joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation;
for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples.
I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out
and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope.
Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats;
but my salvation will be for ever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

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 [12:1-8]

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts

that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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;
raised 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.

Silence may follow.

A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew [16:13-20]

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

The Sermon

The Apostles’ Creed

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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

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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

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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: Benjy Lowry

Reader: Pam Bardon

Usher: Dwayne Robinson

People in our Prayers

Healing: Tiffany, Ronald Dunbar, Sr., Carmel, Kathy Wolfe, 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, 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

For the Repose of the Soul: Ron Dunbar, Jr.; Alden Robbins; Howard “Budge” Whalen

August Birthdays: Kathleen Robinson (9); Shelly Gallender (15); Thor Gabrielsen (18); Anne Ayers (20); Haunani Wallace (22); Cheryl Reif (25); Anne Rogers-Popejoy (25)

Diocese Cycle of Prayer: Our Lady of the Evergreens, Harborside, For educators and students as they begin a new school year.

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.

St. Thomas' Legacy Society Dinner is Saturday, August 29, at 5 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Diane Lebson of Evergreen Philanthropic Solutions will be our special guest speaker this year. The dinner is free and open to anyone who has made or plans to make provisions in their estate planning to remember St. Thomas' Church. Please contact Carrie Rossiter to reserve a place at the table by Monday, August 24, 2026.

Midcoast Churches will meet at beautiful Camp Bishopswood in Hope on Sunday, September 13 for Baptism, Eucharist, and Picnic. We will have an 8 a.m. Eucharist at St. Thomas that day, but there will be no 10 a.m. service at the church. More details to follow.

Our Christian Formation Team is inviting you to become part of an Agape Group that will meet in a home or at church around a meal and Scripture reflection. Participants will be assigned to a group of 6-8 people and will meet four times between the beginning of September and mid-November. Each group will determine meeting dates and places and rotate leadership for hosting.

This Week at St. Thomas'

Sunday, August 23:

Centering Prayer – Lady Chapel

Tuesday, August 25:

10 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, August 26:

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

Saturday, August 29:

St. Thomas' Legacy Society Dinner – Parish Hall, 5:00pm – 7:00pm

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 30:

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

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, 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

Carrie Rossiter, Parish Administrator

admin@stthomascamdenme.org

Office: 207-236-3680

The Rev. Paul Briggs, Interim Rector

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(860) 384-9193

Scott Dyer, Director of Music Ministry

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The Rev. Kristen Burkholder, Deacon

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

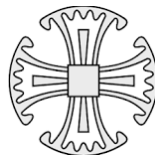
Tony Coyne, *Sexton*

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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www.stthomascamdenme.org