



The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 6, 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 3

Now that daylight fills the sky

Herr Jesu Christ



1	Now	that	the	day -	light	fills	the	sky,	we
2	Our	hearts	and	lips	may	he	re -	strain;	keep
3	From	e -	vil	may	he	guard	our	eyes,	our
4	that	we,	when	this	new	day	is	gone,	and
5	To	God	the	Fa -	ther,	heaven -	ly	Light,	to



1	lift	our	hearts	to	God	on	high,	that	he,	in	all	we
2	us	from	caus -	ing	o -	thers	pain,	that	we	may	see	and
3	ears	from	emp -	ty	praise	and	lies;	from	self -	ish -	ness	our
4	night	in	turn	is	draw -	ing	on,	with	con -	science	free	from
5	Christ,	re -	vealed	in	earth -	ly	night,	to	God	the	Ho -	ly



1	do	or	say,	would	keep	us	free	from	harm	this	day:
2	serve	his	Son,	and	grow	in	love	for	ev -	ery -	one.
3	hearts	re -	lease,	that	we	may	serve,	and	know	his	peace;
4	sin	and	blame,	may	praise	and	bless	his	ho -	ly	Name.
5	Ghost	we	raise	our	e -	qual	and	un -	ceas -	ing	praise.

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

Gloria in excelsis

William Mathias

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, 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, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through 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 Ezekiel [33:7-11]

You, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Reader

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

Psalm 119:33-40 *Legem pone*

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,* and I shall keep it to the end.

Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law;* I shall keep it with all my heart.

Make me go in the path of your commandments,* for that is my desire.

Incline my heart to your decrees* and not to unjust gain.

Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless;* give me life in your ways.

Fulfill your promise to your servant,* which you make to those who fear you.

Turn away the reproach which I dread,* because your judgments are good.

Behold, I long for your commandments;* in your righteousness preserve my life.

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome [13:8-14]

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

All stand and sing

Sequence Hymn 606

Where true charity and love dwell

Ubi caritas

Antiphon



Where true char - i - ty and love dwell, God him - self is there.



1 Since the love of Christ has joined us in one bo - dy,
2 As we are all of one bo - dy, when we gath - er
3 Now we pray that with the bless - ed you grant us grace



let us all re - joice and be glad now and al - ways.
let no dis - cord or en - mi - ty break our one - ness.
to see your ex - alt - ed glo - ry, O Christ our God,



And as we hear and love our Lord, the liv - ing God,
May all our pet - ty jeal - ous - ies and ha - tred cease
our bound - less source of joy and truth, of peace and love,



so let us in sin - cer - i - ty love all peo - ple. [Ant.]
that Christ the Lord may be with us through all our days. [Ant.]
for ev - er and for ev - er - more, world with - out end. [Ant.]

Deacon

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew [18:15-20]

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

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.

Deacon

Let us pray for the Church and the world, saying "Hear our prayer."

Intercessor

At this time of changing seasons, we thank you, O Lord, for the beauty of our earth.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the Church in all times and places. Strengthen our faith as we seek to do your will and become more and more your people.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for Leigh Anne, Superintendent of Schools, all teachers and students, for custodians, bus drivers, crossing guards, and support staff as a new school year begins.

Hear our prayer.

Guide the leaders of our land: Donald, our President, Janet, our Governor, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth.

Hear our prayer.

Grant that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that we may live in justice and peace.

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive just payment for their labor.

Hear our prayer.

O God, the strength of those who labor, grant that we may never forget that our common life depends upon each other's toil.

Hear our prayer.

Remember, O Lord, in mercy all those who suffer or are in any trouble, knowing that you do not willingly afflict or grieve us.

Hear our prayer.

Grant your blessing to all who have died in the hope of resurrection; grant them rest from their labors.

Hear our prayer.

I invite any other prayers of intercession or thanksgiving, silently or aloud.

Silence

Celebrant

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Deacon

Let us pray for the forgiveness of our sins.

The people may bow low or kneel. 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.

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

Offertory Anthem
Paul Whiton (Tenor)

O Light of Life

Mack Willberg



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)

The Great Thanksgiving

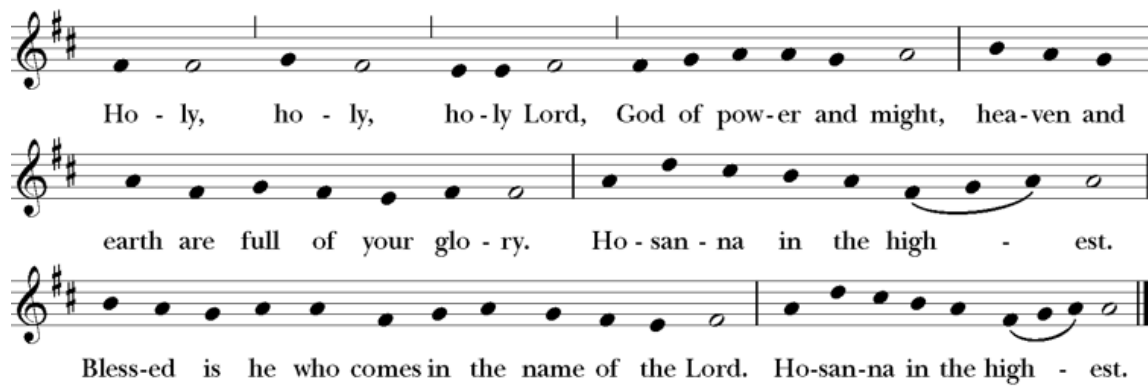
The People remain standing.

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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said

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.**

The Celebrant then continues

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

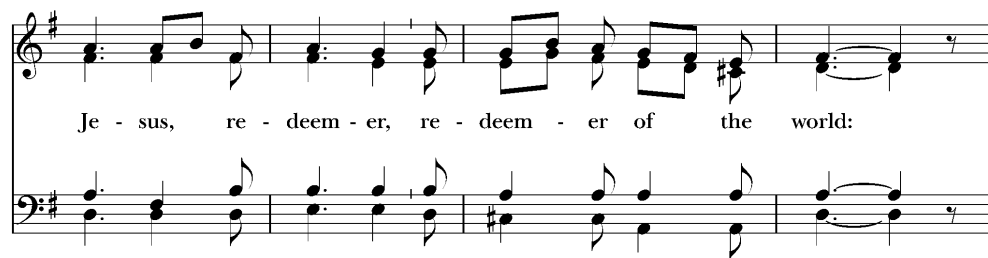
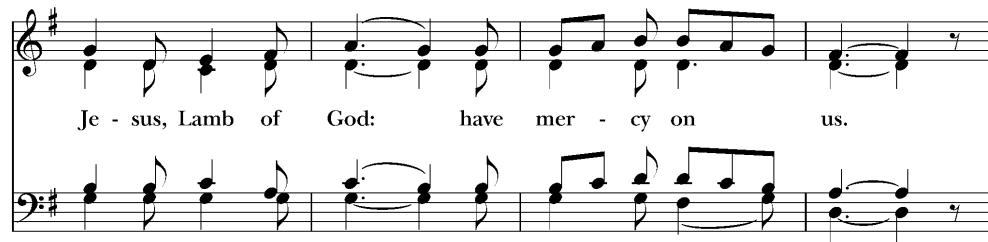
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those**

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

Jesus, Lamb of God

Schubert; arr. Proulx



The Celebrant says

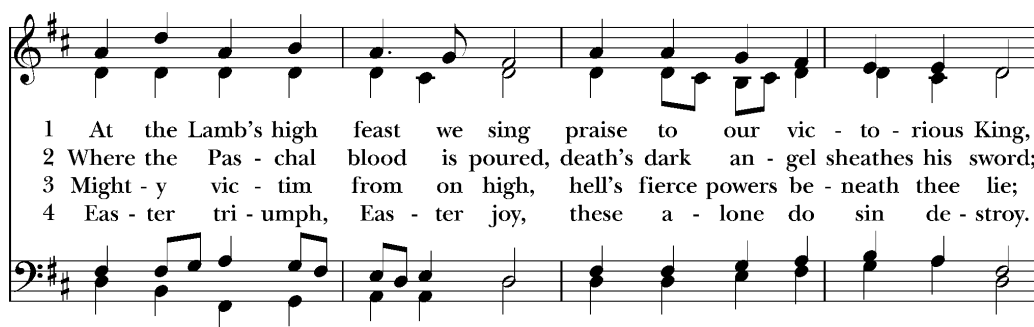
The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Communion

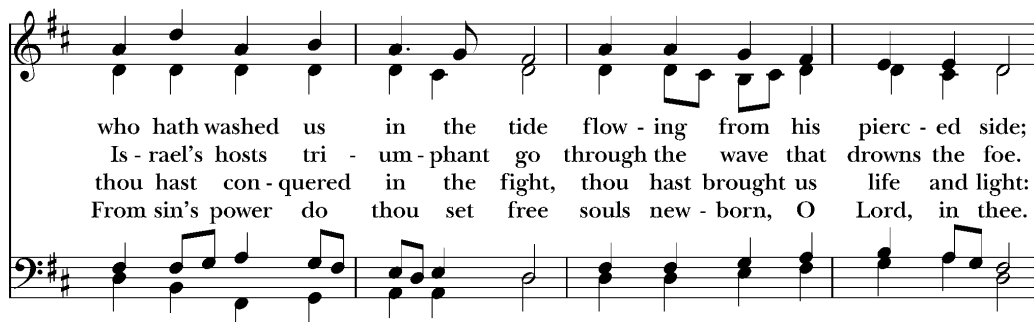
This is God's table, all are welcome.

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.

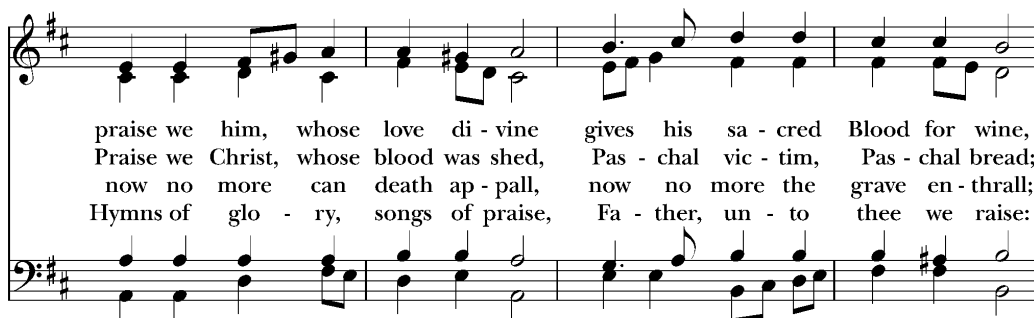
The following hymn is sung during the administration of Communion.



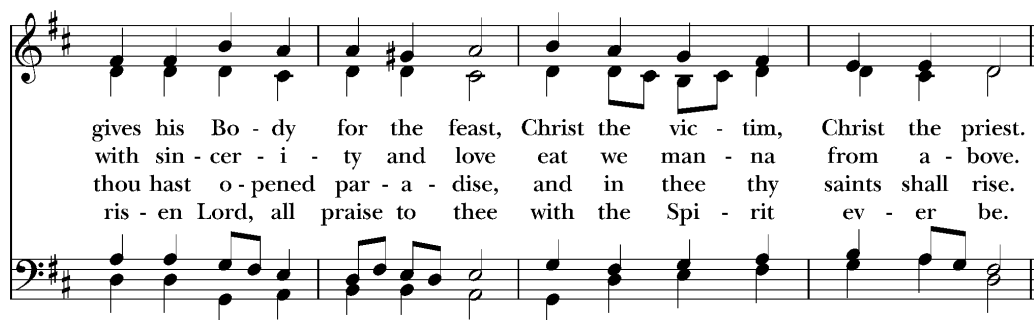
1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our vic - to - rious King,
 2 Where the Pas - chal blood is poured, death's dark an - gel sheathes his sword;
 3 Might - y vic - tim from on high, hell's fierce powers be - neath thee lie;
 4 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy, these a - lone do sin de - stroy.



who hath washed us in the tide flow - ing from his pierc - ed side;
 Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go through the wave that drowns the foe.
 thou hast con - quered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light:
 From sin's power do thou set free souls new - born, O Lord, in thee.



praise we him, whose love di - vine gives his sa - cred Blood for wine,
 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal vic - tim, Pas - chal bread;
 now no more can death ap - pall, now no more the grave en - thrall;
 Hymns of glo - ry, songs of praise, Fa - ther, un - to thee we raise:



gives his Bo - dy for the feast, Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest.
 with sin - cer - i - ty and love eat we man - na from a - bove.
 thou hast o - pened par - a - dise, and in thee thy saints shall rise.
 ris - en Lord, all praise to thee with the Spi - rit ev - er be.

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

Hymn400

All creatures of our God and King

Last Uns erfreusen



- 1 All crea - tures of our God and King, lift up your voic - es, let us
*2 Great rush - ing winds and breez - es soft, you clouds that ride the heavens a -
*3 Swift flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to
4 Dear mo - ther earth, you day by day un - fold your bless - ings on our
5 All you with mer - cy in your heart, for - giv - ing o - thers, take your
*6 And ev - en you, most gen - tle death, wait - ing to hush our fi - nal
7 Let all things their cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship him in hum - ble -



- 1 sing: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Bright burn - ing
2 loft, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Fair ris - ing
3 hear, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Fire, so in -
4 way, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! All flowers and
5 part, O — sing now: Al - le - lu - ia! All you that
6 breath, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! You lead back
7 ness, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God the



- 1 sun with gold - en beams, pale sil - ver moon that gen - tly gleams,
2 morn, with praise re - joice, stars night - ly shin - ing, find a voice,
3 tense and fierce - ly bright, you give to us both warmth and light,
4 fruits that in you grow, let them his glo - ry al - so show:
5 pain and sor - row bear, praise God, and cast on him your care:
6 home the child of God, for Christ our Lord that way has trod:
7 Fa - ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spi - rit, Three in One:



O praise him, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

The refrain may be sung antiphonally, by phrase; all join in the final Alleluia.

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. Paul Briggs
Deacon: The Rev. Kristen Burkholder
Organist: Scott Dyer
Eucharistic Minister: Bill Freeman, Sarah Groman
Reader: Kate Jackson
Prayers of the People: Bill Freeman
Ushers: Lucy Ebbert, Jim Ebbert

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

September Birthdays: Pam Bardon (4); Deborah Whittaker (7); Diane Purkey (12); Lola Black (13); Lucy Ebbert (17); Ruth Tolman (18); Alie Angell (18); Evie Bridges (19)

Diocese Cycle of Prayer: St. Andrew and St. John, Southwest Harbor, For Christian Education programs, For the reverent care of all creation.

This Week at St. Thomas'

Sunday, September 6

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

Monday, September 7

Labor Day Holiday – Office will be closed

Tuesday, September 8

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

4:00 p.m. Outreach (Conference Room)

5:00 p.m. Vestry (Conference Room)

Wednesday, September 9

9:30 a.m. Healing Prayer and Eucharist

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

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 13, 2026

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

11:00 a.m. Midcoast Churches Baptism, Eucharist and Picnic at Camp Bishopswood in Hope
(No 10:00 a.m. Service at St. Thomas')

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

Refreshments are available in the parish hall following the 10 a.m. service.

Come join the fun! Midcoast Churches will meet at Bishopswood in Hope next Sunday, September 13 for Baptism (Helen Cotton), Eucharist and Picnic. The Rev. Dr. Suzanne Roberts will be the Celebrant and Preacher. Bring a salad or dessert to share. Optional: swimsuit and towel, lawn chair, kayak with life jacket. 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.

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. Participants will be assigned to a group of 6-8 people and will meet four times between the beginning of September and January. Each group will determine meeting dates and places and rotate leadership for hosting. Groups will be announced by September 8.

Godly Play Orientation for parents of children (ages 3-10) will be on September 20 following the 10 a.m. service. Mark your calendars to learn about this exciting faith building resource for your child that will begin on September 27 for nine weeks.

Blessing of the Animals, Sunday, October 4 at 9:30 a.m. to honor the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and ecology. This will be a brief outdoor service and something to invite a friend or neighbor to. Bring your pet, stuffed animal, or a photograph of your animal friend. For those who wish to stay for the 10 a.m. service, you are welcomed to join the opening procession (all creatures must be under control of their human companion).

Labor Day Holiday, Monday, September 7. The church office will be closed.

Church Staff and Parish Officers

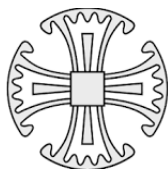
Carrie Rossiter, Parish Administrator
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Office: 207-236-3680

The Rev. Paul Briggs, Interim Rector
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(860) 384-9193

The Rev. Kristen Burkholder, Deacon
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Scott Dyer, Director of Music Ministry
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

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

www.stthomascamdenme.org