

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 13, 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 Acclamation

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Summary of the Law and Gloria in excelsis

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The Collect of the Day

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

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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 Genesis [50:15-21]

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

Silence may follow.

Psalm 103:8-13 *Benedic, anima mea*

8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,* slow to anger and of great kindness.

9 He will not always accuse us,* nor will he keep his anger for ever.

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins,* nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,* so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

12 As far as the east is from the west,* so far has he removed our sins from us.

13 As a father cares for his children,* so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome [14:1-12]

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand.

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew [18:21-35]

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed page 326

Prayer of the People I page 383

Confession of Sin page 330

The Peace page 332

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer II) page 340

The Lord's Prayer page 336

The Breaking of the Bread page 337

The Communion page 337

This is God's table, all are welcome. Gluten-free wafers are available by asking the minister. Communion can be brought to your pew by letting an usher know.

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People

Thanks be to God.

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Liturgical Ministers

Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Paul Briggs

Eucharistic Minister: Pam Bardon

Reader and Prayers of the People: Pam Bardon

Usher: Edmund Hartt

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: Christ Church, Gardiner, All those suffering ill health in body or in mind

Preparing for Marriage: Anna Jernigan and Will Murphy (Sept. 26)

This Week at St. Thomas'

Sunday, September 13: 4:00 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.

Centering Prayer – Lady Chapel

Tuesday, September 15:

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

Wednesday, September 16:

9:30 a.m. Healing Prayer and Eucharist

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

Saturday, September 19

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Capital Funds Committee Retreat

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost September 20, 2026:

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

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II (*Refreshments in the parish hall following service*)

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

We welcome Helen Cotton into the household of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism today at the 11 a.m. service at Bishopswood in Hope.

Godly Play orientation for parents with children ages 3-11, on Sunday, September 20 following the 10 a.m. Liturgy.

Blessing of Animals on Sunday, October 4 at 9:30 a.m. Pets must be properly supervised by their human. Stuffed animals and photos of pets are also welcome. Those who wish, may join the procession for the 10 a.m. Liturgy.

Church Staff and Parish Officers

Carrie Rossiter, Parish Administrator

admin@stthomascamdenme.org

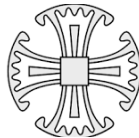
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The Rev. Dr. Rosalee Glass, *Deacon Emeritus*
Tony Coyne, *Sexton*
Elizabeth Moran, *Senior Warden*
Benjy Lowry, *Junior Warden*
Haunani Wallace, *Treasurer*
Anne Rogers-Popejoy, *Vestry Clerk*



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

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

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