



**St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Isle of Hope
The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

September 15, 2024

**HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE ONE
8:00 AM**

Opening Acclamation

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 323

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**

The Collect of the Day

BCP 182

Celebrant Let us pray. O God, forasmuch as without thee we are not able to please thee, mercifully grant that thy Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the same Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading: Proverbs 1:20-33

Bulletin 3

Responsive Reading: Wisdom 7:26-8:1

Bulletin 4

The Gospel: Mark 8:27-38

Bulletin 5

The Homily

The Nicene Creed

Bulletin 5 or BCP 326

The Prayers of the People

Bulletin 6

The Confession of Sin & Absolution

BCP 331

The Peace

BCP 332

Announcements, Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

The Presentation of the Gifts

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.
People **And of thine own have we given thee. Amen**

The Great Thanksgiving

BCP 340

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 336

The Fraction

BCP 337

Prayer of Humble Access

BCP 337

The Post-Communion Prayer

BCP 339

The Blessing & Dismissal

Bulletin 11

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE TWO

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

Prelude in G Minor, BWV 558

J.S. Bach (1685 - 1750)

THE OPENING HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

Hymnal #362

All children in Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to follow the small cross out of the church into the chapel for children's chapel. Adults or older siblings are welcome to accompany them. They will return to the church at the Peace.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE GLORIA

HYMNAL S-278

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 COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP 233

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

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*

THE FIRST LESSON

Proverbs 1:20-33

A Reading from Proverbs.

Wisdom cries out in the street;
in the squares she raises her voice.

At the busiest corner she cries out;
at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:

“How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?

How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing
and fools hate knowledge?

Give heed to my reproof;

I will pour out my thoughts to you;
I will make my words known to you.

Because I have called and you refused,
have stretched out my hand and no one heeded,
and because you have ignored all my counsel
and would have none of my reproof,

I also will laugh at your calamity;
I will mock when panic strikes you,

when panic strikes you like a storm,
and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,
when distress and anguish come upon you.

Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;
they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.
Because they hated knowledge
and did not choose the fear of the LORD,
would have none of my counsel,
and despised all my reproof,
therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way
and be sated with their own devices.
For waywardness kills the simple,
and the complacency of fools destroys them;
but those who listen to me will be secure
and will live at ease, without dread of disaster.”

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSIVE READING: WISDOM 7:26-8:1 *said in unison*

**For wisdom is a reflection of eternal light,
a spotless mirror of the working of God,
and an image of his goodness.**

**Although she is but one, she can do all things,
and while remaining in herself, she renews all things;
in every generation she passes into holy souls
and makes them friends of God, and prophets;
for God loves nothing so much as the person who lives with wisdom.**

**She is more beautiful than the sun,
and excels every constellation of the stars.
Compared with the light she is found to be superior,
for it is succeeded by the night,
but against wisdom evil does not prevail.**

**She reaches mightily from one end of the earth to the other,
and she orders all things well.**

THE SECOND LESSON

James 3:1-12

A Reading from James.

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile

and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue-- a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh. The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN

Take up your cross, the Savior said

Hymnal #675

THE GOSPEL

Mark 8:27-38

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

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

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

THE HOMILY

The Very Rev. Melanie Lemburg

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

**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

The Leader and People pray responsively.

Litanist Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear when we pray in the name of your Son. Therefore in confidence and trust we pray for the Church:

Litanist Father, enliven the Church for its mission.
People **That we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.**

Litanist Breathe fresh life into your people.
People **Give us power to reveal Christ in word and action.**

Litanist We pray for the world: especially those people and places we name either silently or aloud (*pause*). Creator of all, lead us and every people into ways of justice and peace.
People **That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.**

Litanist Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.
People **Teach us to care creatively for its resources.**

Litanist We pray for those who will participate in Cursillo #129, especially, Stewart Marshall, Lay Rector, Mary Ryan and Alton Aimar, Tracy Edgar, Mary Haley, Betty Henderson, Kelley Marshall, and Hugh Papy.
People **That all may act with integrity and courage.**

Litanist Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours.
People **May we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.**

Litanist We pray for those in need: especially those we name either silently or aloud (*pause*). God of hope, comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind or spirit.
People **May they know the power of your healing love.**

Litanist Make us willing agents of your compassion.
People **Strengthen us as we share in making people whole.**

Litanist We remember those who have died and those who mourn: especially those we name either silently or aloud (*pause*). We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in the faith of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone. Father, into your hands we commend them.

People **Give comfort to those who mourn.**

Litanist We praise you for the blessed Virgin Mary, for Thomas, Anna Alexander, and all your saints who have entered your eternal glory.

People **May their example inspire and encourage us.**

Litanist Lord, you have called us to serve you. Grant that we may walk in your presence with your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds, your strength in our wills until, at the end of our journey, we know the joy of our homecoming and the welcome of your embrace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister and People

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

ABSOLUTION

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.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

THE OFFERTORY MUSIC

How Great Thou Art

arr. Lloyd Larson

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

THE PRESENTATION (11:30 am)

Celebrant All things come of you, O Lord.

People **And of your own have we given you. Amen.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE: ALL CREATION SINGS FORM C (ELCA)

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 our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Hymnal S-128

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

All Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

O God triune, how majestic
is your name in all the earth.
Over the eons your merciful might
evolved our home, a fragile tree of life.
Here by your wisdom
are both life and death,
growth and decay,
the nest and the hunt,
sunshine and storm,
darkness and light.
Sustained by these wonders,
we creatures of dust join in the ancient song:
The earth is full of your glory.

People **The earth is full of your glory.**

O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer.
In Christ you bring life from death;
we remember his cross,
we laud his resurrection.
Broken like bread, he enlivens our body.
Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness.
Receiving this mystery,
we mortals sing our song:

People **The earth is full of your glory.**

We praise you for the heart of Jesus,
so filled with your love for this earth.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

People **Do this for the remembrance of me.**

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

People **Do this for the remembrance of me.**

Gathered around this table,
we your children unite in this song:

People **The earth is full of your glory.**

O God triune, you create the worlds,
you uphold the living,
you embrace the dead.
Send forth your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.
Strengthen us for our journey with this meal,
the body and blood of Christ.
Give us a future that trusts in you
and cares for your earth.
Empowered by your promises,
we rise from our deaths
to praise you again:

People **The earth is full of your glory. Amen, and amen.**

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

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE FRACTION

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Here at Your Table, Lord

arr. Mark Hayes

A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Those unable to take communion today may pray this prayer.

Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. Though I cannot consume these gifts of bread and wine, I thank you that I have received the sacrament of Christ's presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ's passion. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may I embody your desire and be renewed for your service through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE COMMISSIONING OF THE LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITOR

Celebrant In the name of God and of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People **We who are many are one body as we all share the one bread and the one cup. Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

Celebrant Let us pray.

Clergy and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Be careful as you go into God’s creation, for it does not belong to you. Be gentle to yourself and to each other, for you are the dwelling place of God. Be alert, and be silent, for God is a whisper. And the blessing of God Almighty: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN

Christ for the world we sing!

Hymnal #537

THE DISMISSAL

BCP 366

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Voluntary in F Major

Phil Lehenbauer (B. 1960)

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for our 20th wedding anniversary donated by Peggy and John Varnedoe.

SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Vestry on Duty: (10:00) Amy Minis (11:30) Mary Haley *Worship Tech:* Luke Varner

Lectors: (8:00) Dave White (10:00) Alton Aimar (11:30) Bill Franklin

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: (8:00) Dave White (10:00) Annie Quaile and Mary Wilson

Lay Eucharistic Visitor: Charlie Barrow *Acolyte:* Tino Aguilar

Ushers: (10:00) David Castleberry and Alton Aimar (11:30) Bill Franklin

Cantor: Carolyn Cohen

Nursery: Dianne Jones and Eva Aguilar *Children’s Chapel:* Jennifer Steinhauser

Altar Guild: Beth Wall, Sandra Calver, Jennifer Calver, Kelley Marshall, and Sheldon White

Hospitality: St. Martha’s Guild *Flower Guild:* Annie Quaile

Amy Jo will be out of the office on Monday, September 16th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, September 15 12:00-1:30 p.m. EYC in the EYC Room.

5:30 p.m. AA in the CE Bldg.

Monday, September 16 10:00 a.m. Planning in the Parish Hall.

Tuesday, September 17 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting in the Library.

11:00 Women’s Bible study in the Library.

1:15 p.m. Clericus in the St. Thomas’ Room and Chapel.

Wednesday, September 18 11:30 a.m. Healing Service in the Chapel.

5:30 p.m. Bell Rehearsal.

6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal.

Thursday, September 19 6:00 p.m. Private Rental in the Parish Hall.

Cursillo Weekend

Saturday, September 21 5:00 p.m. Wedding in the Chapel.

Hospitality Spotlight

Join us after the service today for hospitality hosted by the St. Martha's Guild. St. Martha's is a fellowship and service guild that is open to all women of St. Thomas. St. Martha's is a very active and inclusive group in the church and are known for their gift of hospitality. They excel in hosting receptions and catering meals for those in need. They have published two cookbooks highlighting coastal cuisine. The latest cookbook is available to purchase now and would make a great hostess or Christmas gift. The biggest event sponsored by St. Martha's is the Christmas Tour of Homes. The tour raises money for church enhancements and various local Savannah charities. If you are interested in getting involved, please speak with any St. Martha's member.

September Outreach Project

This month we are helping Savannah Safe Shelter. We are collecting two types of items. 1. Gently used purses 2. Small purse size toiletry item (toothpaste, toothbrushes, small bottles of mouthwash, lotion, hand sanitizer, tissues, nail files, shampoo, lip balm, notepads, pens, etc.). A list of suggested items on the table in the parish hall, where we are collecting these items.

Cursillo

Stewart Marshall, Lay Rector for Cursillo #129 needs a crucifer and additional torch bearer for the Cursillo closing Eucharist on Sept 22nd at Honey Creek at 3:00 p.m. If you are available to help, please contact Stewart.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study starts Tuesday, September 17th at 11:00 am. Please order the book, *Gratitude: Giving Thanks in Life's Ups and Downs* by Dale and Sandy Larsen.

Diocesan Convention Delegates Needed

We need two more volunteers to serve as St. Thomas' delegates to Diocesan Convention in Tifton, GA beginning the evening of Thursday, November 7 through mid-day on Saturday, November 9th. Please, contact Rev Melanie if you are interested.

Feed St. Thomas' EYC

We've moved our EYC meeting time to 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. on Sundays and our youth work up quite an appetite during church! If you're interested in providing lunch for our youth, please contact Olivia Kate or click the link in our weekly email to choose a Sunday that works for you! You do not have to stay for EYC but if you're Safe Church certified and would like to be a chaperone, you're welcome to do so!

United in Song-Fall Hymn Festival

Mark your calendars for the next United in Song - Fall Hymn Festival, one of the best choral events in Savannah, featuring some of the city's finest musical talent. With five church music directors, including our own Minister of Music, Tripp, three local church choirs, and numerous other musicians from three Savannah churches, this festival promises to be spectacular. We're also especially proud to have our cantor, Carolyn, performing alongside these incredible musicians. What a privilege for our church to be a part of this ecumenical celebration, bringing people of faith together through music. The summer hymn festival at St. Thomas from July has over 2,200 views on Facebook! We hope you'll join us at First Presbyterian on Sunday, September 28 at 6:00 p.m.—it's an event you won't want to miss! A reception will follow. Admission is free. Monetary and paper goods donations to the Emmaus House Soup Kitchen will be accepted.