



ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ISLE OF HOPE
THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

*We are a welcoming community of faith and love that serves one another
and seeks to draw others to God through our ministries.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Aria in G

Robert J. Powell

THE OPENING HYMN

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

Hymnal #690

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 355

*Celebrant
People*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

S-236

1. Glo - ry to you, Lord
God of our fa - thers; you are wor - thy of praise;
glo - ry to you. 2. Glo - ry to you
for the ra - di - ance of your ho - ly Name; we will
praise you and high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.
3. Glo - ry to you in the splen - dor of your
tem - ple; on the throne of your ma - jes - ty, glo - ry to
you. 4. Glo - ry to you, seat - ed bet -
ween the Cher - u - bim; we will praise you and
high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.

Descant

5. Glo - ry to you, be - hold - ing the
 5. Glo - ry to you, be - hold - ing the
 hold - ing the depths; in the high vault of
 depths; in the high vault of hea - ven, glo - ry to
 hea - ven, 6. Glo - ry to you, Fa - ther,
 you. 6. Glo - ry to you, Fa - ther,
 — Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit; we will
 Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit; we will praise you and
 high - ly ex - alt you Glo - ry to you!
 high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.

Music: John Rutter (b. 1945). Copyright © 1985 Oxford University Press, Inc.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP 234

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

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

Exodus 16:2-15

A Reading from the Book of Exodus

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

Then the LORD said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I

will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?” And Moses said, “When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD.”

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.’” And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. The LORD spoke to Moses and said, “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.”

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

PSALM 105:1-6, 37-45 (*read responsively by half verse*)

BCP 738

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- 1 Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.
 - 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.
 - 3 Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
 - 4 Search for the LORD and his strength; *
continually seek his face.
 - 5 Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
 - 6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.
 - 37 He led out his people with silver and gold; *
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.
 - 38 Egypt was glad of their going, *
because they were afraid of them.
 - 39 He spread out a cloud for a covering *
and a fire to give light in the night season.
 - 40 They asked, and quails appeared, *
and he satisfied them with bread from heaven.

41 He opened the rock, and water flowed, *
so the river ran in the dry places.
 42 For God remembered his holy word *
and Abraham his servant.
 43 So he led forth his people with gladness, *
his chosen with shouts of joy.
 44 He gave his people the lands of the nations, *
and they took the fruit of others' toil,
 45 That they might keep his statutes *
and observe his laws.
Hallelujah!

THE SECOND READING

Philippians 1:21-30

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

SEQUENCE HYMN

There's wideness in God's mercy

Hymnal #469

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about

five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Colette Hammesfahr

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

Litanist Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God.

People **Your mercy is great.**

Litanist Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness. Hear us, O God.

People **Your mercy is great.**

Litanist Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie, and bring an end to employment disparity. Hear us, O God.

People **Your mercy is great.**

Litanist Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need. We pray for those we name aloud or silently within our hearts (*brief silence*). Hear us, O God.

People **Your mercy is great.**

Litanist Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community. We pray for those we name aloud or silently within our hearts (*brief silence*). Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents. Hear us, O God.

People **Your mercy is great.**

Litanist Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled. We pray for those we name aloud or silently within our hearts (*brief silence*). Hear us, O God.

People **Your mercy is great.**

Litanist Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

People **Amen.**

THE 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.

THE 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.**

ANNIVERSARY & BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *My Good Lord's Done Been Here* arr. Moses Hogan/Rollo Dilworth

DOXOLOGY

Hymnal #380 v3

**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.
Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

8:00 am – Eucharistic Prayer II – BCP 340

10:00 am – Eucharistic Prayer A – BCP 361

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.**

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

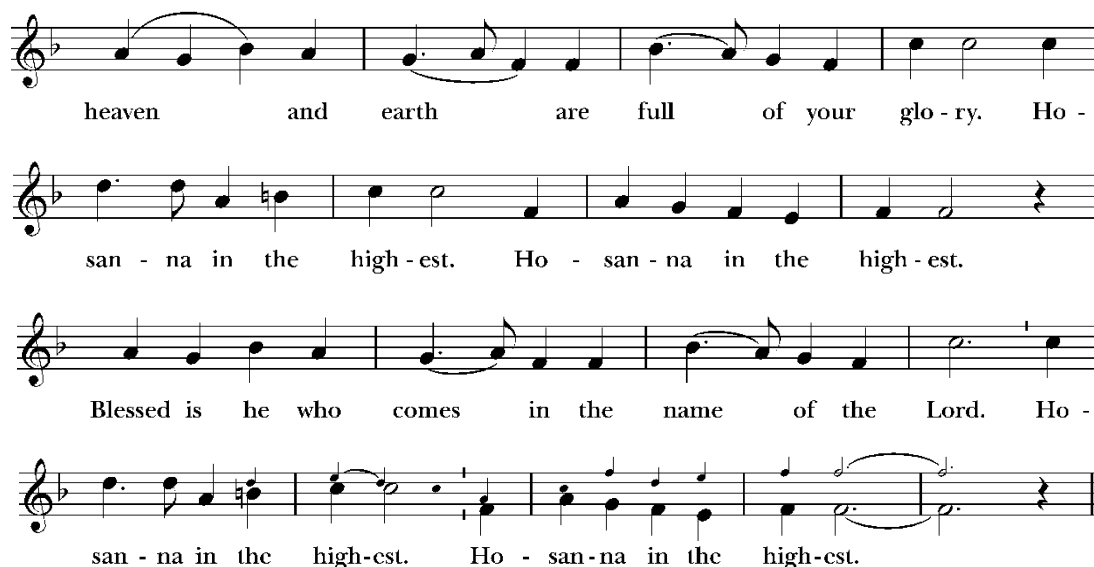
For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name,

SANCTUS

S-125





Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

The people stand or kneel.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we 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 has 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 forever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 363

Celebrant 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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

BCP 364

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.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

HYMN AT COMMUNION

Panis Angelicus

César Franck

Emma Reardon, soprano

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.

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 silent for God is a whisper. And may the blessing of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you this day, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim

Hymnal #535

THE DISMISSAL

BCP 366

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE POSTLUDE

God of Grace and God of Glory

arr. Carolyn Hamlin

The flowers on the altar are given by John and Peggy Varnedoe to the glory of God and in honor of their 22nd wedding anniversary.

THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS'

Sunday, September 20	8:00 am	Holy Eucharist, Chapel
	9:00 am	Faith Formation, Library
	10:00 am	Holy Eucharist, Church
	10:00 am	Children's Chapel, CE Building
	2:00 pm	Sav Scottish Games, Parish Hall
	5:30 pm	AA, CE Building
Monday, September 21	10:00 am	Plarning, CE Building
	2:00 pm	Women Sharing Wisdom, CE Building
Tuesday, September 22	11:30 am	Lunch Bunch, Parish Hall
Wednesday, September 23	11:30 am	Healing Service, Chapel
	5:30 pm	Hand Bell Rehearsal
	6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, September 24	11:00 am	Women's Bible Study, Library
	4:30 pm	Game Night Dinner, 5 Spot
	6:00 pm	Game Night, Parish Hall

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: (8:00 am) Howard Bacon
(10:00 am) Annie Quaile and Kelley Marshall

Lay Eucharistic Visitor: David White

Acolytes: *Crucifer:* Gabriella Gonzales; *Book Bearer:* Lela White; *Children's Cross:* Ollie Hartley

Lectors: (8:00 am) Howard Bacon (10:00 am) Will Calver

Ushers: David Castleberry and Alton Aimar
Vestry on Duty: Bob Lupacchino
Altar Guild: Jennifer Calver, Sandra Calver, Kelley Marshall, Beth Wall, Katherine Edwards
Hospitality: Kelley Marshall and Ellie Titus
Worship Tech: Blake Haynes
Nursery: Dianne Jones and Barbara Arnott
Children's Chapel: Kim Tutan Gonzales and Karen Otto
Cantors: Emma Reardon and Kaleb Reavis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We would like to welcome The Rev. Thomas White and thank him for serving at St. Thomas' Episcopal this morning.

Out of Office

Rev. Colette will be out of the office starting Tuesday, September 15th and will return on Tuesday, September 22nd. For pastoral care, you may contact her via text or email. If it is an emergency and you need immediate assistance, please contact the office during business hours or a Vestry member after business hours.

September Outreach

P.A.C.K (People of Action Caring for Kids) is a non-profit organization started to battle childhood hunger and has expanded to also provide clothing for children entering the foster care system. We have "adopted" a cubby in the P.A.C.K. clothing closet and keep the cubby supplied with winter clothing for girls sized 9 mos., 12 mos., and 18 mos. All clothes need to be new, with the tags attached and can be put on the table in the parish hall.

Lunch Bunch

Our monthly gathering will begin again on Tuesday, September 22nd at 11:30 am. Join us as the members of The American Choir for World Peace that traveled to Paris this summer will speak about their trip and share photos. A free lunch will be served and this event is open to all community members. Please RSVP by September 21st.



New Member Meet and Greet

The Vestry is hosting a Meet and Greet on Monday, September 28th at 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall, for all who have recently started attending St. Thomas'. We would love the opportunity to get to know you and for you to get to know our Vestry and Staff as well. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Mallory. in the office at (912) 355-3110 or at admin@stthomasioh.org.

Game Night

We're adding a little extra fellowship to our monthly Game Nights! Join us for dinner at 5 Spot in Sandfly at 4:30 pm before we head over to the parish hall for an evening of games and fun. Come for dinner, games, or both! If you're coming to dinner, please let Ellen Bradley know so we can reserve enough seats (912) 507-3662. Our next game night is Thursday, September 24th.

We're so glad you're here to worship with us. Restrooms are in the Parish Hall and the Christian Education (CE) Building.

Children's faith formation is offered during the 10:00 am service for infants through 5th grade. In the Nursery (ages 0–4), children sing, hear Bible stories, enjoy crafts, play, and have a snack. If you use the nursery, we invite you to bring your child back into the church to receive Communion or a blessing.

During the school year, children are invited to participate in Children's Chapel during the first part of the service. They will process out behind the cross to the CE Building and return to the church at the Peace. Parents and caregivers are always welcome to accompany their child to either the nursery or Children's Chapel. If you have any questions, an usher will be happy to help.

In the Episcopal Church, all baptized Christians—of any age or denomination—are welcome to receive Holy Communion. At St. Thomas', we share the common cup. You may either consume the bread and sip from the chalice or hold your bread and dip (intinct) when the chalice comes to you. If you prefer not to receive the wine, simply cross your arms over your chest. If you would like a blessing instead of Communion, you are invited to come forward and cross your arms to receive a blessing.

If you'd like to learn more about our worship or traditions, please feel free to speak with The Rev. Colette Hammesfahr.

We'd love to stay connected—please fill out a visitor card from the pew rack and return it to a member of the clergy or an usher so we can greet you more personally in the days ahead.

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church Staff

The Rt. Rev. Frank Sullivan Logue, Bishop of Georgia

The Rev. Colette Hammesfahr, Priest in Charge of

Parish Life, Worship, and Pastoral Care

Tripp Hardee, Minister of Music

Greg Washabaugh, Sexton

Mallory Abshire, Parish Administrator and Bookkeeper

The Vestry

Charlie Barrow, Senior Warden

Lizann Roberts and Stewart Marshall, Co-Junior Warden

Mitch Green, Treasurer

Jane Gilchrist, Clerk

Charlie Barrow

Jennifer Calver

Marie Centgraf

Tracy Edgar

Betty Henderson

Robert Hughes

Bob Lupacchino

Stewart Marshall

Amy Minis

Lizann Roberts

Claudia Welch

Benjamin Watson



If you would like to give electronically towards our offering today or if you are traveling during the year, there are two easy and safe options: through our website at www.stthomasioh.org/give or through Venmo.