

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
The Order of Worship for
The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 20, 2023 † 10:30 AM

Window: Pentecost

Prelude

Welcome

Hymn 410 Praise my soul, the King of heaven

Lauda anima

Requested by Libba Russell

Unison or harmony

1 Praise, my soul, the King of hea - ven; to his feet thy tri - bute bring;
2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to his peo - ple in dis - tress;
3 Fa - ther - like he tends and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he knows;
4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him; ye be - hold him face to face;

ran - sored, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more his prais - es sing:
praise him still the same as ev - er, slow to chide, and swift to bless:
in his hand he gen - tly bears us, res - cues us from all our foes.
sun and moon, bow down be - fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet his mer - cy flows.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Words: Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847). Music: *Lauda anima*, John Goss (1800-1880); desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971).
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THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

THE WORD OF GOD

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

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity *unison*

BCP 355

Almighty God, 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.

Gloria S-280

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.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Collect of the Day

BCP 232

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

A Reading from Genesis

Genesis 45:1-15

Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Send everyone away from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

Psalm 133 *please join the choir in chanting*

BCP 787

Robert Knox Kennedy
(b. 1945)



© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy.

- 1 Oh, how good and pleasant it / is, *
when brethren live together in / unity!
- 2 It is like fine oil upon the / head *
that runs down upon the / beard,
- 3 Upon the beard of / Aaron, *
and runs down upon the collar of his / robe.
- 4 It is like the dew of / Hermon *
that falls upon the hills of / Zion.

(Last half of chant)

- 5 For there the LORD has ordained the / blessing: *
life for ever / more.

A reading from the Letter to the Church at Rome

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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

Hymn 706 In your mercy, Lord, you called me

Halton Holgate

1 In your mer - cy, Lord, you called me, taught my
2 Lord, I did not free - ly choose you till by
3 Now my heart sets none a - bove you, for your
sin - filled heart and mind, else this world had
grace you set me free; for my heart would
grace a - lone I thirst, know - ing well, that
still en - thrall'd me, and to glo - ry kept me blind.
still re - fuse you had your love not cho - sen me.
if I love you, you, O Lord, have loved me first.

Words: Josiah Conder (1789-1855); alt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999). Copyright © 1982, Charles P. Price. Music: *Halton Holgate*, William Boyce (1711-1779).

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Matthew 15:10-28

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

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

Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the

mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.” Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

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

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed *unison*

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 *Form VI*

BCP 392

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. *Silence*
For all people in their daily life and work; **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**
For this community, the nation, and the world; **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**
For the just and proper use of your creation; **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**
For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble; **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**
For the peace and unity of the Church of God; **For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**
For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Rob, our bishop; Victor, our companion bishop; Grace, Roxane, and Darius our priests, our vestry and church staff, and for all bishops, clergy, and lay ministers; **For all who serve God in the Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. We pray for St. Thomas parishioners Bradley, Korie, Sue, Joann, Nicole, Bob, Steve, Cindy, Bill, Bernie, Josh, Rick, Mike, Frank & Pam, Del, Raymond, and Ashley, and our homebound members Marianne, Ramón, Murray, Judy, Jan, William, and Bill. We pray for friends of the parish Rita, Le'Ann, Wanda, Jim, the Stewart family, Karen, and Karen; for those who care for them, and for others we name at this time . . . *Silence*... **Hear us, Lord; for your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. Give thanks for the birthdays of Kenny, Roger, Eliza, Mary Jane, Dennis, Michelle, and Nancy; and the anniversaries of Tony & Theresa, James & Celia, Gerry & Sonya, Mike & Libby, Mike & Mandy, and John & Florence; and other blessings we name at this time... *Silence*... **We will exalt you, O God our King; and praise your name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, especially Virginia, Joe, Spence, Kenny, Mills, Joe, Norma, and Rolene... *Silence*... **Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them; who put their trust in you.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins. *Silence*

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 Absolution

The Peace

THE HOLY COMMUNION

St. Thomas welcomes your gifts.

You may mail a check to 2100 Hilton Avenue, Columbus, GA 31906,
donate online at our website (<https://www.stthomascolumbus.org/give/>),
or use your mobile device by texting **STTCOLUMBUS** to **73256**

Offertory

Anthem King of glory, King of peace

Gerald Near (b. 1942)

King of glory, King of peace, I will love thee; and that love may never cease, I will move thee.

Thou hast granted my requests, thou hast heard me; thou didn't note my working breast, thou hast spared me.

Wherefore with my utmost art, I will sing thee; and the cream of all my heart, I will bring thee.

Though my sins against me cried, thou didst clear me; and alone, when they replied, thou didst hear me.

Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee; in my heart, though not in heaven, I can raise thee.

Small it is in this poor sort to enroll thee; e'en eternity's too short to extol thee.

George Herbert (1593-1633)

The Great Thanksgiving *from Enriching our Worship, Prayer 3*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

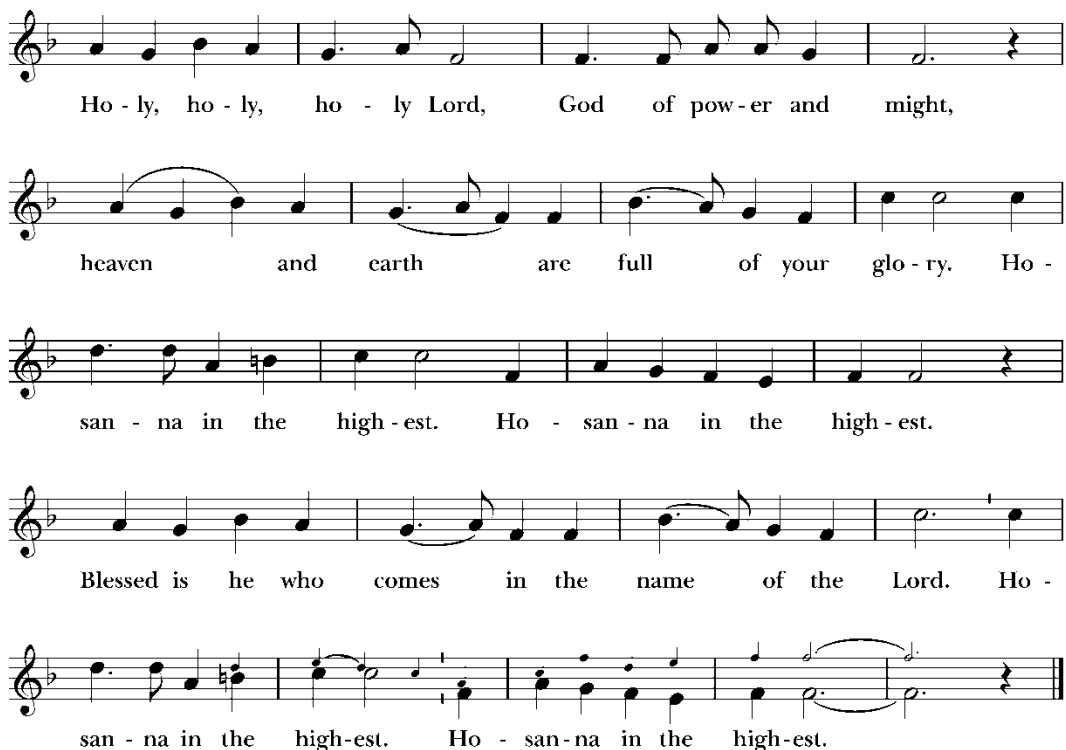
People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Sanctus S-125



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

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

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me." And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you now and for ever. **AMEN**

The Lord's Prayer *unison*

BCP 364

**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 has been sacrificed for us.

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

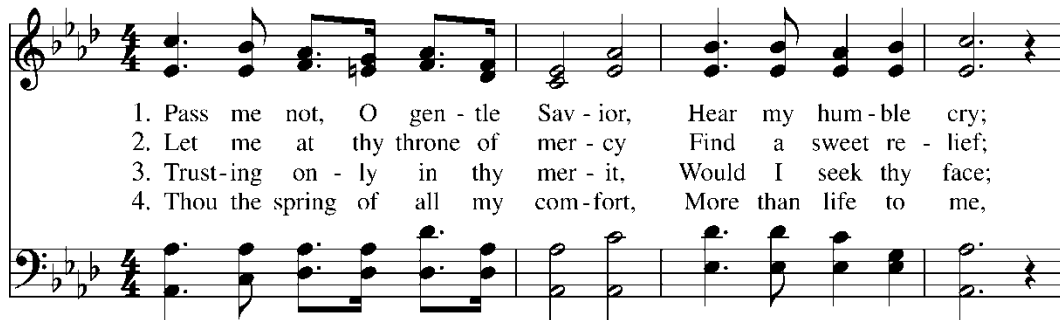
Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All Christians from any denomination are invited to share in communion. You do not have to be an Episcopalian or a member of St. Thomas in order to receive. Come forward when the usher invites you. Stand or kneel at the altar rail. Hold out two hands to receive bread dipped in wine. Or, if you prefer, hold out one hand to receive bread only and then, as the second chalice passes, dip the bread or drink from the chalice as you wish. If you prefer not to receive communion but desire a blessing, come to the side of the altar where the priest is serving. Cross your arms across your chest and the priest will offer a prayer of blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available at the altar by request. If you prefer to receive communion at your pew, please let an usher know.

Music during Communion

Hymn 139 Pass me not, O gentle Savior

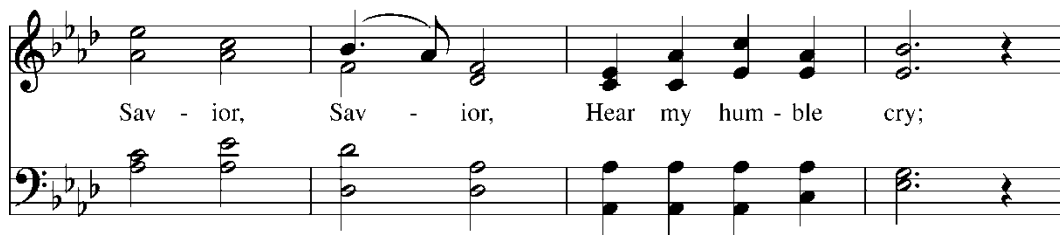
from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*



1. Pass me not, O gen - tle Sav - ior, Hear my hum - ble cry;
2. Let me at thy throne of mer - cy Find a sweet re - lief;
3. Trust-ing on - ly in thy mer - it, Would I seek thy face;
4. Thou the spring of all my com-fort, More than life to me,



1. While on oth - ers thou art call - ing, Do not pass me by.
2. Kneel - ing there in deep con - tri - tion, Help my un - be - lief.
3. Heal my wound-ed, bro - ken spi - rit, Save me by thy grace.
4. Whom have I on earth be - side thee? Whom in heav'n but thee?



Sav - ior, Sav - ior, Hear my hum - ble cry;



While on oth - ers thou art call - ing, Do not pass me by.

Words: Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915). Music: William H. Doane (1832-1915).

1 From all that dwell be - low the skies let
 2 E - ter - nal are thy mer - cies, Lord, and
 *3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise
 the Cre - a - tor's praise a - rise! Let the Re - deem - er's
 truth e - ter - nal is thy word: thy praise shall sound from
 him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, yc
 Name be sung through ev - ery land, by ev - ery tongue!
 shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no more.
 heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637-1711). Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?).

Postcommunion Prayer *unison*

Enriching our Worship 1

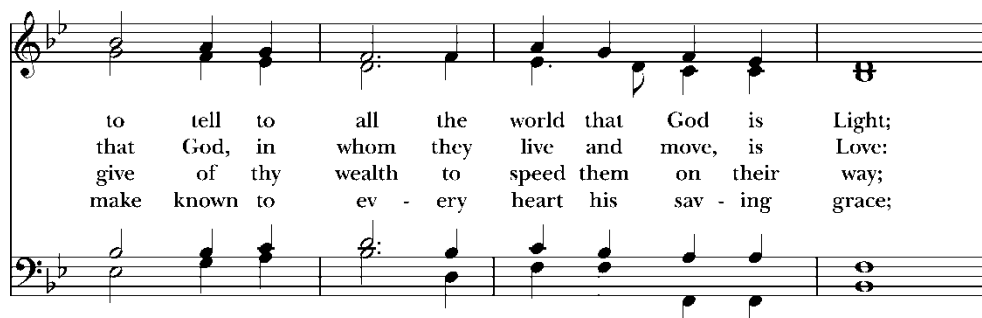
God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

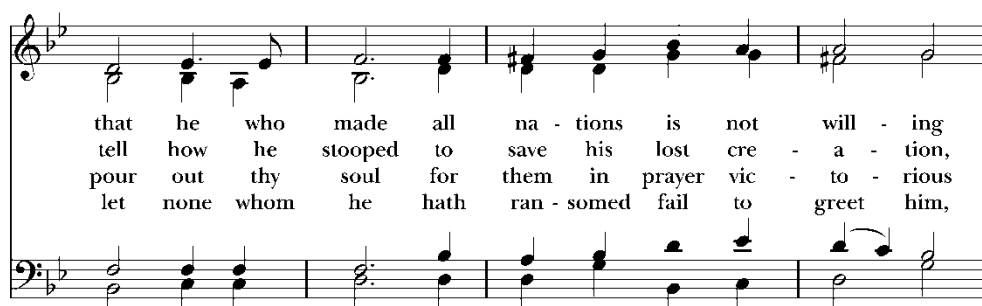
The Wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in this world, bringing good news wherever you go, in the name of the Holy Trinity. **Amen.**



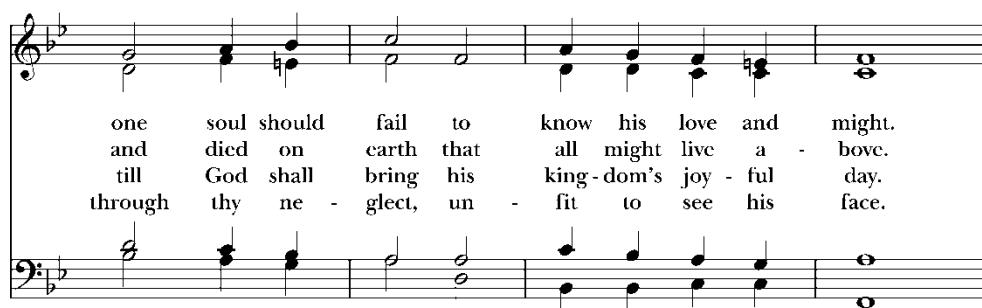
O Zi - on, haste, thy mis - sion high ful - fill - ing,
Pro - claim to ev - ery peo - ple, tongue, and na - tion
Send her - alds forth to bear the mes - sage glo - rious;
He comes a - gain! O Zi - on, ere thou meet him,



to tell to all the world that God is Light;
that God, in whom they live and move, is Love:
give of thy wealth to speed them on their way;
make known to ev - ery heart his sav - ing grace;

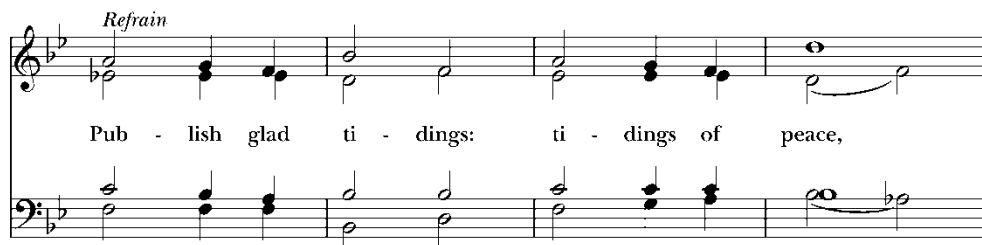


that he who made all na - tions is not will - ing
tell how he stooped to save his lost cre - a - tion,
pour out thy soul for them in prayer vic - to - rious
let none whom he hath ran - somed fail to greet him,

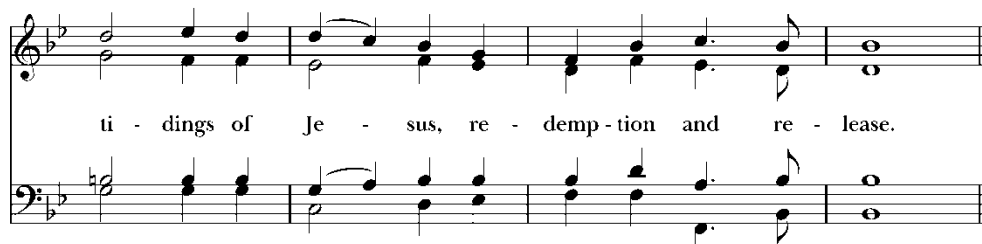


one soul should fail to know his love and might.
and died on earth that all might live a - bove.
till God shall bring his king - dom's joy - ful day.
through thy ne - glect, un - fit to see his face.

Refrain



Pub - lish glad ti - dings: ti - dings of peace,



ti - dings of Je - sus, re - demp - tion and re - lease.

Words: Mary Ann Thomson (1834-1923), alt. Music: *Tidings*, James Walch (1837-1901).

The Dismissal

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

Organ

In our prayers

St. Thomas parishioners: Bradley Olive-Allison, Korie MacDougall, Sue O'Dell, Joann Weeks, Nicole Ceccato, Bob Wadkins, Steve Scott, Cindy Godwin, Bill Pauli, Bernie Sutter, Josh Becker, Rick McKnight, Mike Nichols, Frank & Pam Feagle, Del Weeks, Raymond Campbell, Ashley Huie-Strong

Homebound members: Marianne Baxter, Ramón Capo, Murray Craig, Judy Harding, Jan Pittman, William South, Bill Thomas

Friends of the parish: Rita Tuck (*Ami Connery*), Le'Ann Spencer (*Lisa Herring*), Wanda Amos (*Rick & Marquette McKnight*), Jim Buntin (*Rick & Marquette McKnight*), the Stewart family, Karen Truitt (*Reb Kreyling*), Karen Kehoe (*Reb Kreyling*)

Those with continuing concerns: Ralph Wimberly, Henry Morrill, Jessica McComb, Esther Thomas, Joe Mills, April Jacobs, Jana Speer, Amy Nurnberg, Debbie & Max Anderson, Art France, Lexy McRae (*Jennifer Fletcher*), Aubrey Hamric (*Shannon Dunaway*), the Starnes family (*Shannon Dunaway*), Greg & Bonnie Feagle (*Pam Feagle*), Mark Jones (*Tanya Edwards-Jones*), Mike & Jill Venable (*Marquette McKnight*), Angela Tulloh (*Louise Tulloh*), Andrew Meyers (*Carole Hill*), Alex Watford (*Martha Robert*)

Soldiers and families at Ft. Moore and St. Thomas members and friends who are deployed: Grant Allen (*Susan Sealy*)

Those celebrating birthdays: Kenny Hall 8/22, Roger Redden 8/22, Eliza Morrill 8/24, Mary Jane Wadkins 8/25, Dennis Cook 8/25, Michelle Mullen 8/25, Nancy Powell 8/26

Those celebrating anniversaries: Tony & Theresa Lewis 8/20, James & Celia Decker 8/21, Gerry & Sonya Boyd 8/22, Mike & Libby McFalls 8/23, Mike & Mandy Flynn 8/24, John Studstill & Florence Wakoko-Studstill 8/26

Those who have died: Virginia Nixdorf 9/17, Joe Fischer 10/4/22, Spence Sealy 10/24/22, Kenny Lewis 3/7/23, Mills Goddard 3/16/23, Joe Stewart 4/5/23, Norma Jergens 7/27/23, Rolene Stewart 8/6/23

Announcements

For more details about these events visit our website at www.stthomascolumbus.org or see our latest *Seasons* newsletter

Sundays

Morning Coffee: Coffee time is from 8:45 to 10:15. Homemade and packaged snacks are available.

Sunday Stories: Children meet in the Outreach Center at 9:30am to hear a simple bible story from special guests, and then use a variety of materials and supplies to retell the story.

Children's Chapel: Children may follow the petite cross to the parlor before the Gospel reading. Chapel leaders offer the Gospel in a child-friendly atmosphere using The Sunday Paper. Children return for Holy Eucharist at the Peace.

Parish Hall Service: The 10:30 service is live streamed in the Parish Hall each Sunday. Coffee, snacks, coloring books, and plenty of room to move around freely are available. You may come to nave for communion.

Sermons this Season: August 20 - Good News Together; August 27 - Good News for All; September 3 - Good News at Work; September 10 - Good News Within; September 17 - Good News Everywhere

Contemplative Healing Service: **August 20, September 24, October 15, November 19. 5 PM in the Chapel.** This is a time of quiet centering, gathering to pray for ourselves and others, and experiencing an ever-unfolding consciousness of how much we are loved by our God.

Wednesdays

Wednesday Eucharist: 5:30 to 6 PM in the Chapel. This brief Eucharist focuses on a saint being celebrated that day or week, using an updated version of the Eucharistic prayer with more expansive language for God and people.

Wednesday programming schedule:

- 5:30 Eucharist in the Chapel
- 5:30-6:15 Dinner served in the parish hall
- 6:20 Prayers around tables
- 6:25 All depart for formation time
- 6:30-7:30 Formation time for children, youth, and adults
- 6:45-8:30 St. Thomas Choir in the Choir Room

The nursery is open on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7:30, or longer if needed by choir members.

Wednesday Dinner: A typical dinner is an entrée with two sides and a simple dessert. Vegetarian and gluten free options will be available if requested. The suggested cost is \$7.50 per adult, \$5 per child under 12, and \$25 per family, however, we invite you to pay what you can - more or less as you are able. We want everyone to be able to participate. Reservations are needed each week by midnight on Monday. Menus are posted on the website, and you can register and pay online for up to a month at a time. New this year - we will have Wednesday dinner reservation cards in the pews. Fill it out on Sundays and drop in the offering plate. Also new this year - we hope - is a Venmo option. We actually prefer to receive payment online to avoid dealing with cash. Due to kitchen renovations in August, the menu for August 23 is pizza. We hope to be back to regular menus by August 30.

How We Best Live the Good News - An Exploration of Spiritual Gifts. Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30, August 23 & 30, September 6 & 13. Using the book *Discerning Your Spiritual Gifts* by Lloyd Edwards, Rev. Grace will guide us through a series of activities to help us identify the gifts of the Spirit at work in all of us and consider where those gifts may best be used.

News for this week

Good News Together - 2023 Ministry Sign Ups: August 20 - September 3. Every August we invite you to sign up for ministry teams and formation opportunities. An online form will be sent by email today. (You may request a paper copy by writing to office@stthomascolumbus.org). Prayerfully fill it out by Labor Day. Ministry leaders will be in touch soon after.

Tween Time: Beginning this morning at 9:30 AM. Tweens (4th grade-middle school) are invited to join Mrs. Taylor in the youth room on Sunday mornings to explore both the Old and New Testaments in an age-

appropriate format. Older elementary children and middle school youth will get to work together as they learn about themselves and their faith.

Foyers Groups Signups: Sign up by August 25 at noon. Foyers groups are gatherings of 8 to 12 adults who meet together to share a meal and conversation in homes or at a restaurant approximately once a month from September to May. This is not a Bible Study group, but rather a community connection group. Once the groups are formed, you will be notified by leaders in September to determine the date, time and location of your first gathering. Contact Barbara Brandenburgh, or sign up at <https://www.stthomascolumbus.org/foyer-groups/>

One more chance to order bricks for the Pet Memorial! The brick walk around the cross in the Peace Garden contains engraved bricks in memory of beloved animals. We are placing an order for bricks at the end of August. This will be our last order for a while. Deadline to order is August 27. Cost is \$125. You can place an order using the form online found at <https://www.stthomascolumbus.org/blog/one-more-chance-to-order-bricks-for-the-pet-memorial/> or using a paper form found in the narthex. New bricks will be installed this fall.

Upcoming & Ongoing

Good News: Room for All at St. Thomas Strategic Planning Update. Sunday, August 27 at 9:30. Our Strategic Planning process in 2022 prayerfully came to the conclusion that it is time to address some accessibility challenges in our nave. A team has worked all year to develop a beautiful design that will eliminate steps to the altar rail, make all choir activities wheelchair accessible, update the sacristy and flower room, and add a covered drop off and closer parking. Join us in the parish hall at 9:30 on August 27 to review these plans. Following the 10:30 service, you'll have the opportunity to take a brief tour and see where the altar area, sacristy, choir and acolyte robing, flower room, and restrooms fit in the proposed layout.

Episcopal Campus Ministry (ECM): ECM is an affirming Christian community for college students in the Columbus area which meets in the Davidson Student Center (in the Columbus Room) on Columbus State University's main campus for evening prayer, dinner, and discussion at 5:30 PM on Tuesdays through the school year. Contact Taylor Mack for more information.

St. Thomas Prayer Group: Join the Prayer group on Zoom on Mondays at 11:30 am to prayer for the public and private prayer list. Contact the church office for the link.

Zoom Evening Prayer: Join us for Evening Prayer on Zoom at 5:30 on Tuesday and Thursday. Contact church office for the link or find it on our linktree.

St. Thomas Swag Shop: The online swag shop is open! Apparel, water bottles, notebooks, and more are available with the St. Thomas logo with the new tagline. We also have a new design available on shirts and sweatshirts. Go to shop.threadmob.com/stthomaschurch/shop/ or find the link on our website!

QR Code for signups! Use the QR code below to find a list of current signups at St. Thomas including Wednesday night dinners! New to QR codes? Open the camera on your smartphone (or a QR reader), point at the black and white code box, when prompted push the link that shows up on your screen.

