



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, PROPER 18, YEAR B

Liturgy of the Word

September 5, 2021 10 A.M.

INTROIT

The LORD bless you and keep you

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you;

the LORD lift up the light
of his countenance upon you,
and give you peace. Amen.

Words: Numbers 6:24-26 Music: John Rutter (b. 1945), 1981

The invitation to worship is sounded with the ringing of the bell.

HYMN

When Christ was lifted from the earth (603, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 When Christ was lift - ed from the earth, his
2 Still east and west his love ex - tends and
3 Where gen - er - a - tion, class, or race di -
4 Thus free - ly loved, though ful - ly known, may

arms stretched out a - bove through ev - ery cul - ture,
al - ways, near or far, he calls and claims us
vide us to our shame, he sees not la - bels
I in Christ be free to wel - come and ac -

ev - ery birth, to draw an an - swering love.
as his friends and loves us as we are.
but a face, a per - son, and a name.
cept his own as Christ ac - cept - ed me.

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OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

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

CONFESSION OF SIN [A New Zealand Prayer Book]

Presider

Let us confess our sins. [*Silence is kept.*]

Presider and People

Merciful God,

we have sinned

in what we have thought and said,

in the wrong we have done

and in the good we have not done.

We have sinned in ignorance:

we have sinned in weakness:

we have sinned through our own deliberate fault.

We are truly sorry.

We repent and turn to you.

Forgive us, for our Saviour Christ's sake,

and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen.

Presider

Through the cross of Christ, God have mercy on you, pardon you and set you free. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal. **Amen.**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: 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 FIRST LESSON

PROVERBS 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,
and favour is better than silver or gold.

The rich and the poor have this in common:
the LORD is the maker of them all.

Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity,
and the rod of anger will fail.

Those who are generous are blessed,
for they share their bread with the poor.

Do not rob the poor because they are poor,
or crush the afflicted at the gate;
for the LORD pleads their cause
and despoils of life those who despoil them.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 125 (*sung by the musician*)

Peter Hurford

- 1 Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, *
which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.
- 2 The hills stand about Jerusalem; *
so does the LORD stand round about his people,
from this time forth for evermore.
- 3 The scepter of the wicked shall not hold sway over the land allotted to the just, *
so that the just shall not put their hands to evil.
- 4 Show your goodness, O LORD, to those who are good *
and to those who are true of heart.
- 5 As for those who turn aside to crooked ways,
the LORD will lead them away with the evildoers; *
but peace be upon Israel.

THE SECOND LESSON

JAMES 2:10, 14-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says

to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ALLELUIA

Norah Duncan IV

The musical score is written in 3/8 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia!' are written below the treble staff. Above the treble staff, guitar chords are indicated: D, A/C#, G2/B, D/A, G, D/F#, A, D. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system begins with a measure rest (9) before continuing the melody.

Cantor: Give me understanding, O LORD,
and I shall keep your law with all my heart.

The People sing the Gospel Alleluia again.

THE GOSPEL

MARK 7:24-37

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

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

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the

more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

A LITURGICAL AFFIRMATION OF FAITH [A New Zealand Prayer Book]

Presider and People

You, O God, are supreme and holy.

You create our world and give us life.

Your purpose overarches everything we do.

You have always been with us.

You are God.

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.**

You came to us before we came to you.

**You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.**

You are with us now.

You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.

You empower us to be your gospel in the world.

You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

You are our God. We worship you.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Book of Common Prayer, Form I

Intercessor and People

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our bishops, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our towns, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For reasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who travel, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Defend us, deliver us, and in your compassion protect us, O Lord, by your grace. **Lord, have mercy.**

In the communion of Mary, Thomas, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God. **To you, O Lord our God.**

The Presider will add petitions for the week and then the concluding collect

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Your ongoing financial support of St. Thomas's Church is especially appreciated at this time. To give online with a debit or credit card, go to the Home page of the Church website (www.stthomasnewhaven.org), and click GIVE NOW. If you are viewing this document electronically, you can simply [CLICK HERE](#). Know also that the Church office is able to process checks that have been mailed. Thank you!

HYMN

Immortal, invisible, God only wise (423, *The Hymnal* 1982)

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry, thou rul - est in light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
we blos - som and flour - ish, like leaves on the tree,
all laud we would ren - der: O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - tor - ious, thy great Name we praise.
thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
then with - er and per - ish; but nought chan - geth thee.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

Words: Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908), alt.

Music: *St. Denio*, Welsh hymn, fom *Caniadau y Cyssegr*; 1839; adapt. John Roberts (1822-1877); harm. *The English Hymal*, 1906, alt.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

You are invited to say the Lord's Prayer in the language of your choice.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

A PRAYER OF COMMUNION *[The Rev. Keri Aubert]*

Presider and People

God of abundant love, we thank you for nurturing us with this holy gathering of holy people. When we are alone, remind us of the communion we share with one another and with you. When we are hungry, show us the banquet that you are preparing for the redemption of the world. Keep peace in our hearts, so that we can sow peace on the Earth, walking in gladness the way of your beloved child, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Presider

[The Presider blesses the People.] **Amen.**

Presider: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

Prelude in C# major

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750), BWV 848, from *Das wohltemperierte Klavier*

After the Voluntary, you are invited to stay online for virtual Coffee Hour. Please see the Parish Enews for the latest announcements and information.

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Announcements

Stay in touch! Subscribe to the Weekly Parish Enews and “like” St. Thomas’s on Facebook.

In-person worship will resume on September 12, but we will meet OUTSIDE. We anticipate streaming the service for people at home. New Haven remains a COVID-19 red zone. ECCT guidelines discourage inside in-person worship for congregations in red zones. Therefore, your Vestry leadership is planning for worship outside. The exact location and other details will be in next week's Enews.

Welcome, Seminarian Interns! St. Thomas's is fortunate to be hosting TWO seminarian interns from Yale Divinity School this year. Ike Harajanto (who will work primarily with Noah) and Emma Wright (who will work primarily with Keri) bring a wealth of gifts to share with St. Thomas's over the next nine months. See their bios in the Enews. As you can, please offer them your welcome and support.

Monday is Labor Day. The Church staff will be off. Enjoy the long weekend!

It's back-to-school time! Good wishes go out to all students and parents.

Please Consider Helping!

- **Hurricane Ida assistance:** Click here to donate to the Episcopal Relief & Development Hurricane Relief Fund.
- **Afghan refugee assistance:** IRIS in New Haven has already received refugees. You can donate funds or goods.
- **Haiti earthquake assistance:** Click here to donate to the Episcopal Relief & Development Haiti Fund.

Serving Today

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Keri Aubert
Music Director: Dr. Noah Horn
Lectors: Jenny Chavira,
Intercessor:

This Week's Prayer Intentions

Pray for those on our Parish prayer list:
Cynthia (Sally Edwards' sister-in-law), Sally (Edwards)

Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially:
those most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic

Pray for those who have died.

In the Episcopal Church in Connecticut Cycle of Prayer, pray for:

L'Eglise de L'Epiphanie, Stamford; St. Andrew's, Stamford; St. Francis', Stamford; those involved in the ministry in Christian Formation in parishes; church school and youth group directors, teachers, and mentors; for adult education leaders; and those who have been received into The Episcopal Church

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:
Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan

In the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, pray for:

Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo

Leadership at St. Thomas's

Church Vestry

Greg D'Andrea (Senior Warden)
Linda Meyer (Junior Warden)
Bill English (Treasurer)
Denise Terry (Clerk)
Valerie Garlick
Claire Scully
Sara Zampierin
The Rev. Keri Aubert (Rector)

Church (Volunteer) Associate Priests

The Rev. Canon K. Dexter Cheney
The Rev. Jakki Flanagan

Day School Board of Trustees

John Forrest (Chair)
Greg Mokotoff (Vice-Chair)
Heather Tookes Alexopoulos (Treasurer)
Eileen O'Donnell (Secretary)
Christopher Cavallaro Luk De Volder
Don Edwards William English
Jeralyn Fantarella Robert Herdt
Linda Meyer (Church Junior Warden)
Ontoniel Reyes Chris Vigilante
Keri Aubert (President, Day School Corp.)
Gina Panza (Head of School)

ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL

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Day School: (203) 776-2123 ♦ www.stthomasday.org