



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, PROPER 26, YEAR B

Service of Holy Eucharist

October 31, 2021 10 A.M.

Whether you are new or returning, WELCOME!

Please remain masked and observe social distancing throughout the service. The building remains closed, and the restrooms are available for limited use only. ♦ **ALL are invited to receive Holy Communion.** Baptism is not required; church membership is not required. As a pandemic safety precaution, the People will be offered bread but not wine. Remember, the sacrament is complete and efficacious even when received in one kind only. Instructions for Holy Communion are included below at the appropriate point. ♦ **You are invited to stay after the service** for socially-distanced fellowship.

INTROIT

A new commandment

A new commandment give I unto you,
saith the Lord,
that ye love together as I have loved you,
that even so ye love one another.

By this shall every man know
that ye are my disciples,
if ye have love one to another.

Words: John 13:34-35 Music: Thomas Tallis (c1505–1585)

At the invitation of the Presider, all stand.

HYMN

God of the women (21, *Voices Found*)

E♭(D) B♭7(A7) E♭(D)

1 God of the wo - men who an - swered your call,
2 God of the wo - men who walked Je - sus' way,
3 God of the wo - men long put to the test,
4 God of the wo - men who ran from the tomb,
5 O God of Phoe - be and min - is - ters all,

B♭(A) Fm(Em) A♭(G) B♭(A)

trust - ing your prom - ise, giv - ing their all,
giv - ing their re - sour - ces, learn - ing to pray,
left out of sto - ries, for - got - ten, op - pressed,
prayed with the o - thers in that up - per room,
may we be joy - ful in answer - ing your call.

A♭(G) E♭(D) Cm(Bm) A♭(G) B♭(A)

wo - men like Sar - ah and Han - nah and Ruth _____
Ma - ry, Jo - an - na, Sus - an - na, and more _____
qui - et - ly ask - ing: "Who smiled at my birth?" _____
then felt your Spi - rit on Pen - te - cost Day _____
give us the strength of your Spi - rit so near _____

give us their cour - age to live in your truth.
 may we give free - ly as they did be - fore.
 in Je - sus' dy - ing you show us our worth.
 may we so glad - ly pro - claim you to - day.
 that we may share in your min - is - try here.

Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette © 1998 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, from *Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship* (Geneva Press 2000). All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Music: *Slane*, Irish ballad melody; adapt. *The Church Harmony*, 1927; harm. David Evans (1847-1948) © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

OPENING ACCLAMATION, SALUTATION, & COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

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

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift that your faithful people offer you true and laudable service: Grant that we may run without stumbling to obtain your heavenly promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All are seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

RUTH 1:1-18

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown?"

Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me.” Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

So she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” But Ruth said,

“Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go;
Where you lodge, I will lodge;

your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.

Where you die, I will die—
there will I be buried.

May the Lord do thus and so to me,
and more as well,

if even death parts me from you!”

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 146

Presider and People

1 Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul! *
I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

2 Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, *
for there is no help in them.

3 When they breathe their last, they return to earth, *
and in that day their thoughts perish.

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;

6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.

7 The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; *
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

8 The LORD loves the righteous;
 the LORD cares for the stranger; *
 he sustains the orphan and widow,
 but frustrates the way of the wicked.

9 The LORD shall reign for ever, *
 your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
 Hallelujah!

THE SECOND LESSON

HEBREWS 9:11-14

When Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

All stand.

HYMN

Hail, thou once despised Jesus! (495, *The Hymnal 1982*)



1 Hail, thou once de - spis - ed Je - sus! Hail, thou Gal - i -
 2 Pas - chal Lamb, by God ap - point - ed, all our sins on
 3 Je - sus, hail! en - throned in glo - ry, there for ev - er
 *4 Wor - ship, hon - or, power, and bless - ing thou art wor - thy



le - an King! Thou didst suf - fer to re - lease us;
 thee were laid: by al - might - y love a - noint - ed,
 to a - bide; all the heaven - ly hosts a - dore thee,
 to re - ceive; high - est prais - es, with - out ceas - ing,



thou didst free sal - va - tion bring. Hail, thou u - ni - ver - sal
 thou hast full a - tone - ment made. All thy peo - ple are for -
 seat - ed at thy Fa - ther's side. There for sin - ners thou art
 right it is for us to give. Help, ye bright an - gel - ic



Sa - vior, bear - er of our sin and shame! By thy mer - it
 giv - en through the vir - tue of thy blood: o - pened is the
 plead - ing: there thou dost our place pre - pare; ev - er for us
 spi - rits, all your no - blest an - thems raise; help to sing our



we find fa - vor: life is giv - en through thy Name
 gate of hea - ven, re - con - ciled are we with God.
 in - ter - ced - ing, till in glo - ry we ap - pear.
 Sa - vior's mer - its, help to chant Em - man - uel's praise!

Words: John Bakewell (1721-1819) and Martin Madan (1726-1790), alt. Music: *In Babilone*, melody from *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenliedes en Contradansseu*, 1710; harm. Roy F. Kehl (b. 1935) Copyright ©1984, Roy F. Kehl. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

THE GOSPEL

MARK 12:28-34

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

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

One of the scribes came near and heard the Saducees disputing with one another, and seeing that Jesus answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself,’ —this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

All are seated.

THE SERMON

After the sermon, all remain seated for a period of silence. At the bidding of the Presider, all stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH [The United Church of Canada]

Presider and People

We are not alone,

we live in God’s world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus,

the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others

by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God’s presence,

to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our guide and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE [*The Rev. Keri Aubert*]

Intercessor and People

The season of harvest is a tangible demonstration of God's abundant generosity. In gratitude for the multitude of gifts that we have received, let us seek God's blessings for the church and for the world.

Bless Christ's holy church. Help those who minister in Jesus's name follow the path of true discipleship. Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

Bless the leaders of all nations, and especially the elected leaders of this nation. Help them to be steadfast in the pursuit of peace. Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

Bless all who advocate for systemic change, especially those addressing issues of racial justice. Help heal our nation's wounds as its people learn to uphold one another. Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

Bless the fruits of the earth. Help all humans develop the will to halt climate change, and thereby to steward your creation for the generations to come. Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

Bless us with gifts for ministry and discernment to recognize them. Help us to offer those gifts as blessings to others. Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

Bless the hungry, the homeless, and the sick. Help them to be strong, and help us to be compassionate. Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

Bless the communion of saints, the living and the dead. Help us to glean from them the inspiration to seek and serve you. Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

Bless the prayerful intentions that we now offer before you, either silently or aloud. [*You are invited to offer your prayer intentions.*]

Presider

Gracious God, humbly and confidently we turn to you, the source of all blessings; hear our prayers, offered through your redeeming Christ, in the power of your Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Presider

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. [*Silence is kept.*]

Presider 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.**

Presider

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

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

People: **And also with you.**

*Please remain in place while greeting your neighbors with a sign of peace. You may then be seated for brief announcements and the **Offertory Anthem**, during which the altar is prepared.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Your ongoing financial support of St. Thomas's Church is sincerely appreciated. We will not be passing a collection plate today; one is located near the usher for use as you depart. 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 may simply [CLICK HERE](#). Thank you!

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Presider

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to God.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

He trusted in God

He trusted in God that He would deliver Him: let Him deliver Him, if He delight in Him.

Words: Psalm 22:8 Music: George Frideric Handel (1685–1759), *Messiah*, 1742

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Presider

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had 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:

Presider and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Presider

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 for ever.
AMEN.

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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

You may be seated. All are invited to receive Holy Communion at God’s table in this church. Baptism is not required; church membership is not required. Special pandemic precautions are in place for Holy Communion. The People come forward roughly from closest to farthest, while maintaining social distancing. You will be offered bread only. Approach the priest with your hands extended, and the priest will place a wafer in them. Do not consume the wafer immediately. Instead, return to your seat and then raise your mask to consume the wafer.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Panis angelicus

Panis angelicus fit panis hominum
dat panis coelicus figuris terminum
o res mirabilis manducat Dominum
pauper servus et humilis.

The bread of angels becomes the bread of people,
the heavenly bread gives an end to earthly forms.
O wondrous sacrament: feeding on their Lord
are the poor, the slave, and the humble person.

Words: Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274) Music: César Franck (1822–1890), *Mass*, Op. 12 (1872)

After all have received communion, the People remain seated for a period of silence. Then all stand.

HYMN

Draw nigh and take the Body of the Lord (328, *The Hymnal* 1982)

1 Draw nigh and take the Bo - dy of the Lord,
2 Saved by that Bo - dy and that ho - ly Blood,
3 Sal - va - tion's giv - er, Christ, the on - ly Son,
4 Of - fered was he for great - est and for least,
5 Ap - proach ye then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,

1 and drink the ho - ly Blood for you out - poured.
2 with souls re - freshed, we ren - der thanks to God.
3 by his dear cross and blood the vic - tory won.
4 him - self the Vic - tim, and him - self the Priest.
5 and take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.

Words: *Bangor Antiphoner*, ca. 690; tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.
Music: *Song 46*, melody and bass Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray.

Presider 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.**

BLESSING

Presider

[The Presider blesses the People.] Amen.

DISMISSAL

Presider: *[The Presider dismisses the People.]*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

All are seated.

VOLUNTARY

Tocatta in D minor

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750), BWV 565/1

After the Voluntary, you are invited to stay for socially-distanced fellowship.

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Announcements

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

Tonight at 7:30PM! All Hallows’ Eve Service & S’mores. Details in the Enews.

Sunday, November 7: All Saints’ Sunday, worship at 10 a.m. WE ARE PLANNING TO MOVE OUR IN-PERSON WORSHIP INTO THE SANCTUARY FOR ALL SAINTS’. PLEASE SEND US THE NAMES OF THOSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO REMEMBER. Details in the Enews.

Bible Study: Genesis. Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., on Zoom. We’re using the eight-week Yale Bible Study curriculum. Details are in the Enews. All are invited.

Serving Today

Presider: The Rev. Keri Aubert

Preacher: Emma Wright

Music Director: Dr. Noah Horn

Lector: Jenny Chavira

Intercessor: Claire Scully

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:

St. Paul’s, Westbrook; Emmanuel, Weston; Christ & Holy Trinity, Westport; Clergy peer groups and the Clergy Family Assistance Program

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:

The Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria

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

Canada, United States of America