



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, PROPER 28, YEAR A

Liturgy of the Word

November 15, 2020

10 A.M.

VOLUNTARY

Allemande

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750), Cello Suite no. 2 in D minor, BWV 1008, c1720

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

HYMN

O Christ, the Word Incarnate (632, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 O Christ, the Word In - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
2 The Church from our dear Mas - ter re - ceived the word di - vine,
3 O make thy Church, dear Sa - vior, a lamp of pur - est gold,

O Truth, un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky;
and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.
to bear be - fore the na - tions thy true light as of old;

we praise thee for the ra - diance that from the scrip - ture's page,
It is the chart and com - pass that o'er life's surg - ing sea,
O teach thy wan - dering pil - grims by this their path to trace,

a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
mid mists and rocks and quick - sands, still guides, O Christ, to thee.
till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see thee face to face.

Words: William Walsham How (1823-1897), alt. Music: Munich, melody from *Neu-vernehrtes und zu Übung Christi, Gottseligkeit eingerichtetes* Meiningisches Gesangbuch, 1693; adapt. and harm. Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

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

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

JUDGES 4:1-7

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, “The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, ‘Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin’s army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.’”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 123

Benjamin Hutto

- 1 To you I lift up my eyes, *
to you enthroned in the heavens.
- 2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, *
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
- 3 So our eyes look to the LORD our God, *
until he show us his mercy.
- 4 Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy, *
for we have had more than enough of contempt,
- 5 Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, *
and of the derision of the proud.

THE SECOND LESSON

The Intercession Card at the Lady Julian Cell
The Julian Shrine, St. Julian’s Church, Norwich, England

A simple way of intercession is the way of awareness. *The first step* is to become aware that God has been working long before we came on the scene ourselves, that he is working now, and that our desire is to be linked with him within the communion of saints in this work. *The second step* is to hold the intercession request in our hands and to let all our awareness enter into it. I do not say concentration, as that might suggest a strenuous mental effort and that is not what is required; just awareness as we might stand in the presence of a picture or sunset. *The third step* is to put the slip aside and just *be* in God’s presence. We do not now have to reflect that we are there on behalf of another; what has already been done makes that clear. We just *are* in the presence of God, our intention—again we do not have to reflect upon it now—being that God’s love shall flow freely in this other, as our hope is, it shall in ourselves.

“Every morning put your mind into your heart and stand in the presence of God all the day long.” All intercession is ultimately gathered up in this saying of an Eastern monk. Bishop Michael Ramsey has written that basically the word intercession means not pleading with God, but standing in God’s presence on behalf of another.

It can be a help to grasp this. For it follows that to pray for others we do not have to be clever or eloquent or even perceptive of their needs; just ourselves as we are, simple, a bit confused perhaps, but wanting God’s will, or wanting to want God’s will for ourselves and

others. It is God’s business to take things on from there. We are to fill the water pots with water—and we are to fill them to the brim—the wine-making is his. We are to remove the stone; “Lazarus come forth” belongs to him. We are the dry bones; the clothing with flesh, and the breathing upon them is his.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ALLELUIA

(18, *My Heart Sings Out*)

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - - - jah!

hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - - - jah!
Hal - le - lu - jah!

hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - - - jah! Hal - le -

lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - - - jah!

Words and Melody: Traditional Caribbean. Arr. Mark Sedio (b. 1954) © 1995 Augsburg Fortress, PO Box 1209, Minneapolis, MN 55440-1209 [www.augsburgfortress.org]. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Cantor: It is thou, O LORD, that savest us from our enemies:
and puttest them to confusion that hate us.
Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice.

The People sing the Gospel Alleluia again.

THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 25:14-30

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

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

Intercessor and People

As the leaves fall and the days shorten, we remember the uncertainties of our age, and we pray to God for the church and for the world.

Lend your wisdom to all Christians, and help all churches proclaim the Good News of your justice and mercy. Christ, have mercy; **Lord, have mercy.**

Lend your vision to those whose political and business decisions affect people around the globe, and help them prioritize compassion, equity, and peace. Christ, have mercy; **Lord, have mercy.**

Lend your strength to all who work to end marginalization and oppression, and help them find joy in their labors. Christ, have mercy; **Lord, have mercy.**

Lend your vision to the human stewards of the living Earth, and help them safeguard its health for the future our children. Christ, have mercy; **Lord, have mercy.**

Lend your gifts for ministry to all members of the St. Thomas's community, and help us serve and uphold one another and our neighbors. Christ, have mercy; **Lord, have mercy.**

Lend your comfort to all who lack adequate food, employment, housing, or health care, and help our nation understand how its abundant wealth might be more fairly shared. Christ, have mercy; **Lord, have mercy.**

Lend your holy light to all our loved ones who have died, and help us follow their pathway to your eternal presence. Christ, have mercy; **Lord, have mercy.**

Hear our prayers for those intercessions and thanksgivings that we now offer silently or aloud. [*You may unmute yourself to offer a prayer intention.*]

Presider

God of rest and renewal, during this turn of the seasons, help us to remember that the cycle of birth and death is the means by which you cultivate new life, and send the peace of your assurance to all who seek and serve you, through Christ, in the Spirit of your blessed Church. **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!

OFFERTORY HYMN

I want to walk as a child of the light (490, *The Hymnal* 1982)

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
3 I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ.

I want to fol-low Je-sus.
I want to look at Je-sus.
I want to be with Je-sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The
Clear sun of right-eous-ness, shine on my path, and
When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

star of my life is Je-sus.
show me the way to the Fa-ther.
shall know the joy of Je-sus.

Refrain
In him there is no dark-ness at all. The

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of five systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The first system includes three numbered verses. The second system has three lines of lyrics. The third system has three lines of lyrics. The fourth system has three lines of lyrics. The fifth system is labeled 'Refrain' and has one line of lyrics.

night and the day are both alike. The
Lamb is the light of the city of God.
rit.
a tempo
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Words: Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934) Music: *Houston*, Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934)
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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

Presider and People

Almighty God, you promised through our Lord Jesus Christ that where two or three are gathered together in his name, you will be in the midst of them. We ask you to be in the midst of us now, though we are far apart, and to bind us to one another, and to you, through the power of your Holy Spirit. Just as you, Father, are in the Son, and he in you, so may we also be in you, and Christ in us, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Presider

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Presider: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

Allegro

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827), Sonata no. 15 in D major, Op. 28, 1801

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.

Thank you, Sally Edwards! This Sunday, we're again trying something different for our sermon time: Sally Edwards and Keri Aubert will begin a conversation about prayer, one into which you will be invited. You may not know that Sally is well credentialed for this conversation, so here's a short bio: Sally taught ballet for 26 years for the Princeton Ballet School, then earned an MA in spiritual direction from The General Theological Seminary, by studying at both there and at Princeton Seminary. Along the way she did Clinical Pastoral Education at two hospitals. Sally served as Pastoral Associate at Christ Church, New Brunswick, NJ; as hospice chaplain in both inpatient and home-care; as spiritual director; and, after retirement, as part-time chaplain at a retirement community. She still works as a spiritual director with Yale Divinity School students. Sally and Don lived in NJ for “the first 50 years of our marriage,” as Don puts it. They moved to CT to be near Jenny, Ricardo, and Alex Chavira. They also have a son who lives in Oregon and who's the father of five ranging in age from college junior to 8th grade.

It's Stewardship Season! If you haven't seen it, please check out the Stewardship Special Edition Enews that went out on Wednesday.

Advent begins two weeks from today. Check the Enews for Advent resources. And look out for news about Lessons & Carols and Christmas worship.

Serving Today

Presider: The Rev. Keri Aubert

Preacher: Sally Edwards and Keri Aubert

Musician: Dr. Noah Horn

Lectors: Catherine Stricklan, Bob Herdt

Intercessor: William English

This Week's Prayer Intentions

Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially:
all who are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic,
especially those who work in healthcare and those
who have lost their livelihood

Pray for those who have died.

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

St. Paul's, Windham; Grace Church, Windsor; St.
James', Winsted; All Saints', Wolcott; Ministries with
older adults; the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, and the
Daughters of the King

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:
the Church of Ceylon

**In the World Council of Churches Ecumenical
Prayer Cycle, pray for:**
East Timor (Timor Leste), Indonesia, Philippines

Leadership at St. Thomas's

Church Vestry

Kyle Holton (Senior Warden)

Denise Terry (Junior Warden)

Ricardo Chavira (Treasurer)

Linda Meyer (Clerk)

Greg D'Andrea

Bill English

Chris Martinez

Alexandria Robison

Catherine Stricklan

The Rev. Keri Aubert (Rector)

Church (Volunteer) Associate Priests

The Rev. Canon K. Dexter Cheney

The Rev. Jakki Flanagan

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ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL

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