



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (PROPER 11) – YEAR A

Service of Holy Eucharist

July 23, 2017 10:00 A.M.

If you are new or visiting ...

Welcome! After the service, please come to Coffee Hour (in the Lounge on the 2nd floor) for food and fellowship. Though other churches make the claim, ours really is the Best Coffee Hour in Connecticut. You can request a name tag using the form in the pew rack or the sheet at the entrance. Next Sunday your new name tag will be waiting for you on the table in the foyer inside the main church entrance.

To follow along with the service you will need this bulletin and, from the pew racks, *The Book of Common Prayer* (red) and *The Hymnal 1982* (blue). During Holy Communion, you will need only the *1979 Book of Common Prayer*.

Families with small children: Three seating areas at the front of the church are reserved for families with small children: the area under the array of paper cranes (for children age 3 and under), and the areas in front of the two front pews (for children age 10 and under). For safety, every child should be accompanied by a caregiver.

Wireless access in the Sanctuary is accessible by connecting to wireless network STEC – Guest. Your device will open a web browser and St. Thomas's website. Sunday bulletins are posted on the website's Bulletin Archive. We aim to reduce printing by encouraging worshippers to use their smart devices to follow the order of service.

Education for all ages takes place from 9 to 9:45 A.M. on most Sundays during the academic year. All programs are currently on hiatus until September.

Restrooms for men and women are located on the second floor. Go through the red double doors at the front of the church, up the stairs to the left, and to the far end of the hallway. An **all-gender restroom (with baby changing table)** in the Vesting Room, located opposite the red double doors at the front of the church.

For the celebration of Holy Eucharist, the people gather around the altar. While this may be unfamiliar to you, most find it to be a powerful experience of true communion at our common table.

All are invited to receive Holy Communion. Baptism is not required; church membership is not required. There are usually two communion stations, one at each front corner of the altar. **Gluten-free bread** is available at each station. **Non-alcoholic wine** is available only from the server at the center of the altar. Any difference will be explained during the announcements.

Receiving Holy Communion: The server will place the bread in your hands. Please sip wine from the common cup; using both hands to guide the chalice to your lips—this is the most sanitary option. Some people “intinct” (dip the bread into the wine), or receive bread only, or request only a blessing. Additional instructions for communion and for worship more generally are included at appropriate points in the following order of service.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

PROCESSIONAL HYMN Hymn 665 All my hope on God is founded, *The Hymnal 1982*

OPENING ACCLAMATION Page 355, *The Book of Common Prayer*

KYRIE Page 356, *The Book of Common Prayer*

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

GENESIS 28:10-19a

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 139:1-11, 22-23

Page 794, *The Book of Common Prayer*

THE SECOND LESSON

ROMANS 8:12-25

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

Hymn 542 Christ is the world's true light, *The Hymnal 1982*

THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 13:24-30, 36-43

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

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

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord

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

THE SERMON

THE NICENE CREED

Page 358, *The Book of Common Prayer*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: FORM VI

Page 392, *The Book of Common Prayer*

CONFESSION OF SIN

Page 360, *The Book of Common Prayer*

THE PEACE

Page 360, *The Book of Common Prayer*

Please remain seated for the beginning of the Offertory Hymn. The Oblationers come forward immediately, presenting the bread and wine for communion. The Ushers follow but turn and take the collection from the front to the back of the church. The Ushers then bring the collection forward. After the ushers pass, rise and follow them up the center aisle, and then join with the congregation to encircle the altar. You are encouraged to position children where they can see. Small children may sit with a caregiver on the floor in front of the altar. Standing time is approximately 15 minutes. If you are unable to stand, you may sit in one of the chairs arranged near the altar, move to the front row of pews, or remain where you are.

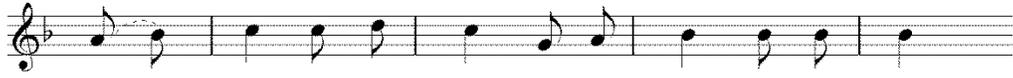
OFFERTORY HYMN **Hymn 453** As Jacob with travel was weary one day, *The Hymnal 1982*



1 As Ja - cob with tra - vel was wea - ry one day,
 2 The lad - der is long, it is strong and well - made,
 3 Come, let us a - scend! All may climb it who will,
 4 And when we ar - rive at the ha - ven of rest,



at night on a stone for a pil - low he lay;
 has stood hun - dreds of years and is not yet de - cayed;
 for the an - gels of Ja - cob are guard - ing it still;
 we shall hear the glad words, "Come to me all the blest,



he saw in a vi - sion a lad - der so high,
 man - y mil - lions have climbed it and reached Zi - on's hill,
 and re - mem - ber, each step that by faith we pass o'er,
 here are re - gions of light, here are man - sions of bliss."



that its foot was on earth and its top in the sky:
 man - y mil - lions by faith now are climb - ing it still:
 man - y pro - phets and mar - tyrs have trod it be - fore:
 Who would not want to climb such a lad - der as this:

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia to Je - sus, who died on the tree



and has raised up a lad - der of mer - cy for me.



and has raised up a lad - der of mer - cy for me.

Words: English carol, ca. 18th cent. Music: *Jacob's Ladder*, English folk melody; harm. Jack Noble White (b. 1938).
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EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER C

Page 369, *The Book of Common Prayer*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Page 364, *The Book of Common Prayer*

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Page 364, *The Book of Common Prayer*

COMMUNION HYMN **Hymn 302** Father, we thank thee who has planted *The Hymnal 1982*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Page 365, *The Book of Common Prayer*

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Page 366, *The Book of Common Prayer*

ORGAN VOLUNTARY