



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (PROPER 12) – YEAR A

Service of Holy Eucharist

July 30, 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 594 God of grace and God of glory, *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.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

GENESIS 29:15-28

Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 128

Page 783, *The Book of Common Prayer*

THE SECOND LESSON

ROMANS 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor

height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN Hymn 447 The Christ who died but rose again, *The Hymnal 1982*

THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 13:31-33, 44-52

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

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

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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

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 324 Let all mortal flesh keep silence, *The Hymnal 1982*

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and
 2 King of kings, yet born of Ma-ry, as of old on
 3 Rank on rank the host of hea-ven spreads its van-guard
 4 At his feet the six-winged ser-aph; cher-u-bim with

trem-bling stand; pon-der noth-ing earth-ly -
 earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu-man
 on the way, as the Light of Light de-
 sleep-less eye veil their fac-es to the

mind-ed, for with bless-ing in his hand
 ves-ture, in the Bo-dy and the Blood
 scend-eth from the realms of end-less day,
 Pres-ence, as with cease-less voice they cry,

Christ our God to earth de-scend-eth,
 he will give to all the faith-ful
 that the powers of hell may va-nish
 "Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!"

our full hom-age to de-mand.
 his own self for heaven-ly food.
 as the dark-ness clears a-way.
 Al-le-lu-ia, Lord Most High!"

Words: Liturgy of St. James; para. Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885).

Music: Picardy, French carol, 17th cent.; melody from *Chansons populaires des Provinces de France*, 1860;
 harm. after *The English Hymnal*, 1906. Reprinted under CCLI License #11291249.

EUCHARISTIC 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 711 Seek ye first the kingdom of God, *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