ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, PROPER 19, YEAR A

Service of Holy Eucharist

September 13, 2026 10 A.M.

Welcome!

Wherever you happen to be on your spiritual journey, **there is a place for you here**, and we invite you to participate as fully as you wish. There is a saying in the Episcopal tradition that answers many a question: "All *may*, some *do*, but none *must*." We gather to feast on Word and sacrament and song, to learn and inquire, to enjoy relaxed fellowship and find mutual support. And we are sent out to be the Body of Christ in the world, to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

To participate in worship today all you need is this bulletin. If you are new or visiting, we invite you to consider filling out a **blue information card** (located in the pew rack). You can use it to request a **nametag**, which will be waiting for you on the table inside the main entrance.

All church spaces are accessible. Handicapped parking and a wheelchair ramp are located in back of the building; a lift for access to the second floor is located at the stairway.

Restrooms are located on the second floor. Go through the double doors near the pulpit, upstairs to the second floor, and to the far end of the hallway. A **gender-neutral restroom with baby changing table** is in the Vesting Room, located opposite the double doors near the pulpit.

Three seating areas at the front of the nave are reserved for **families with small children**: the area under the array of paper cranes (for children age 3 and under), and the two areas in front of the 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 the St. Thomas's website. Bulletins are posted in the website's Bulletin Archive. To reduce printing, we encourage worshippers to use their smart devices to follow the service.

St. Thomas's Church is located on Eansketambawg (Quinnipiac) land. This acknowledgment compels us to pause: in gratitude for the Quinnipiac and other Algonquin-speaking stewards of the territory that is now Connecticut; in regret for Christianity's participation in the colonization of the Americas; and in faith that God's reconciling power will bring true healing to the Earth and all its inhabitants.

VOLUNTARY I. Andantino con moto

Claude Debussy (1862–1918), from *Deux Arabesques*, CD 74

INTROIT (*Sung by the Choir*) Welcome

Let's walk together for a while and ask where we
begin to build a world where love can grow
and hope can enter in, to be the hands of healing
and to plant the seeds of peace,

Refrain
Singing welcome, welcome to this place.
You're invited to come and know God's grace.
All are welcome the love of God to share
'cause all of us are welcome here;
all are welcome in this place.

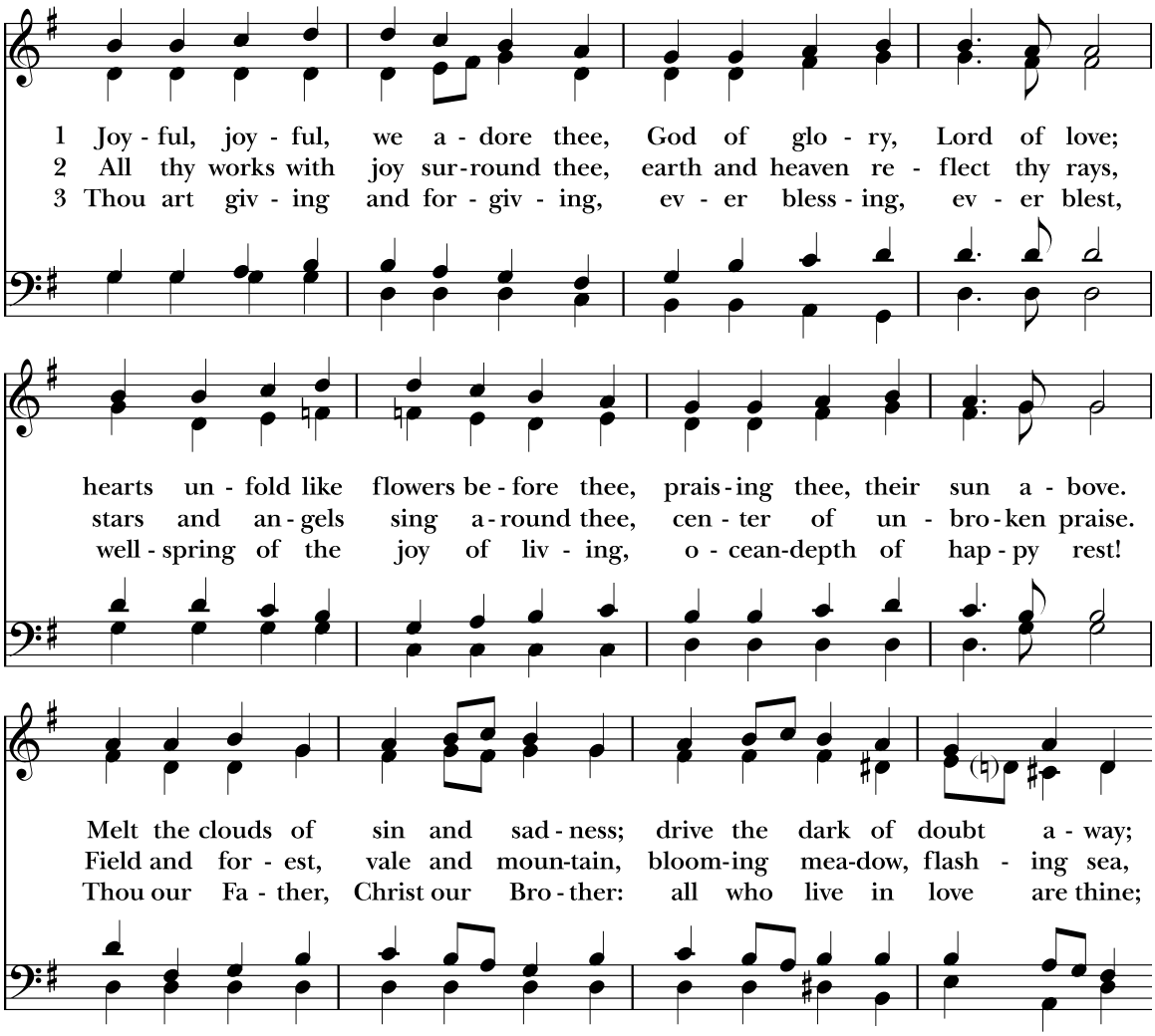
Let's talk together of a time when we will share a
feast, where pride and power kneel to serve the
lonely and the least, and joy will set the table
as we join our hands to pray,
Singing welcome…

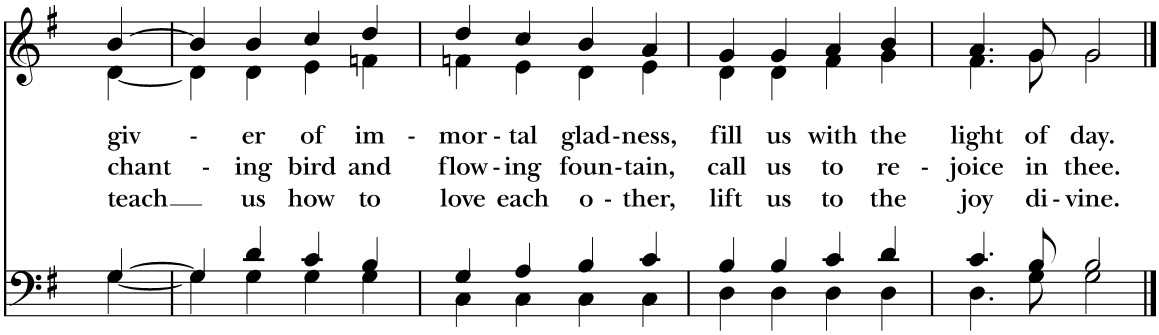
Let's dream together of the day when earth and
heav'n are one, a city built of love and light, the new
Jerusalem, where our mourning turns to dancing,
every creature lifts its voice!
Crying welcome…

Words: Mark Miller and Laurie Zelman Music: Mark A. Miller (b. 1967), 2007

At the ringing of the bell, please stand.

HYMN Joyful, joyful, we adore thee (**376**, *The Hymnal 1982*)





Words: Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933). Music: *Hymn to Joy*, Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827); adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867), alt.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SONG OF PRASE Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers (**S 236**, *The Hymnal 1982*)

you.
4. Glo - ry to you, seat - ed bet -
ween the Cher - u - bim; we will praise you and
high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.
Descant
5. Glo - ry to you, be -
5. Glo - ry to you, be - hold - ing the
hold - ing the depths; in the high vault of
depths; in the high vault of hea - ven, glo - ry to
hea - ven, 6. Glo - ry to you,
you. 6. Glo - ry to you, Fa - ther,
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit; we will
Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit; we will praise you and
high - ly ex - alt you Glo - ry to you!
high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.

Music: John Rutter (b. 1945). Copyright © 1985 Oxford University Press, Inc.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT

Presider: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Presider: Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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 GENESIS 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 103:8-13 (*Sung by the Choir*) Kellow J. Pye

8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
9 He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
12 As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.
13 As a father cares for his children, *
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.

THE SECOND LESSON ROMANS 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

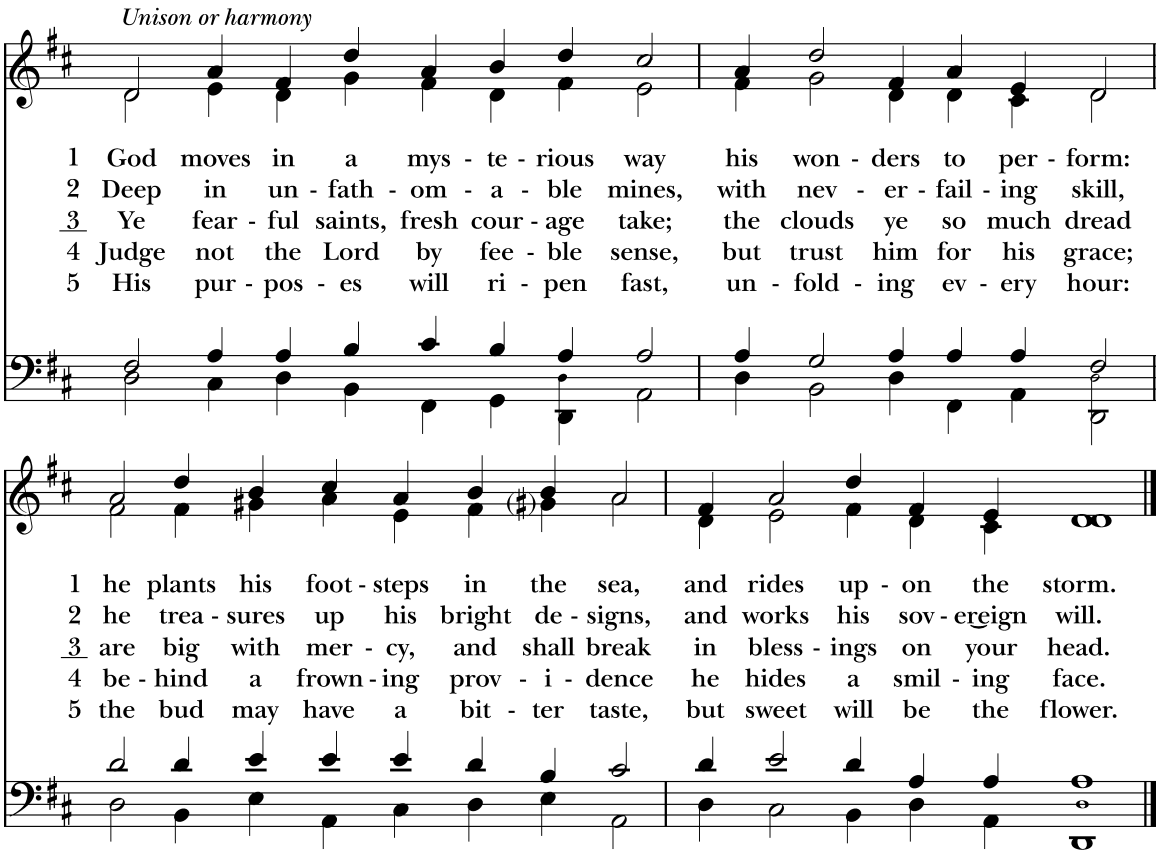
> "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
> and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

All stand.

SEQUENCE HYMN God moves in a mysterious way (**677**, *The Hymnal 1982*)



Words: William Cowper (1731-1800). Music: *London New*, melody from *The Psalmes of David in Prose and Meeter*, 1635; harm. John Playford (1623-1686).

THE GOSPEL MATTHEW 18:21-35

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.'

Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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. Then all stand.

THE NICENE CREED

Presider and People
We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(from A New Zealand Prayer Book)*

Presider
Let us pray for the Church and for the world, giving thanks for God's goodness.

Intercessor and People
Caring God, we thank you for your gifts in creation:
for our world, **the heavens tell of your glory;**
for our land, its beauty and its resources, **for the rich heritage we enjoy.**

We pray:
for those who make decisions about the resources of the earth,
that we may use your gifts responsibly;
for those who work on the land and sea, in city and in industry,
that all may enjoy the fruits of their labours and marvel at your creation;
for artists, scientists, and visionaries,
that through their work we may see creation afresh.

[*Silence is kept.*]

We thank you for giving us life; **for all who enrich our experience.**

We pray:
for all who are deprived of fullness of life,
for prisoners, refugees, and those who are sick;
for those in politics, medical science, social and relief work, and for your Church,
for all who seek to bring life to others.

[*Silence is kept.*]

We thank you that you have called us to celebrate your creation.
Give us reverence for life in your world.

We thank you for your redeeming love;
may your word and sacrament strengthen us to love as you love us.

[*Silence is kept.*]

God, Creator, bring us new life. **Jesus, Redeemer, renew us.**
Holy Spirit, strengthen and guide us.

The Presider invites the People to share their own petitions aloud or silently.

Presider
God of peace, let us your people know, that at the heart of turbulence there is an inner calm that comes from faith in you. Keep us from being content with things as they are, that

from this central peace there may come a creative compassion, a thirst for justice, and a willingness to give of ourselves in the spirit of Christ. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

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

Presider and People
God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Presider
Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of 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 greet your neighbors with a sign of peace, in whatever way seems welcome. You may then be seated for brief announcements and the ***Offertory Anthem****.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Your financial support is sincerely appreciated. We will not pass a collection plate today; collection plates are located at the doors. To give online, go to the Church website Home page (www.stthomasnewhaven.org), and click GIVE NOW. If viewing this document electronically, simply CLICK HERE. Thank you!

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (*Sung by the Choir*)

Prayer of St. Francis

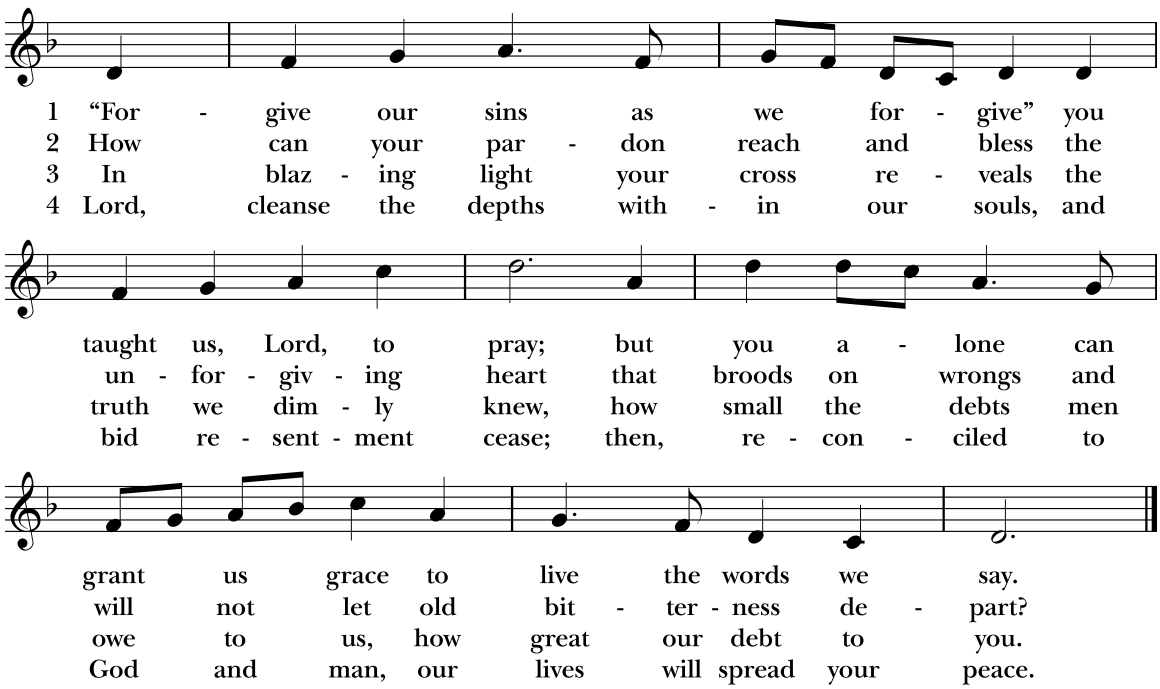
Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is discord, union;
Where there is doubt, faith;
And where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.
Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled,
as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
It is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Words: attr. Saint Francis of Assisi (c1181–1226), likely 20th c. Music: Roland E. Martin (b. 1955)

During the singing of the ***Offertory Hymn****, the Ushers bring the gifts forward and the Presider sets the table. The People follow the Ushers and encircle the altar for the Eucharistic prayer. You are encouraged to position children where they can see. Standing time is approximately 15 minutes. If this is difficult for you, feel free to sit in a chair near the altar or in the the front row of pews. You may also remain where you are.*

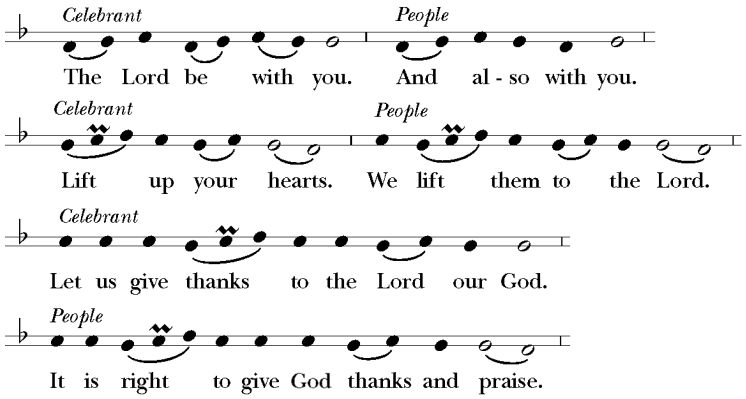
All stand.

OFFERTORY HYMN "Forgive our sins as we forgive" (**674**, *The Hymnal 1982*)



Words: Rosamond E. Herklots (1905-1987). By permission of Oxford University Press. Music: *Detroit*, from *Supplement to Kentucky Harmony*, 1820; acc. Margaret W. Mealy (b. 1922).

THE HOLY COMMUNION
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 2 (*ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP*)



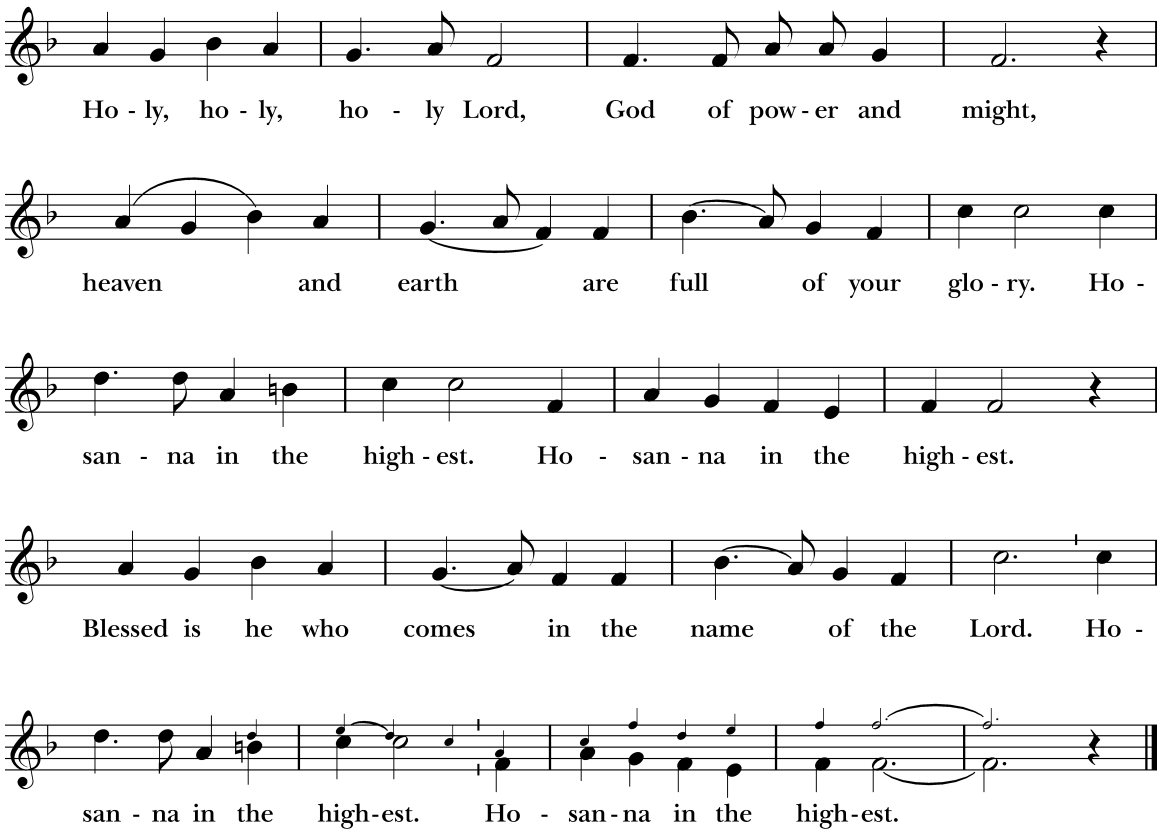
Presider

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and time again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

SANCTUS Holy, holy, holy Lord (**S 125**, *The Hymnal 1982*)



Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

Presider

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is

poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with [_____ and] all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

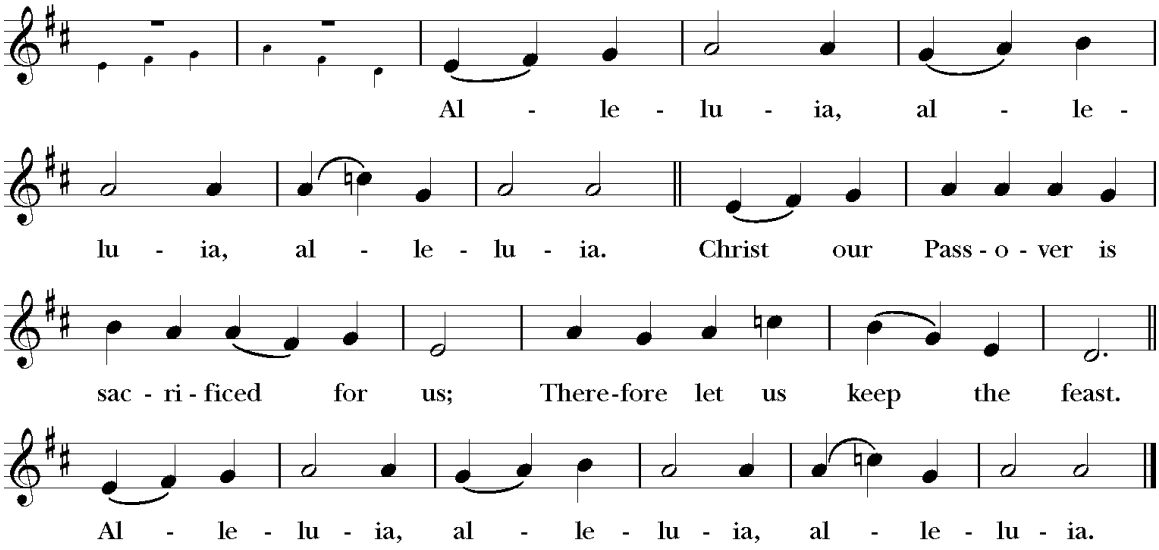
You are invited to say the Lord's Prayer in the language of your choice.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

FRACTION ANTHEM Christ our Passover (**S 155**, *The Hymnal 1982*)



Setting: Gerald R. Near (b. 1942)

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

All are invited to receive Holy Communion at God's table in this church. *Baptism is not required; church membership is not required. For the distribution of Holy Communion, the priest and Eucharistic minister will come to you. To receive a blessing instead of communion, cross your arms over your chest. You may choose not to partake of wine—Holy Communion is complete and efficacious when received in one kind only. To receive wine, you may sip from the common cup, or intinct (dip the bread into the wine). If you choose to intinct, please dip only the tip of the bread into the wine—fingers that touch the wine are a source of contamination. After receiving communion or a blessing, please return to your original seat.*

COMMUNION ANTHEM (*Sung by the Schola Antiqua*) Ave verum corpus

Ave verum corpus natum de Maria Virgine:
vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine.
Cujus latus perforatum, unda fluxit sanguine:
esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine.
O dulcis, O pie, O Jesu fili Mariae,
miserere mei.

Hail true body, born of the Virgin Mary:
who truly suffered, sacrificed on the cross for man.
From whose pierced side flowed blood:
be for us a foretaste in the trial of death.
O sweet, O holy, O Jesus son of Mary,
have mercy on me

Words: Eucharistic hymn Music: Richard Dering (c1580–1630), *Cantiones sacrae quinque vocum*, No. 7, 1617

After all have received communion, all stand.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

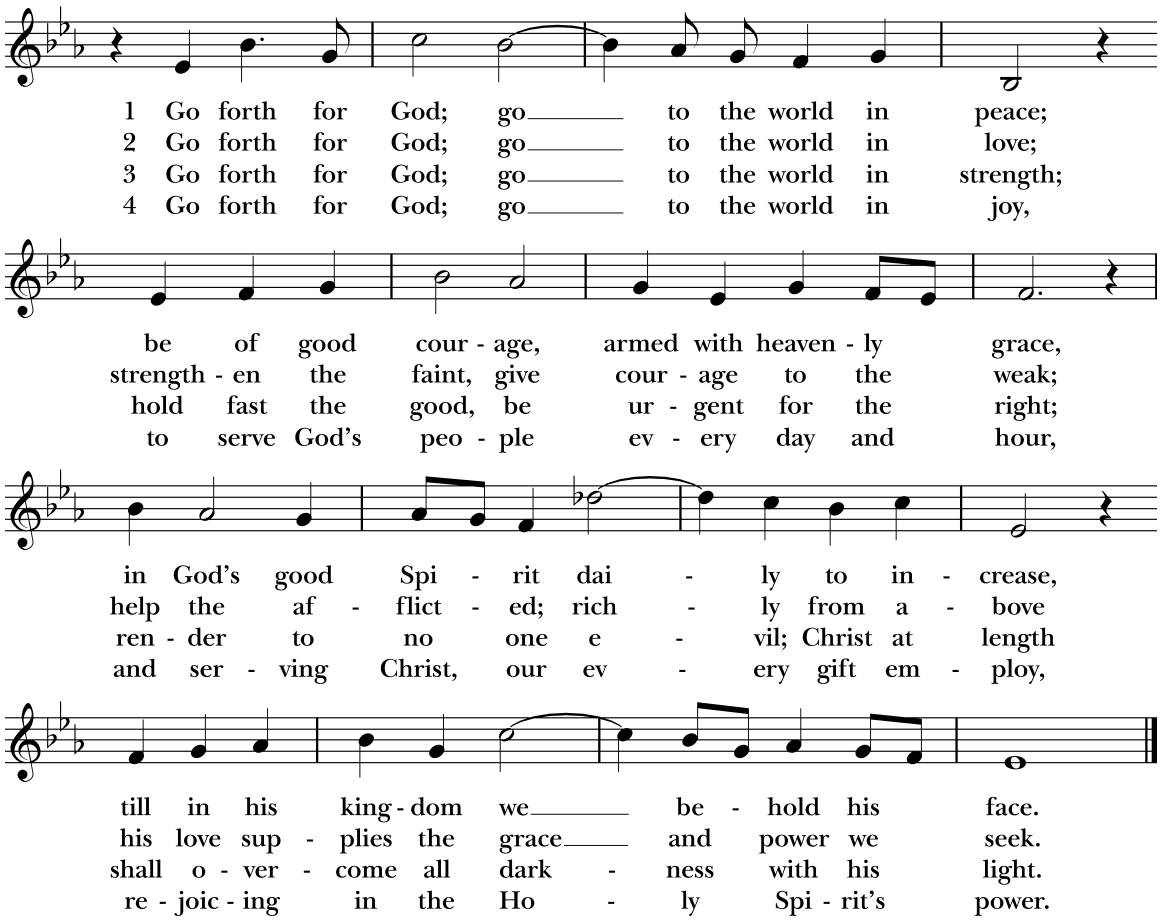
Presider: Let us pray.

Presider and People
God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE BLESSING

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

HYMN Go forth for God (**347**, *The Hymnal 1982*)



Words: J.R. Peacey (1896-1971) and *English Praise*, 1975, alt. Copyright © 1984 by Hope Publishing company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Litton*, Erik Routley (1917-1982). Copyright © 1984 by Hope Publishing Company Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

DISMISSAL

Presider: *[The Presider dismisses the People.]*
People: Thanks be to God.

You may be seated for the voluntary or exit the church.

VOLUNTARY III. Hymne au Soleil

Louis Vierne (1870–1937), from *24 Pièces de Fantaisie*, Suite No. 2, Op. 53

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Serving Today

Coffee Hour Hosts: St. Thomas's Vestry
Flowers: Sally Nanfeldt, Heather Robison
Intercessor: Max Ballardo
Lector: Jenny Chavira
Music Director: Dr. Matthew Cramer
Organist: Dr. Stephen Gamboa-Diaz
Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Alan Murchie
Sacristan: Debbie Griffin
Subdeacon: Ricardo Chavira
Ushers: Chris and CharlotteRose Acosta, Debbie Griffin
Vestry Host: Jennifer Herdt

Leadership at St. Thomas's

Church Vestry
Max Ballardo
Ricardo Chavira (Junior Warden)
Maria Coffin
Bill English (Treasurer)
Jennifer Herdt (Senior Warden)
Linda Pivarnik
Claire Scully (Clerk)

St. Thomas's Clergy
The Rev. Eric Jeuland, Priest Associate
The Rev. Jane Jeuland, Priest Associate
The Rev. Alan C. Murchie, Rector
The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Sharp, Preacher-in-Residence

This Week's Prayer Intentions

Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially:
for Faith, Gary, Maria, Martin, Michael, Susan
for the people of Iran
for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia
for the people of Gaza and the people of Israel
for victims of civil war in Syria and the Sudan
for all who are afflicted by war, violence, and natural disaster

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; Province 1: the Dioceses of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont & Western Massachusetts. For Provincial Synod & all Provincial Networks

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for: The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia

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

ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL
830 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 777-7623 ♦ www.stthomasnewhaven.org

Dr. Matthew Cramer, Music Director
♦ music@stthomasnewhaven.org
Dr. Stephen Gamboa-Diaz, Organist
s.gamboa-diaz@stthomasnewhaven.org
Teagan Sage, Seminarian Intern
Julie Kelly, Administrator ♦ j.kelly@stthomasnewhaven.org
The Rev. Alan Murchie, Rector
♦ alan@stthomasnewhaven.org

Announcements

For all the latest news and information, see last week's edition of the Weekly Parish Enews. From the Parish website Home page (www.stthomasnewhaven.org), click Enews Archive for the latest edition or Enews (subscribe) to subscribe.

TODAY! **Welcome Back Picnic** 🎈
Please plan to join us after the service for our annual fall picnic. This will be an "indoor picnic" in the Parish Lounge so that we can enjoy items straight from the oven. 🌭 We'll also roll out plans for 2026-2027, a season that includes, among much else, the 70th Birthday Celebration of St. Thomas's Day School.

Anniversary Blessings
Happy Anniversary to **Lorna and Bob Herdt**, who were married in Darien, New York, on September 9, 1961. Please join us in celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary this Sunday at the Welcome Back Picnic!

SUNDAY SCHOOL -- Children and their families are welcome to gather at coffee hour for friendship and brief lessons. We begin the program year with THE SEASON OF CREATION. Fill a plate, get yourself a drink, and join our table. Questions? Denise Terry (terry.df@gmail.com)

Upcoming Choir Season
Welcome back to our choir who began their regular season last week! For those who are interested in joining the choir, our next regular rehearsal will be Sunday, September 20th. The choir typically meets before services at 9am and sings for the 10am service and rehearses on Sundays from 11:30am-1:00pm. While there isn't an official audition, previous experience reading music and singing in choirs is preferred.

For more information about joining the St. Thomas's Choir for our regular season, please contact music director Matthew Cramer at m.cramer@stthomasnewhaven.org.

New! **Season of Creation** Daily Devotions
From September 1 through October 4, the Episcopal Church will be offering daily devotions throughout our annual "Season of Creation." Devotions will highlight a different species in our region each day, including a photo, a brief description, reflection on how the species reflects our image of God, and a closing prayer. Sign up for the **Season of Creation** daily devotional here: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/0XmcMht

Blessing of the Animals | Sunday, October 4 at 2 PM
Bring your animals and join us for a brief service of blessing outside on the front plaza.

Pride Evensong | Sunday, October 4 at 5:30 PM
Join the St. Thomas's Choir on October 4 for a special Choral Evensong in celebration of New Haven Pride, which takes place the day before in downtown New Haven! Pride is a time to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community and honor its history. For this Evensong, the Choir will present music of queer composers. We hope to see you there!

Inquirers' Class Resumes Tuesday, **October 6**
Our monthly Inquirers' Class invites all interested into a dynamic, ongoing conversation about the Episcopal and Anglican traditions. What does it mean to be Episcopalian? What do we believe? What makes us distinctive? Topics include church history, the Prayer Book, music, architecture, liturgy, and much more. One may attend one, a few, or all; each class focuses on a different topic. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month from 5:30-6:30. All are welcome, whether new to the Episcopal Church or not! We meet in the Vesting Room just beyond the sanctuary. To enter the building, please use the ramp door (up the short ramp behind the building) since the main church doors are locked at that hour. Feel free to be in touch with Alan anytime with questions at alan@stthomasnewhaven.org.

Coffee Hour
Please consider signing up as Coffee Hour host, co-host, or contributor, either by adding your name to the poster in the lounge or by using our online signup here.

Parish Directory Updates
Please email Julie with any changes to your address or contact info, or if you wish to be added to the directory. Thank you.

Name Tags
Wearing name tags is a simple and wonderful way to practice radical welcome. If you have never had a St. Thomas's name tag, or have lost the one you had, please sign up in the narthex or at coffee hour and look for your new name tag in a week's time. You can also email Julie in the parish office, j.kelly@stthomasnewhaven.org to request a name tag. Name tags may be left in the basket in the lounge following coffee hour, or at the rear of the church in the name tag holders. Please wear your name tag every week!

Sunday Server Sign-ups
There are many ways to contribute to the worship life of St. Thomas's. We are eager to welcome new servers in the roles of lector, usher, intercessor, subdeacon, and sacristan. If you are interested in learning more or in receiving training, please reach out to Vestry member Claire Scully, chiarasam@comcast.net. We would love for you to share your gifts with St. Thomas!

Responding to Food Insecurity in our Community
Connecticut Food Pantries have seen a sharp rise in need this year, serving 23% more households. The need is great. Please join us in supporting Loaves and Fishes. You can give at this link.

Donating Clothing for Loaves and Fishes. Our support for the clothing ministry is ongoing. Please be thoughtful in your selection of items. Current specific requests include: men's/women's jeans; men's shirts, sweaters, jackets, shoes, new socks. Bring donations to St. Thomas's (leave them in the tub at the Whitney Ave. entrance) or to Loaves and Fishes (Thurs-Sat, 9-11 a.m., in the driveway at 57 Olive St.).