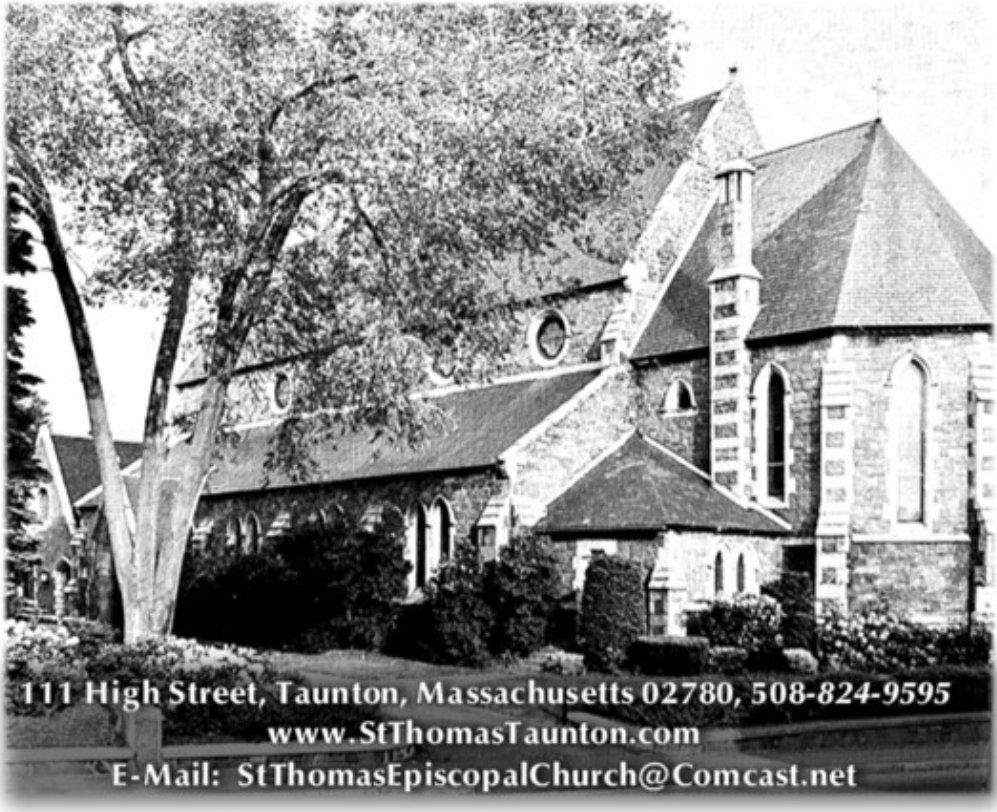


The Episcopal Church of St. Thomas
Service of Holy Eucharist
Sunday September 10, 2023
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



The Rev. Joseph Mumita - Rector
The Rev. Virgilio Fortuna - Deacon
Edward Seaholm - Music Director

Welcome to St. Thomas! If you are a guest or visitor, we hope that you will feel warmly greeted and enthusiastically welcomed. If you need any kind of assistance, including a hearing-assistance device, please ask the greeter at the door.



1 Stand up, stand up, for Je - sus, ye sold - iers of the cross;
 2 Stand up, stand up, for Je - sus; the trum - pet call o - bey;
 3 Stand up, stand up, for Je - sus; stand in this strength a - lone;
 4 Stand up, stand up, for Je - sus: the strife will not be long:



lift high his roy - al ban - ner, it must not suf - fer loss:
 forth to the might - y con - flict in this his glo - rious day:
 the arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your own:
 this day, the noise of bat - tle; the next, the vic - tor's song.



from vic - tory un - to vic - tory his ar - my shall he lead,
 ye that are his now serve him a - gainst un - num - bered foes;
 put on the Gos - pel ar - mor, and watch - ing un - to prayer,
 To val - iant hearts tri - um - phant, a crown of life shall be;



till ev - ery foe is van - quished and Christ is Lord in - deed.
 let cour - age rise with dan - ger, and strength to strength op - pose.
 when du - ty calls, or dan - ger, be nev - er want - ing there.
 they with the King of glo - ry shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.

THE WORD OF GOD

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

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Collect of Purity

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.**

The Gloria



1. Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men.



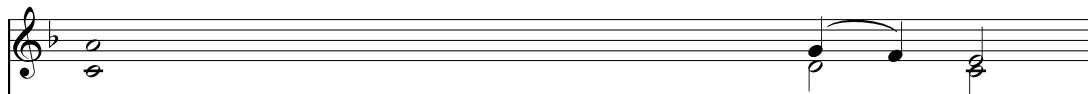
2. We praise thee, we bless thee, we wor-ship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks



to thee for thy great glo - ry, 3. O Lord God, heaven - ly King,



God the Father Al-might - y. 4. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther,



5. that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy up - on us.



6. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, re - ceive our prayer.



7. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Fa-ther, have mercy up - on us.

8. For thou on - ly art ho - ly; thou on - ly art the Lord; 9. Thou only, O Christ,

with the Ho-ly Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever **Amen.**

The First Reading *(please sit)*

Ezekiel 33:7-11

You, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:33-40 (*please stand*)

33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, *
and I shall keep it to the end.

34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; *
I shall keep it with all my heart.

35 Make me go in the path of your commandments, *
for that is my desire.

36 Incline my heart to your decrees *
and not to unjust gain.

37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; *
give me life in your ways.

38 Fulfill your promise to your servant, *
which you make to those who fear you.

39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, *
because your judgments are good.

40 Behold, I long for your commandments; *
in your righteousness preserve my life.

The Second Reading (*please sit*)

Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Gradual

Lord Jesus think on me

Hymnal #641



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, with care and woe op - pressed;
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is passed,



from harm - ful pas - sions set me free, and make me pure with - in.
let me thy lov - ing ser - vant be, and taste thy prom - ised rest.
through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point thou the heav - en - ly way.
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see, and share thy joy at last.

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 16:21-28

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

The Gospel of The Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ

The Sermon

The Reverend Joseph Mumita

The Nicene Creed *(please stand)*

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: by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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 and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

The Prayers of the People

Wanting to serve our God and trusting that we will be protected in time of trial and preserved in time of evil, we bring our needs and longings into the divine presence, saying: **Lord, Hear our prayer.**

That you may bless our church and raise up in our midst holy men and women to proclaim your gospel, celebrate our sacraments, and minister to those who long for your saving help,

We pray to you good and faithful God. **Lord, Hear our prayer.**

That you may bless our world and deliver it into the hands of leaders who trust in your providence, serve others in your name, and work to establish a reign of justice and peace,

We pray to you good and faithful God. **Lord, Hear our prayer.**

That you may bless our homes so they may be free from hatred, filled with love, and hospitable to those who are lonely, isolated, sick, or poor,

We pray to you good and faithful God. **Lord, Hear our prayer.**

That you may bless husbands and wives so that in their love for one another, they mirror the love that Christ has for the church,

We pray to you good and faithful God. **Lord, Hear our prayer.**

That you may bless those who share your life with others- physicians who seek to bring health where there is sickness, educators to seek to bring wisdom where there is ignorance, and artists who seek to bring beauty where there is squalor,

We pray to you good and faithful God. **Lord, Hear our prayer.**

[other intercessions may be offered]

That you may bless those who have gone before us in faith that they may abide in peace and pray for us who continue on life's journey,

We pray to you good and faithful God. **Lord, Hear our prayer.**

The Confession

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so, uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: 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

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Let us greet one another with the sign of peace.

Announcements *(please sit)*

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory

For the fruit of all creation

Hymnal #424



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

The Doxology (*please stand*)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For with your co-eternal Son and Holy Spirit, you are one God, one Lord, in Trinity of Persons and in Unity of Being; and we celebrate the one and equal glory of you, O Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

Hymnal S 130

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory,

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

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:

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again

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 forever. **Amen.**

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

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, Forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore, let us keep the feast.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Communion

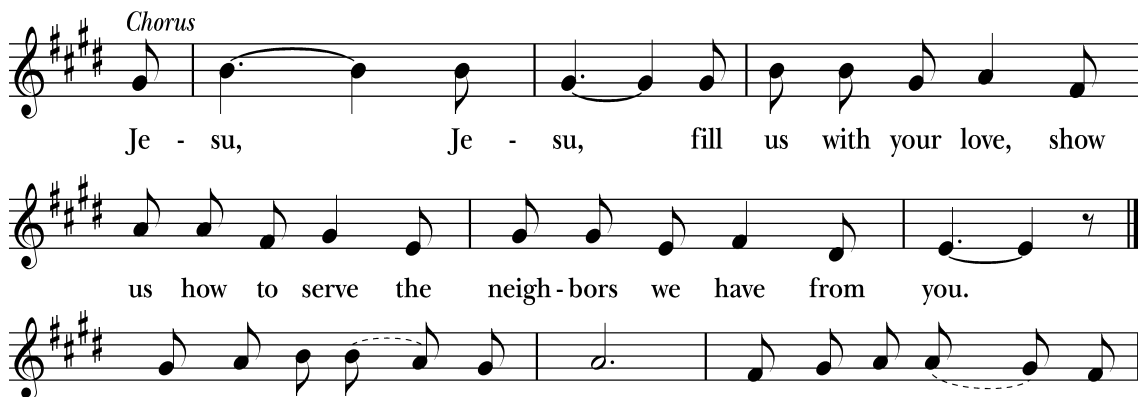
All baptized persons are welcome to receive at the Lord's table.

Communion

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love

Hymnal #602

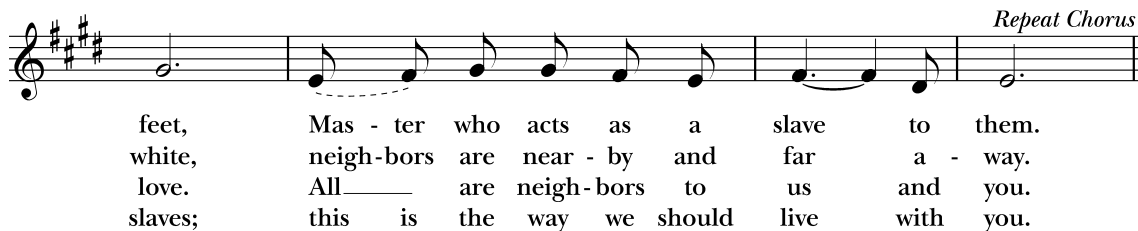
Chorus



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show
us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

- 1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their
- 2 Neigh-bors are rich and poor, neigh-bors are black and
- 3 These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should
- 4 Lov - ing puts us on our knees, serv - ing as though we were

Repeat Chorus



feet, Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
white, neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
love. All are neigh-bors to us and you.
slaves; this is the way we should live with you.

Post Communion Prayer:

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.

The Blessing

Recessional

Joyful, Joyful we adore thee

Hymnal #376



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;



giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

Dismissal: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Please join us for coffee hour in the parish hall following the Service.

Participants: Christina Latour (Lay leader/Preacher), Monica Shearer (Cantor), Calvinne Dwuye (Torch), Alexia Bumpis (Book Carrier), Joan Thairu (Crucifer), Mygia-Jordan Findley (Torch), Sandi Mongiovi (Sacristan).

Counters: Lisa Benedetti and Joanne Stevens

PRAYERS

In the parish cycle of prayer

Each week we pray for five households, so that we may reach out in prayer to all our members on a regular basis.

This week we pray for Michael & Caitlin Pollard, Marie Pratt, Priscilia Prescott, Sandra Primo, Peggy Radevicz and for each of their families. Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you.

For the homebound and ill

We pray for Athena Athas, Sergio Bento, Wayne Bessette, Jen Boyts, Frank Capron, Chris Moss, Kim Goulet, Agnes Kofa, Dinis Loura, Annemarie Matulis, Edna Michaels, Jay Medeiros, Linda Perkins, Wayne Perkins, Cindy Quinn, Lou Raposa, Carol Russell, Carole Silvia, Daniel Stevens, Sandra Trauterman, and Paul Yagman.

For those who serve in the Armed Forces and Overseas

We pray for Nicholas Ceriani, Jay Devenger, Megan Drewniak, Adam Dyke, Christopher French, William Marsh IV, Scott Larson, Donald Souza, Noel Souza, and Ryan Vohnoutka.

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer

We pray for Ascension Memorial Church, Ipswich, St. Stephen's Memorial Church, Lynn, Emmanuel Chapel, Manchester-by-the-sea, and Ministries to the Homeless.

Memorial Flowers are donated in loving memory of...

A. Loring Swasey by friends

Edgar L Angel by friends

Gordon W. Steeves by friends

Charles & Amanda Almquist by the Betz family

Gabe & Brenda Lee Silvia and Marion & Val Dunphe by Carole Silvia & family

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church School and Joyful Noise will resume today. School age children meet Linda and Lou at the back of the church at the beginning of the Service for music.

Senior Lunch – Thursday September 14th.

Seniors 55+ are warmly invited to join us Thursdays at 12 noon to enjoy appetizers, a meal, fellowship, and a game. You'll leave with a recipe and the ingredients to make it!

Homecoming - Come join us after the Service for some food, fun, and a chance to welcome everyone back from a restful summer and to meet new friends!

Thank you to the Kimball/Cameron family for sponsoring our annual Homecoming. They will be grilling delicious chicken, burgers, and hotdogs.



We can use help with clean-up and set-up.

Thank you in advance for your contributions!

Home Plate Fundraiser and 50/50 drawing on Tuesday, September 19th. On Tuesday, September 19th, enjoy lunch or dinner with your family and friends and present your ticket with your bill. (tickets available in church office). St. Thomas Church will receive 20% of your bill. This offer is good on sit-down meals, take-out orders as well as gift certificates purchased. Paul is also selling tickets for the 50/50 raffle that will be held that day.

Fall Festival November 4 & 5 – Volunteers needed!

Volunteers Needed!

Annual Fall Festival

November 4-5

- Farm stand
- Bakery
- Bid Board
- Crafts/knits/stiches
- Raffles
- Cafeteria and more!

This is an important fundraiser for St. Thomas. Please consider chairing or co-chairing this event or an individual booth.

Sponsors are also needed. If you have a special talent or are willing to help, **WE NEED YOU!** Contact Christina Latour for more information.

*As we return from vacations and summer activities,
please consider the ways you can serve your church community.*

Many way to SERVE:

Acolytes - Youth are encouraged to serve as acolytes. Please see Deacon Virgilio.

Altar Guild - Work to prepare the Altar for worship. Please see Sandi Mongiovi.

Coffee Hour Sponsor - Food and fellowship for hungry newcomers and members. Please sign up at coffee hour or call the office.

Ushers and Greeters - Give a smile and a happy welcome to those entering the church. See Bob Feltmate.

Lectors - Read the scriptures during the service. See Father Joseph or Deacon Virgilio.

Singers and Musicians - no experience required! Play your instrument or raise your voice in song to God while helping lead others in song. There are opportunities for musicians and singers throughout the year as soloists, instrumentalists and in ensembles.

We encourage all who may be interested in singing or playing an instrument to contact Ed Seaholm on Sunday or via email at ed.seaholm@gmail.com.

Church School - Assist in teaching the children in lessons and song. See Rene Vitale.

Fundraisers - There are many fundraisers throughout the year. We encourage your involvement. Please see Christina for information on how you can help with the fall fair. Attend the fundraising committee meeting on September 17th and every 3rd Sunday of the month to be involved in any of the fundraising initiatives.

