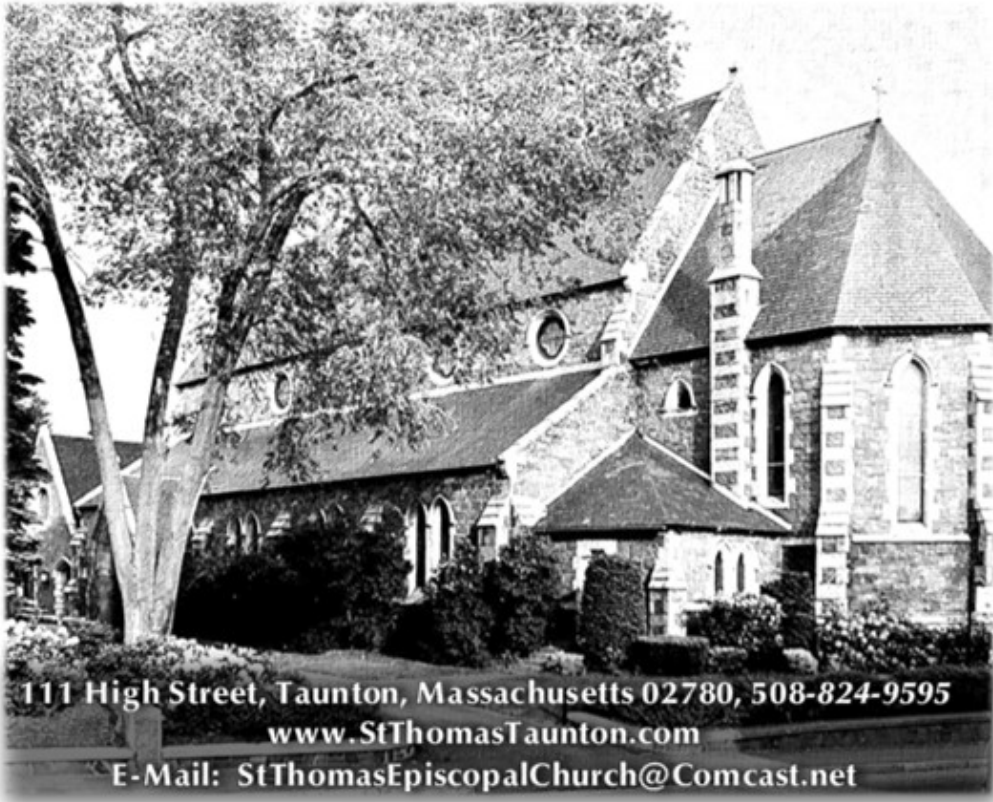


The Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

Service of Holy Eucharist

Sunday September 17, 2023

Sixteenth 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 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun-tain, whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou art might - y;
 stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
 fears sub - side; death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,



hold me with thy power - ful hand; bread of hea - ven,
 lead me all my jour - ney through; strong de - liv - erer,
 land me safe on Ca - naan's side; songs of prais - es,



bread of hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er -
 strong de - liv - erer, be thou still my strength and
 songs of prais - es, I will ev - er give to



more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
 shield, be thou still my strength and shield.
 thee, I will ev - er give to thee.

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.



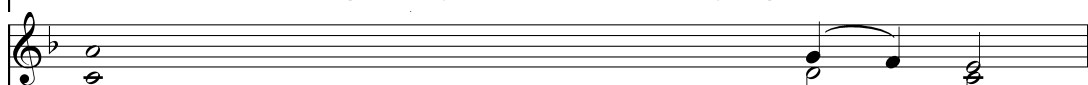
2. We praise thee, we bless thee, we wor-ship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks



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.



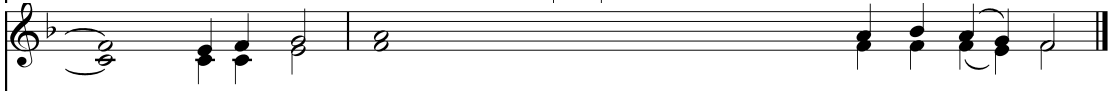
6. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, re - ceive our prayer.



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.

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.**

The First Reading *(please sit)*

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103:8-13 (*please stand*)

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 Reading (*please sit*)

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

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."

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.

Hymn

Whom Shall I Fear

Julie Moore

You hear me when I call. You are my morning song.
Though darkness fills the night, it cannot hide the light. Whom shall I fear?
You crush the enemy, underneath my feet.
You are my sword and shield, though troubles linger still. Whom shall I fear?
I know who goes before me, I know who stands behind,
the God of angel armies is always by my side.
The one who reigns forever. He is a friend of mine.
The God of angel armies is always by my side.
My strength is in your name. For you alone can save.
You will deliver me. Yours is the victory.
Whom shall I fear? Whom shall I fear?
I know who goes before me, I know who stands behind,
the God of angel armies is always by my side.
The One who reigns forever. He is a friend of mine.
The God of angel armies is always by my side.
And nothing formed against me shall stand.
You hold the whole world in your hands.
I'm holding on to your promises. You are faithful.
I know who goes before me, I know who stands behind,
the God of angel armies is always by my side.
The one who reigns forever. He is a friend of mine.
The God of angel armies is always by my side.

Announcements (*please sit*)

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory

Just as I am without one plea

Hymnal #693



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - ya
* 3 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; sight, rich - es,
4 Just as I am: thou wilt re - ceive; wilt wel - come,
5 Just as I am, thy love un - known has bro - ken



1 blood was shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me
2 con - flict, man - ya doubt; fight - ings and fears with -
3 heal - ing of the mind, yea, all I need, in
4 par - don, cleanse, re - lieve, be - cause thy prom - ise
5 ev - ery bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea,



1 come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
2 in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
3 thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
4 I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
5 thine a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am, of thy great love
the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,
here for a season, then above:
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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

Here, O my Lord, I see thee

Hymnal #318



1 Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face;
 2 Here would I feed up - on the Bread of God;
 3 I have no help but thine; nor do I need
 4 Mine is the sin, but thine the right - eous - ness;



here would I touch and han - dle things un - seen;
 here drink with thee the roy - al Wine of heaven;
 an - oth - er arm save thine to lean up - on;
 mine is the guilt, but thine the cleans - ing Blood.



here grasp with firm - er hand e - ter - nal grace,
 here would I lay a - side each earth - ly load,
 it is e - nough, my Lord, e - nough in - deed;
 Here is my robe, my re - fuge, and my peace;



and all my wea - ri - ness up - on thee lean.
 here taste a - fresh the calm of sin for - given.
 my strength is in thy might, thy might a - lone.
 thy Blood, thy right - eous - ness, O Lord, my God.

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

1. We praise thee, O God, For the son of thy
 2. We praise thee, O God, For thy spir - it of
 3. All glo - ry and praise To the lamb that was
 4. Re - vive us a - gain, Fill each heart with thy

1. love, For — Je - sus who died And is now gone a - bove.
 2. light, Who has shown us our Sav - ior, And scat - tered our night.
 3. slain, Who has borne all our sins And has cleansed ev - 'ry stain.
 4. love, May each soul be re - kin - dled With fire from a - bove.

Hal - le - lu - jah! Thine the glo - ry, Hal - le - lu - jah! A -

men, Hal - le - lu - jah! Thine the glo - ry, Re - vive us a - gain.

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 (Torch), Joan Thairu (Book Carrier), Mygia-Jordan Findley (Crucifer), Sandi Mongiovi (Sacristan).

Counters: Joanne Stevens

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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 Louis & Gayle Raposa, Norma Roby, Gordon Roderick, Michelle Rose, Andrew Schultz 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, Cash Doughty, Kim Goulet, Agnes Kofa, Dinis Loura, Annemarie Matulis, Edna Michaels, Jay Medeiros, Chris Moss, Linda Perkins, Wayne Perkins, Cindy Quinn, Lou Raposa, Carol Russell, Carole Silvia, Daniel Stevens, and Sandra Trauterman.

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 Wyman Memorial Church of St. Andrew, Marblehead, St. Michael's Church, Marblehead, St. Mary's Church, Rockport, and the Congregational Secretaries and Administrators of the diocese.

Memorial Flowers are donated in loving memory of...

Joseph Warner	by Friends
Mildred & Richard Anthony; Kenneth & Bertha	by Friends & Family
Richardson, Henry Youngberg & Luther	by Friends & Family
Winfield Slade	by Friends
Mabel L. Merithew	by Friends & Family
Mrs. Albert Short	by Family
Warrant Officer Douglas J. Lemaire (on the Serviceman's Altar)	by Family

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church School and Joyful Noise have resumed. School age children meet at the back of the church at the beginning of the Service for church school.

Home Plate Fundraiser and 50/50 drawing on Tuesday, September 19th (tickets available in church office). Paul is also selling tickets for the 50/50 raffle that will be held that day.

Fall Festival November 4 & 5 –

Volunteers needed! 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 or come to the fundraising meeting in the Coram Lounge at 11:30am today.

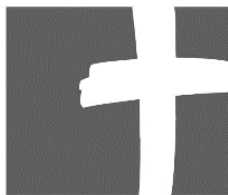
*As we return from vacations and summer activities,
please prayerfully consider the ways you can serve your church community.*



Give



Serve



Attend



Grow

Many way to SERVE:

Acolytes, Altar Guild, Coffee Hour Sponsor, Ushers, Greeters, Lectors, Singers and Musicians, Church School Assistants, Fundraiser Volunteers, and more.

Please refer to the newsletter for more information on how to SERVE.