

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

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Please, Enter in Silence and Meditation



The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 23, 2017

This service is offered to God and to the community
that we may journey together seeking God's
Kingdom through sharing Christ's Love one with

another and with all people.

New? Confused? Don't worry! We are genuinely pleased to have you worship here today. We suspect you may have some questions.

Everybody you see was a newcomer at one time or another and we've all had questions – probably the very same ones. So, don't hesitate to ask a question!

Books? This bulletin contains our liturgy, and all you need along with this bulletin is the blue Hymnal found in the pew rack for singing the hymns. But there is plenty more if you like! We have included the page numbers of the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP), also found in the pew rack. This is the sourcebook for our liturgy, and is a wonderful resource for prayer and study.

Episcopal worship invites participation by all the people to experience the risen Christ in this place. We want you to be comfortable so you can worship God and enjoy your visit today.

The posture of prayer, whether sitting, standing or kneeling is only a physical manifestation of the inward attitude of prayer. If you adopt the attitude of prayer then you may adapt the posture of prayer to suit your own needs. When you're worshipping God, you can't get it wrong!

Regardless of what anybody else is doing, don't do anything that makes you feel uncomfortable. Remember, if you need help, ask the person next to you. We like people here at St. Thomas'.

We invite all who are baptized to come forward and join us in receiving Holy Communion. Those who wish to come and receive a blessing may come to the rail and simply fold both arms across their chest to signal their desire.

We are delighted you're here, and we want you to come back. May God bless you this day; you have blessed us with your presence.

Holy Eucharist Rite II

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Come, thou almighty KingHymnal 35

Salutation.....BCP 362

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

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

Celebrant

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.*

Gloria in Excelsis..... Hymnal S280

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the DayBCP 231

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant 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.*

A reading from the book of 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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 139:1-11,22-23

Leader and People

1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways.

3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

4 You press upon me behind and before
and lay your hand upon me.

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

6 Where can I go then from your Spirit?
where can I flee from your presence?

7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there;

if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

8 If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

9 Even there your hand will lead me
and your right hand hold me fast.

10 If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me,
and the light around me turn to night,"

11 Darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day;
darkness and light to you are both alike.

22 Search me out, O God, and know my heart;
try me and know my restless thoughts.

23 Look well whether there be any wickedness in
me and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

A reading from 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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

We all stand.

Sequence Hymn:Hymnal 541

Remain standing for the reading of The Gospel.

The GospelMatthew 13:24-30,36-43

Celebrant 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!"

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon The Rev. John Soard

Moment of Quiet

The Nicene Creed.....BCP 358

All Stand and say together

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.

Prayers of the People:

Response:

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession and AbsolutionBCP 360

Celebrant

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

Celebrant and People

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

Offertory Hymn:Hymnal 440

You are invited to stand as our gifts of bread, wine, and money are brought to the altar.

The Great Thanksgiving.....Eucharistic Prayer C

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.

Celebrant

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People

By your will they were created and have their being.

Celebrant

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Celebrant

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People

By his blood, he reconciled us.
By his wounds, we are healed.

Celebrant

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus S130

Celebrant and People

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

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

The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

People

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Celebrant

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Celebrant

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

The Great Amen: *We sing "Amen" together.*

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the BreadBCP 364

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem: S161

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
Grant us peace.

The Celebrant says the following Invitation

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 Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

[Communicant Amen.]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

[Communicant Amen.]

The Communion of the People

All who seek God's blessing are welcome to come to the altar rail. If you are not yet baptized, or do not wish to receive for any reason, cross your arms over your chest and you will be given a blessing. All baptized persons are invited to receive Holy Communion. If you wish to enroll as a candidate for Holy Baptism please contact the church office or the Rev. John Soard.

Communion Music

Communion HymnHymnal 482

Communion Hymn.....Hymnal 596

Postcommunion Prayer.....BCP 366

Celebrant

Let us pray.

People and Celebrant

Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual
food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your
Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,

be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Procession to Mission.....Hymnal 423

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

To continue our celebration this morning everyone is invited to the Parish Hall after the service for coffee and fellowship.