

# St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

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Wharton, Texas 77488  
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*Please, Enter in Silence and Meditation*



## The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 2, 2018

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

Opening Hymn: *Praise to the living God*

Hymnal 372

Greeting .....BCP 355

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

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

*Gloria:* ..... ..*Hymnal S-278*

Collect of the Day..... Prayer Book 233

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of

good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### **A reading from the Song of Solomon 2:8-13**

The voice of my beloved!  
Look, he comes,  
leaping upon the mountains,  
bounding over the hills.

My beloved is like a gazelle  
or a young stag.

Look, there he stands  
behind our wall,  
gazing in at the windows,  
looking through the lattice.

My beloved speaks and says to me:

"Arise, my love, my fair one,  
and come away;

for now the winter is past,  
the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth;  
the time of singing has come,  
and the voice of the turtledove  
is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs,  
and the vines are in blossom;  
they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my fair one,  
and come away."

*Lector*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      Thanks be to God.

## **Psalm 45:1-2,7-10**

1 My heart is stirring with a noble song;  
let me recite what I have fashioned for the king; \*  
my tongue shall be the pen of a skilled writer.

2 You are the fairest of men; \*  
grace flows from your lips,  
because God has blessed you for ever.

7 Your throne, O God, endures for ever and ever, \*  
a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your  
kingdom;  
you love righteousness and hate iniquity.

8 Therefore God, your God, has anointed you \*  
with the oil of gladness above your fellows.

9 All your garments are fragrant with myrrh,  
aloes, and cassia, \*  
and the music of strings from ivory palaces makes  
you glad.

10 Kings' daughters stand among the ladies of the  
court; \*  
on your right hand is the queen,  
adorned with the gold of Ophir.

### **A reading from James 1:17-27**

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect  
gift, is from above, coming down from the Father  
of lights, with whom there is no variation or  
shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own

purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act-they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their



with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me;  
in vain do they worship me,  
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is

nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.” For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**The Sermon .....The Rev. Michael LaRue**

**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: Form I, Prayer Book 383**

*Leader*

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

*The Leader and People pray responsively.*

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For our Bishops, for our priest, and all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For this community of Wharton County, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For those who travel on land, water, or in the air this season, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the aged and infirm, - - for the widowed and orphans, - - and for the sick and the suffering, - - let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

In the communion of Thomas and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

*To you, O Lord our God.*



# The Great Thanksgiving..... Eucharistic Prayer A

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.*

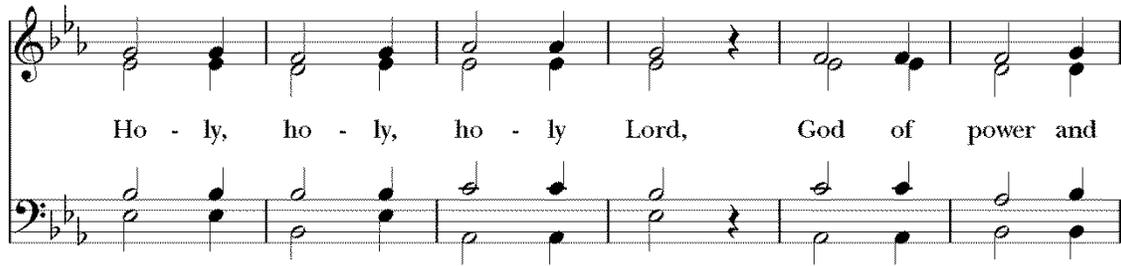
Celebrant

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

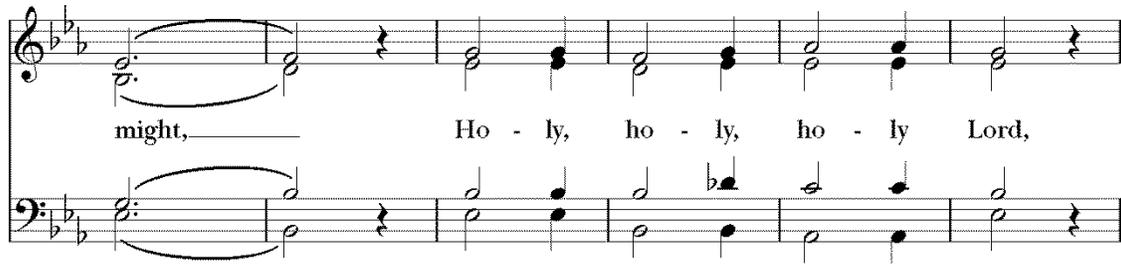
Here a [Proper Preface](#) is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

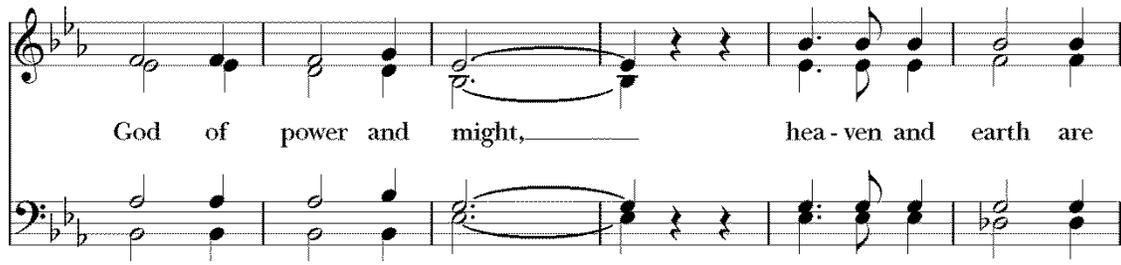
# Sanctus ..... S130



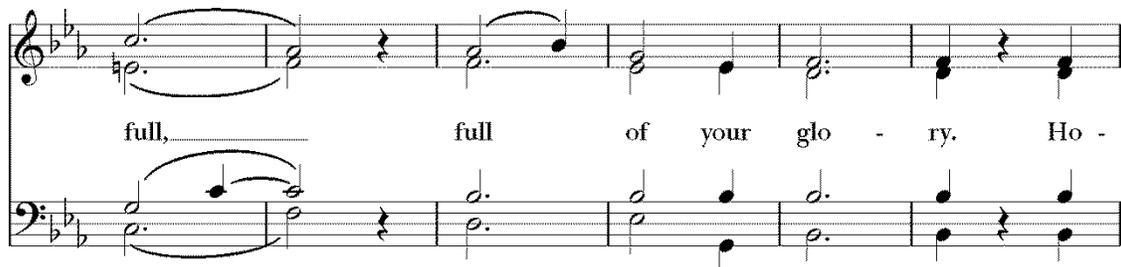
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and



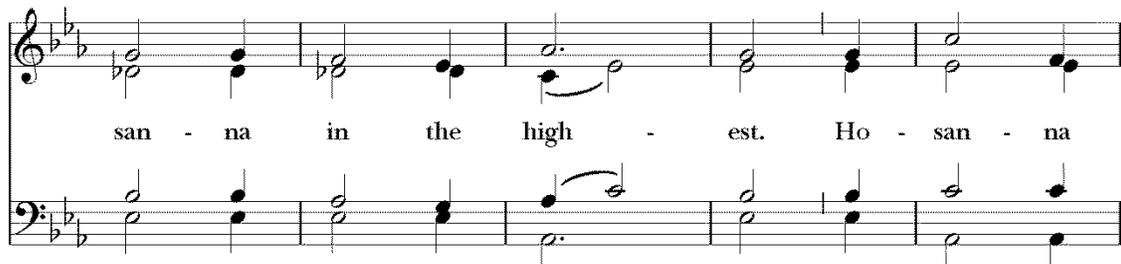
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,



God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are



full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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:

## **Celebrant and People**

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

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 for ever.

## The Great Amen: [1940 Hymnal #741]

JOHN STAINER

A - men, A - men, A

men, A - men, A - men, A - men.

A - men,

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

Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be your 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 .....BCP 364

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

### *Fraction Anthem: Be known to us*

### *Hymnal S-171*

*This setting is not used in Lent.*

*Antiphon: Cantor; then All*

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

*Cantor*

1. The bread which we break, al - le - lu - ia,

is the com - mun - ion of the bo - dy of Christ. [Ant.]

*Cantor*

2. One bo - dy are we, al - le - lu - ia,

for though man - y we share one bread. [Ant.]

*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. Ken Dimmick.*

## **Communion Instrumental:**

**Choir Anthem: "I will share God's love"**

**Communion Hymn: *God be in my head***

**Hymnal 694**

Choir and Congregation Remaining Seated

**Postcommunion Prayer.....BCP 365**

*Celebrant*

Let us pray.

*People and Celebrant*

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.

**Blessing**

**Final Hymn: *Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing***

**...Hymnal 344**

**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.