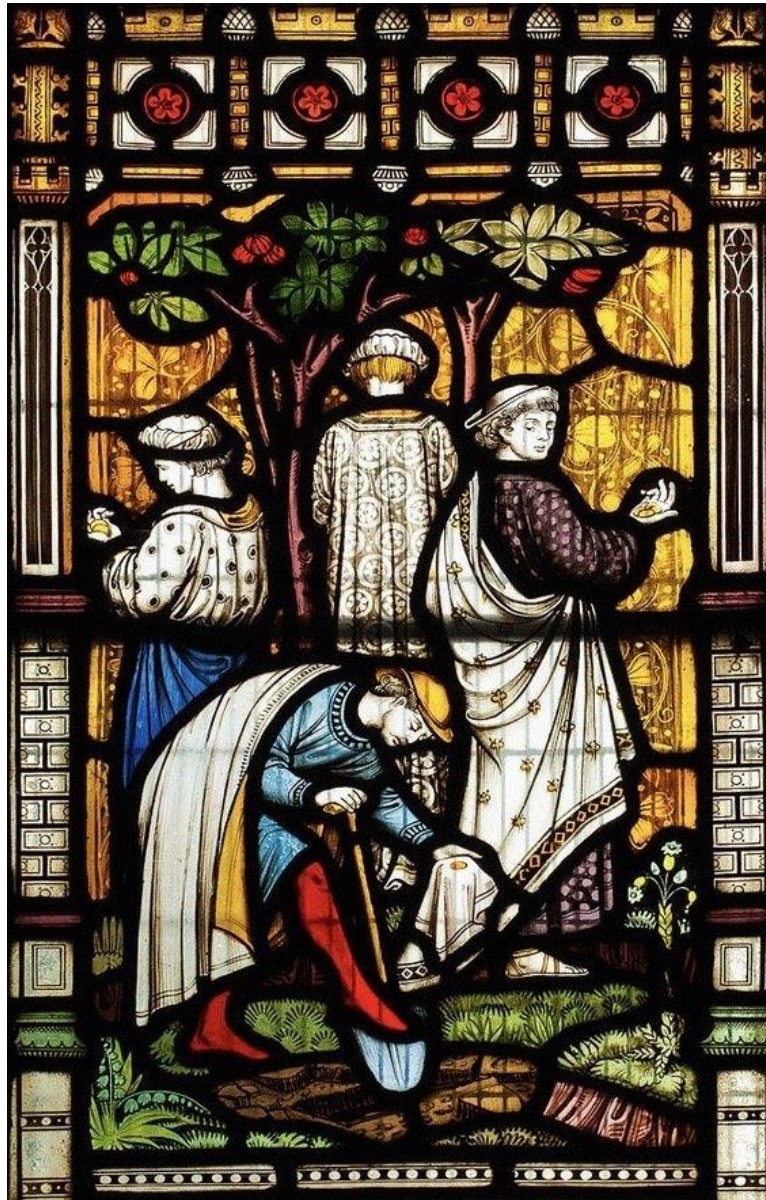


# ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Petersburg, FL



**THE TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**PROPER 28**

November 19, 2023

10:00 am - Rite II



## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*The Lord speaks to us in scripture and preaching. We respond proclaiming our belief, praying for the world, and greeting one another in His Name.*

### A Reading from the Prophet Zephaniah

Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-18

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

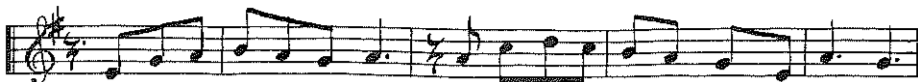
Reader        The Word of the Lord.  
People        **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 90: 1-8, 12

James E. Barrett

*The choir sings refrain through once, then choir and congregation repeat the refrain.*

#### Refrain



Teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

- 1 Lord, you have been our refuge \*  
from one generation to another.
- 2 Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or the land and the earth were born, \*  
from age to age you are God. **[Refrain]**
- 3 You turn us back to the dust and say, \*  
"Go back, O child of earth."
- 4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past \*  
and like a watch in the night. **[Refrain]**
- 5 You sweep us away like a dream; \*  
we fade away suddenly like the grass.
- 6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; \*  
in the evening it is dried up and withered. **[Refrain]**

7 For we consume away in your displeasure; \*  
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.

8 Our iniquities you have set before you, \*  
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

12 So teach us to number our days \*  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. **[Refrain]**

**A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians**

1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

**The Gospel Procession**  
**Blue Hymnal 632**

"O Christ, The Word Incarnate"

*MUNICH*

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

Matthew 25: 14-30

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy

slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Celebrant      The Gospel of the Lord.  
People          **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

### **The Sermon**

The Rev. Anne Hartley

### **The Nicene Creed**

BCP p. 358

### **The Prayers of the People**

*Please stand or kneel.*

The day of the Lord is soon upon us, a day not of wrath but of salvation. As children of the light and of the day, let us await the coming of the Lord in prayer on behalf of the human family around the word, saying: O God, for the sake of Christ, have mercy on us.

Let us pray for those who are not ready for the coming of the Lord, for the unbelieving, the skeptical, the scorners, that they may be brought to faith and rejoice to confess the name of the Lord. O God, for the sake of Christ,

**Have mercy on us.**

Let us pray for those who use their lips and lives to proclaim the good news of Christ’s return, that they may persist in their zeal, empowered and emboldened through the gifts of your spirit. We pray especially for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Douglas, our Bishop; Ryan and Anne, our Priests; Martha our Deacon; and David, our postulant and Canterbury Chaplain. O God, for the sake of Christ,

**Have mercy on us.**

Let us pray for those who, with joy and longing, await the return of the Messiah, that they may not grow weary in well-doing, but witness to the immediate and everlasting promise of our holy Redeemer. O God, for the sake of Christ,

**Have mercy on us.**

Let us pray for those whose lives are marked by hunger and need, grief and loneliness, anger and strife, discord and uncertainty, that each may be assured of the grace and mercy of God. We remember our Nation’s military men and women, first responders, and all those who work for justice and peace. O God, for the sake of Christ,

**Have mercy on us.**

Let us pray for your Creation that we may care for your loving gift; cause us to respect and preserve our community, our home, and our land, remembering especially Benison Farm. O God, for the sake of Christ.

**Have mercy on us.**

Let us pray for those who suffer affliction of any kind, that God, their constant companion and champion, may grant them healing and hope and life. We pray especially for those on our Parish Prayer List, and those we now name. Lay upon them your hand of mercy; renew and restore them, giving them cause to proclaim and praise your name. O God, for the sake of Christ,  
**Have mercy on us.**

Let us pray for those who are prevented from praying with us, the persecuted and their persecutors, that each may be convinced of the good news of Jesus Christ and respond with faith and commitment. O God, for the sake of Christ,  
**Have mercy on us.**

Let us pray for ourselves, that the Spirit will ready us for the return of our Savior and King, that we may enjoy forever the exhilarating life awaiting the faithful in heaven. O God, for the sake of Christ,  
**Have mercy on us.**

Let us pray for the merciful Creator, and source of all compassion to look with pity upon our world. Help us overcome the ravages of war, disease, hunger, and injustice; give dignity and well-being to all the human family. Visit us with your love; grant us peace; point us to the way that leads to fulfillment and sufficiency for all. O God, for the sake of Christ,  
**Have mercy on us.**

Let us pray for the divine Creator, perfecter of all life, to behold the dying. Grant them peace at the last and welcome them into your heavenly dominion. When our last hour shall come, look not on our sins but accept us on the merits of our gracious redeemer, Jesus Christ. (Today, we especially pray for \_\_\_\_\_.) O God, for the sake of Christ,  
**Have mercy on us.**

*Celebrant*

Because you are God, you hear our prayers. Because you are merciful, you promise to answer. We commend to you, merciful God, ourselves and those for whom we pray, through the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Please be seated*

### **The Confession of Sin and Absolution**

BCP p. 360

*Please kneel.*

Deacon        Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence is kept*

All            **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. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. 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**  
*All stand.*

*Celebrant* The Peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**

*The Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

### Community Announcements and Welcome of Visitors

*Please be seated.*

#### THE LITURGY OF THE HOLY COMMUNION

*Our risen Lord comes to us in His sacrifice banquet and we receive Him with grateful hearts.*

**The Offertory Anthem** "All Good Things" arr. Douglas Wagner  
Chancel Choir

### † The Great Thanksgiving †

**Eucharistic Prayer A** BCP p. 361  
*Please stand.*

**Sanctus** "Holy, Holy, Holy" Ronald Arnatt  
**Green Hymnal 859**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
God of power and might, hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry.  
Ho-san-na, Ho-san-na, Ho-san-na in the high - est.  
\*\*Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho-san-na, Ho-san-na, Ho-san-na in the high - est.

*After the Sanctus, the people remain standing or kneel.*

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

"Lamb of God"

David Hurd

Blue Hymnal S161

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:  
 have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
 sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,  
 you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

*All baptized persons regardless of denomination are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you desire a blessing instead, please come forward and cross your arms over your chest. As part of our life together at St. Thomas Church, we continue a ministry practiced by our Lord Jesus Christ – the laying on of hands and anointing with oil. If you wish additional prayer for any reason, please gather around the Baptismal font after you receive Holy Communion. We welcome you to participate in this life-enriching ministry.*

The Communion Hymn today is set to the tune of the Tallis Canon or "The Eighth Tune", a 16th century setting. However, the text is a new one for us and a fairly new one for the church. Hymns are, of course, still being written. We hope to introduce St. Thomas to some of these new hymns in the coming year. This hymn is from VOICES FOUND, an Episcopal Hymnal celebrating the musical contributions of women.



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We gather at your table, Lord

1 2

1 We gath - er at your ta - ble, Lord: we hum - bly lift our  
 2 We share this meal and we are fed. Such bas - ic gifts be -  
 3 God, pour your Spi - rit on us all, and on these gifts that  
 4 From north and south, from west and east, now rec - on - ciled, we

hearts to you! Here all are wel - comed, all re - stored, and  
 come your sign: we see you bro - ken in the bread; we  
 we re - ceive; for in Christ's pre - sence we re - call his  
 ga - ther near; we taste your king - dom's ban - quet feast, so

For canon only

all are giv - en work to do. (-en work to do.)  
 know your love in com - mon wine. (in com - mon wine.)  
 life and death, and so be - lieve. (and so be - lieve.)  
 find - ing strength to serve you here. (to serve you here.)

Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette © 1999 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, from *Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship* (Geneva Press 2000). All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
 Music: *The Eighth Tune*, Thomas Tallis (1505?-1585).

## The Post-communion Prayer

*Please stand or kneel. Celebrant and People together say,*

**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.**

## THE SENDING OUT OF THE LORD'S PEOPLE

*We go out into the world having received the Body and Blood of Christ. As our time of worship ends, our time of service begins.*

## The Blessing

*Please stand.*

Life is short. We don't have much time to gladden the hearts of those who walk this way with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind. The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

**Processional Hymn  
Blue Hymnal 541**

*"Come, Labor On"*

*ORA LABORA*

## The Dismissal

Celebrant      Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.  
People          **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

*"Now Thank We All Our God"*

*Piet Post*

**Community Announcements**

**LIVESTREAMED SERVICE**

Holy Eucharist, Sunday, 10 am on Facebook and YouTube

**WOW, WOMEN OF THE WORD**

Thursday at 9:15 am in the Founder's Room

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

Wednesday at 7:30 am in the Founders Room.

**EVENING CHAPEL EUCHARIST**

Wednesday at 5:15 pm

**SUPPER AND PRAYER**

Wednesday at 6:00 pm

**PARISH PRAYER LIST**

Dona, Geoff, Sharon Joanne, Tara, Anne, Ed, Yvonne, Howard, Marcia, Ann, Jean, Jan, Pat, David, Billy, Carolyn, Brenda, Marissa, Katrina, Joe, Cindy, John, Sharon, Joey, Mike, Nancy, Anne, Donna, Michael, Tricia, Joyce, Susan, David, Charlie, Don, Robert, Estelle and Doug.

**MELE KALIKIMAKA LUAU**

December 2<sup>nd</sup>: 6-9pm. Order your tickets by going to the direct link on the Draft.

**CHORUS ANGELORUM AND THE IONA CONSORT**

Present a Festival Holiday Concert, Sunday, December 3 at 7pm at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church. The concert is free and open to the public.

**UPCOMING EVENTS FOR FAMILIES**

December 3, 9am for grades 5-12, 10am for grades K-5 Christmas Pageant - 1<sup>st</sup> planning session. If you would like a reader's role - come this day!!

**ST. NICHOLAS CHRISTMAS CAROL SING ALONG**

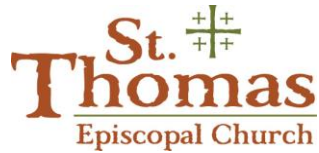
Wednesday, December 6 at 6:45pm in the sanctuary. Send in your requests to Ruth, rcobb@stthomasstpete.org. Christmas Cookie and Punch reception to follow. Please let us know in the office if you can bring cookies or punch!

**GOD HELP US!**

Our parents' group meets every Sunday at 9am in the Guild Room. This group is for school-aged children and childcare is provided.

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING**

The Church Office will be closed Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup> for the Thanksgiving Holiday.



**ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

1200 Snell Isle Blvd.  
St. Petersburg, FL, 33704

The Rev. Ryan R. Whitley, *Rector*

**Thanks to those who are helping today ...**

Acolyte: David Gould, Jace Viera, Pippa Forrester  
Altar Guild: Pat Bernfeld, Beth and David Gould  
Camera Operator: Jackson Ball  
Coffee Host: Ellen Burkhart  
Eucharistic Minister: Dudley Savage  
Flower Guild: Marilyn Lanctot, Pam Holley  
Healing: Joan and Bill Barns  
Lector 10am: Jack Day, Angie Ford  
Music: Chancel Choir  
Oblations: Joan and Bill Barns  
Prayers of the People: Joan Barns  
Ushers: Teri Andrés Coryell and Lee Coryell

Church Telephone: 727-896-9641  
Rector's Cell Phone: 727-685-9224  
Curate's Cell Phone: 954-253-4414  
Email: [graces@stthomasstpete.org](mailto:graces@stthomasstpete.org)  
Website: [www.stthomasstpete.org](http://www.stthomasstpete.org)  
Facebook: [comesestthomas](https://www.facebook.com/comesestthomas)

The Rev. Anne Hartley, Curate  
The Rev. Martha Goodwill, Deacon  
Ruth Cobb, Interim Organist/Choir Director  
Joe Master, Director of Finance  
Grace Smith, Director of Communications  
Jon Ward, Sexton

**Vestry Members**

Class of 2023

Russ Ball  
Michelle Jennings  
Ann Leavine, *Treasurer*

Class of 2024

Bill Barns, *Secretary*  
Pam Holley  
Mary Jane Park, *Sr. Warden*

Class of 2025

Mary Clark  
Wade Hamby

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