

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

AUGUST 22, 2021 – 9:00AM ONLINE SERVICE

Words to music will be included in the video.

**Collect of the Day:** Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**THE EPISTLE: Ephesians 6:10-20** Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

**PSALM: Psalm 84**

**1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! \***

*My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.*

**2 The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; \***

*by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.*

**3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! \* they will always be praising you.**

**4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \* whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.**

**5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, \***

*for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.*

**6 They will climb from height to height, \* and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.**

**7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; \* hearken, O God of Jacob.**

**8 Behold our defender, O God; \* and look upon the face of your Anointed.**

**9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, \***

*and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.*

**10 For the LORD God is both sun and shield; \* he will give grace and glory;**

**11 No good thing will the LORD withhold \* from those who walk with integrity.**

**12 O LORD of hosts, \* happy are they who put their trust in you!**

**THE GOSPEL: John 6:56-69** Jesus said, "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father." Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."