St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church



The Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, November 15, 2026 8:45 a.m.

Welcome Guests & Visitors!

We are glad you are here. If you are new to St. Thomas, please stop by the Welcome table and identify yourself to our clergy and greeters so we may properly welcome you. You may also fill out an "I'm New" card located on the backs of the chairs in the church. If you need assistance with the order of service, feel free to ask the person next to you.

Auditory Assistance is available – ask an usher or a greeter to obtain a hearing device.

To request prayers, please fill out the "Pray" card located on the backs of the chairs. We invite you to list your specific concerns and leave them in the offering plate or box by the doors, bring to the church office, or hand to one of the clergy. Prayers of the People are written weekly. They are offered for three weeks, but any request may be resubmitted as needed.

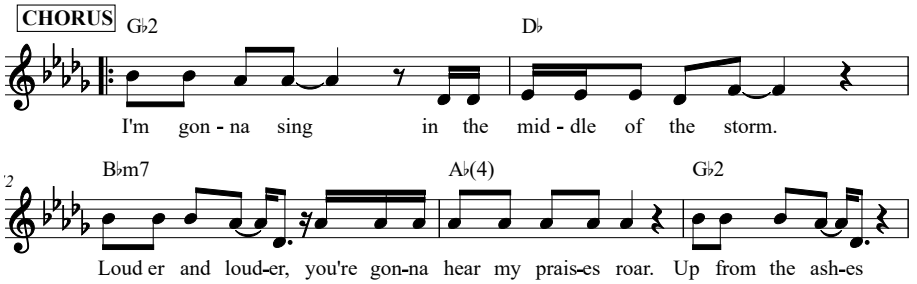
Nursery care is available on Sunday for children ages 6 months through 4 years from 8:30 a.m. through conclusion of the 11 a.m. service.
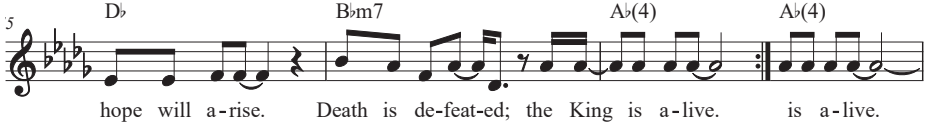
Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

Opening Song: *Raise a Hallelujah,* Stevens, Helser, Helser, Skaggs

I raise a hallelujah in the presence of my enemies
I raise a hallelujah louder than the unbelief
I raise a hallelujah my weapon is a melody
I raise a hallelujah Heaven comes to fight for me





I raise a hallelujah with everything inside of me
I raise a hallelujah I will watch the darkness flee
I raise a hallelujah in the middle of the mystery
I raise a hallelujah fear you lost your hold on me

Sing a little louder in the presence of my enemies
Sing a little louder louder than the unbelief
Sing a little louder my weapon is a melody
Sing a little louder Heaven comes to fight for me

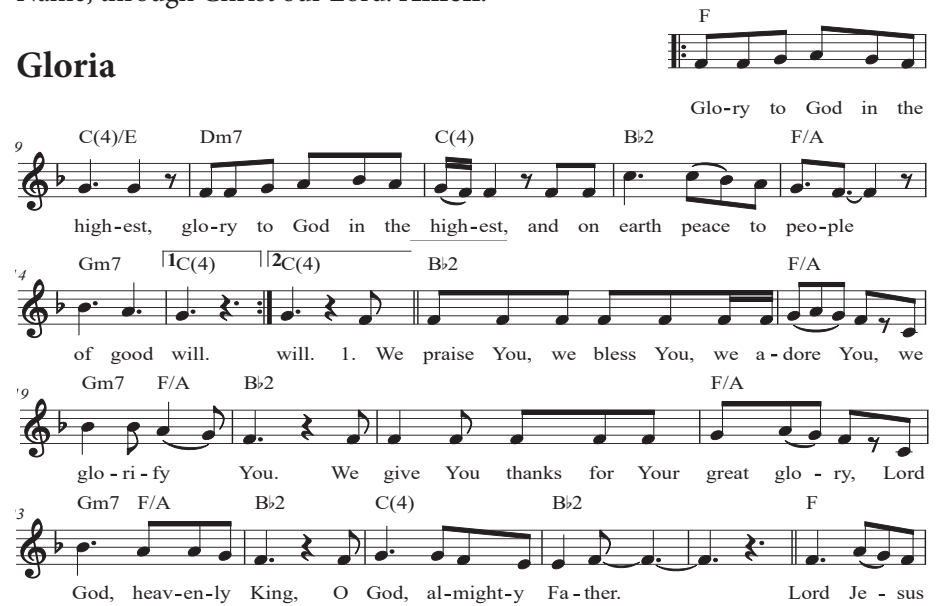
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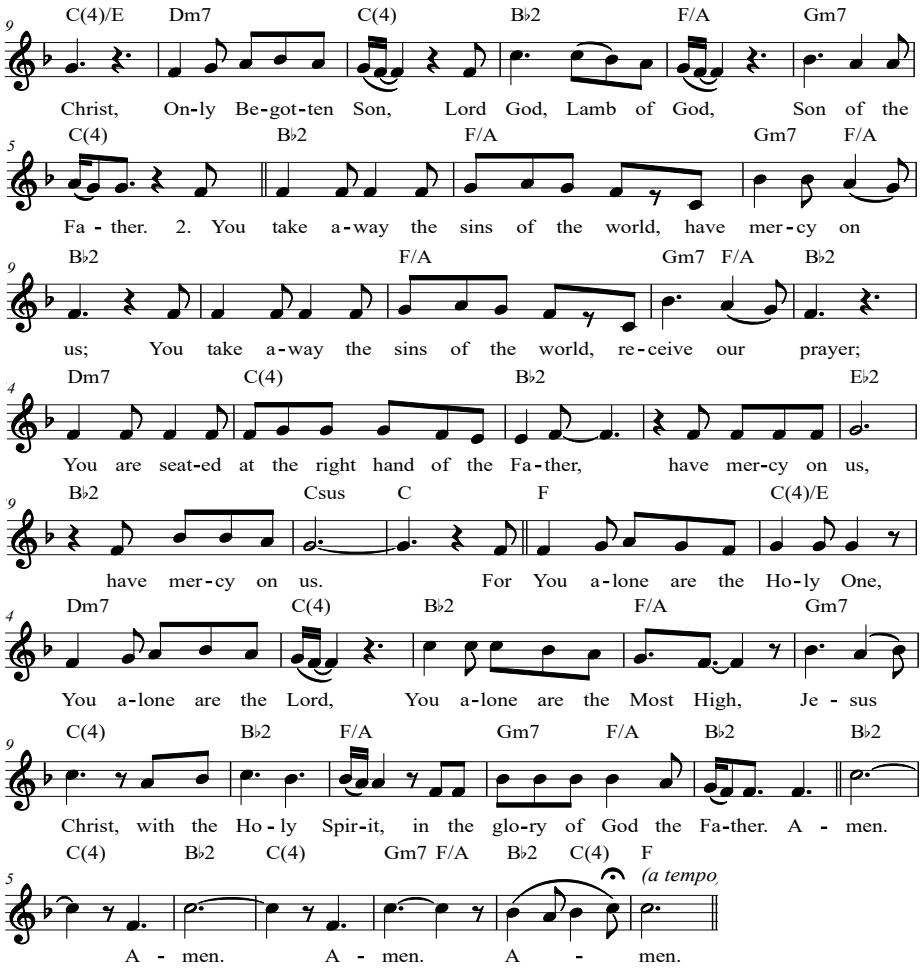
Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen**

Collect for 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**.

Gloria





Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.
O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**.

Children preschool through 3rd grade may process to Children's Church

The Lessons

First Reading: Judges 4:1-7

[1]The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. [2]So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. [3]Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

[4]At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. [5]She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. [6]She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. [7]I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.' "

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

The Psalm: Psalm 123

[1]To you I lift up my eyes, *
to you enthroned in the heavens.
[2]As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, *
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
[3]So our eyes look to the Lord our God, *
until he show us his mercy.
[4]Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy, *
for we have had more than enough of contempt,
[5]Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, *
and of the derision of the proud.

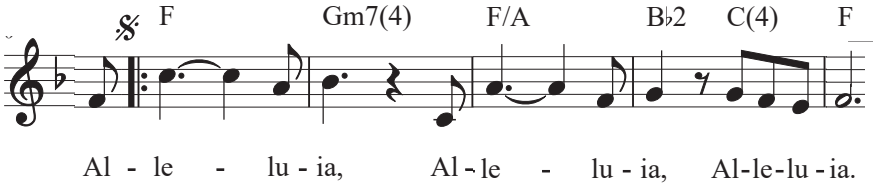
The Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

[1]Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. [2]For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3]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! [4]But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; [5]for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. [6]So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; [7]for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. [8]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. [9]For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10]who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. [11]Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

Alleluia

All stand. Cantor sings refrain, all sing refrain, cantor sings verse, all sing refrain.



The Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

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

[14][Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven will be as when] a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them;[15]to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. [16]The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. [17]In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. [18]But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. [19]After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. [20]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.' [21]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.' [22]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.' [23]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.' [24]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; [25]so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' [26]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? [27]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. [28]So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29]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. [30]As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

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

Alleluia Response

The Sermon

Nicene Creed *All 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.

Prayers of the People *All remain standing.*

Presider or Deacon ... Lord in your mercy,
Response after each petition: **Hear our prayer.**

The Presider adds a concluding collect.

Confession of Sin

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

Silence may be kept.
Leader 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.
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.

Leader 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.**

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

Children return from Children's Church

Offertory Anthem: *Holy Forever,* Chris Tomlin

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or celebrant. The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

Offertory

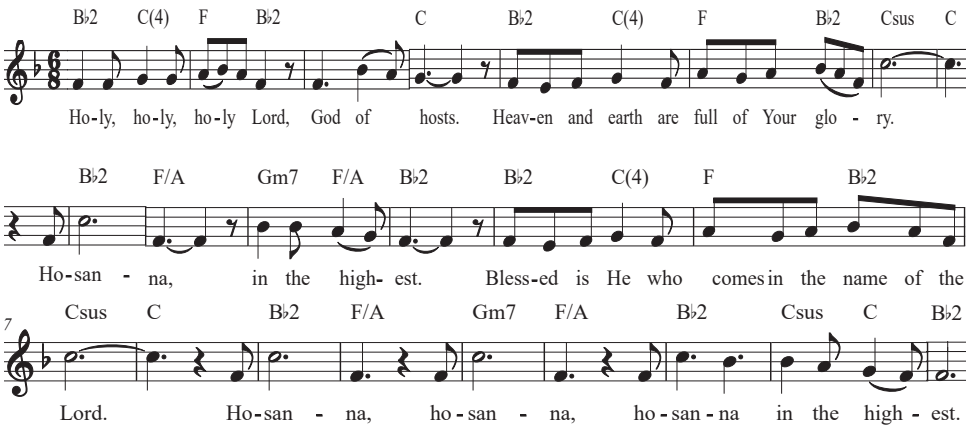
Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.
People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

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 everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. 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:

Celebrant and People



The people stand or kneel as able. The Celebrant continues

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:

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. **AMEN**.

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

People and Celebrant

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**
Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.
and may add Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

We invite everyone who has been baptized by water in any Christian tradition to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. You may come forward to receive the bread and wine.

If you have a wheat allergy, please tell the person administering communion and we will see that you receive a rice wafer instead.

Communion Song: *Soon and Very Soon,* Traditional

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we are goin' to see the King!

No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we are goin' to see the King!

No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we are goin' to see the King!

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're are goin' to see the King!

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

Communion Song: *Open Our Eyes,* Bob Cull

Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus
To reach out and touch Him
And say that we love Him
Open our ears Lord
And help us to listen
Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus

Open our hearts Lord
That we might receive You
Open our spirits
And teach us to worship
Open our lips Lord
And teach us to praise You
Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus

Sending Forth

When a Lay Eucharistic Visitor is to take the sacrament to those hospitalized, ill at home or home-bound, the following is said:

In the name of this congregation, go forth bearing these holy gifts; that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

Congregation **We who are many are one body,**
because we all share one bread; one cup. Amen.

Postcommunion Prayer

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

Closing Song: *Firm Foundation,* A. Davis, C. Moore, C. Carnes

Christ is my firm foundation
The rock on which I stand
When everything around me is shaken
I've never been more glad
That I put my faith in Jesus
'Cause He's never let me down
He's faithful through generations
So why would He fail now

Chorus 1:
He won't He won't

I've still got joy in chaos
I've got peace that makes no sense
So I won't be going under
I'm not held by my own strength
'Cause I've built my life on Jesus
He's never let me down
He's faithful in every season
So why would He fail now

Chorus 2:
He won't He won't
He won't fail

Bridge:
Rain came and wind blew
But my house was built on You
I'm safe with You
I'm going to make it through
(REPEAT)

Vamp:
Yeah I'm going to make it through
'Cause I'm standing strong on You
Yeah I'm going to make it through
'Cause my house is built on You

(Repeat chorus)

Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude