



Window: Alpha and Omega

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

The Order of Worship for
The 25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 10th, 2024 † 8:30 AM

Welcome

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant Blessed be God: most holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity.

People **And blessed be God's reign, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity *unison*

BCP 355

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.

The Te Deum: A Canticle of Praise *unison*

We praise you, O God,
we acclaim you as Lord;
all creation worships you,
the Father everlasting.

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

The glorious company of apostles praise you.

The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.

The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you:

Father, of majesty unbounded,
your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the king of glory,
the eternal Son of the Father.

When you took our flesh to set us free
you humbly chose the Virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You are seated at God's right hand in glory.

We believe that you will come to be our judge.

**Come then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood,
and bring us with your saints
to glory everlasting.**

The Collect of the Day

BCP 236

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.**

The Lessons

A reading from Ruth

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17

Naomi her mother-in-law said to Ruth, "My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working. See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. Now wash and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. When he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then, go and uncover his feet and lie down; and he will tell you what to do." She said to her, "All that you tell me I will do." So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came together, the Lord made her conceive, and she bore a son. Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin; and may his name be renowned in Israel! He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him." Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse. The women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

- 1 Unless the Lord builds the house, *
their labor is in vain who build it.
- 2 Unless the Lord watches over the city, *
in vain the watchman keeps his vigil.
- 3 It is in vain that you rise so early and go to bed so late; *
vain, too, to eat the bread of toil, for he gives to his beloved sleep.
- 4 Children are a heritage from the Lord, *
and the fruit of the womb is a gift.
- 5 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior *
are the children of one's youth.
- 6 Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them! *
he shall not be put to shame when he contends with his enemies in the gate.

A Reading from Hebrews

Hebrews 9:24-28

Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Mark 12:38-44

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

As Jesus taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Nicene Creed *unison*

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 *From Church of England Prayers*

In the silence following each petition, we invite you to offer your prayers aloud or in your heart.

Let us pray for the church and the world saying, Lord, hear our prayer.

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without
fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for Rob, our bishop, for all bishops and other ministers, and
for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all
may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of
the earth, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those in positions of public trust, especially Joe, our President, Kamala, our Vice-President, Brian and Kaye, our Governors, Skip and Eddie, our Mayors, all elected officials and all candidates for public office, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For this nation that is deeply divided, that we may come together for the common good and do what you have called us to do – to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you through creation, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who are poor, persecuted, sick, and suffering; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers, especially St. Thomas parishioners Bernie, Elissa, Tommie, Judy, Charlene, Karen, Donna, John, Charlotte, Chris, Amy, Becca, and Cindy; our homebound members John, Ramón and Maria, Carol, Bill, and William; friends of the parish Joe, Monica, David & Nancy, Carlton, Tom, Mary, Karen, Meg, and Andrew; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, especially Sam, Bill, Dixie, Bob, Judy, Murray, Judy and Rick; and for those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving for the gifts of creation and wonder of life, we give thanks for the birthdays of Grayson, Bonnie, Paul, Ann, Rion, Sydney, Sara, Karen, Maryjane and Lauren; and the anniversaries of Kathy & Arthur and Paul & Ann. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Help us, O Lord, to listen in love, work together in peace, and collaborate with one another as we seek the betterment of our community and world, for the sake of your name. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

BCP 360

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.

The Peace

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offering

St. Thomas is grateful for your gifts.

You may mail a check to 2100 Hilton Avenue, Columbus, GA 31906,
donate online at our website (<https://www.stthomascolumbus.org/give/>),
or use your mobile device by texting **STTCOLUMBUS** to **73256**

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer A Please stand as you are comfortable.*

BCP 361

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 our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, for you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

**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.

Remain as you are or kneel

Holy and gracious God: 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 maker of all. Jesus 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 Savior 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 Jesus 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:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's 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 Christ. 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 Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer *unison*

BCP 364

**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

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

All Christians are joyfully invited to share in communion. You do not have to be a member of St. Thomas or an Episcopalian in order to receive. Come forward down the center aisle when invited by the ushers. Go to the farthest end of the altar rail and stand or kneel. Hold out one hand to receive the bread and then dip the bread in the cup or drink from the cup. If you prefer not to share a common cup, hold out two hands to receive the bread and wine together. If you prefer not to receive either the bread or the cup, cross your arms across your chest. If you need a gluten-free wafer, let the server know. If you prefer to receive communion at your pew, let the usher know.

Postcommunion Prayer *unison*

BCP 366

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 Christ, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his son Jesus Christ our Lord, and the blessing of God our Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of Life be with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

In our prayers

St. Thomas parishioners: Bernie Sutter, Elissa Wagner, Tommie Hunter, Judy Heider, Charlene Moore, Karen Lord, Donna Sharp, John Partin, Charlotte Mills, Chris Jeffries, Amy Smith, Becca Nicolson, Cindy Godwin

Homebound members: John Studstill, Ramón & Maria Capó, Carol Kennon, Bill Pauli, William South

Friends of the parish: Joe Moore (*Ena Hunt*), Monica Madole (*Darius Sudayi*), David & Nancy Hirsch (*Jennifer Fletcher*), Carlton Holloway (*Shayla Holloway*), Tom Stein (*Jo Cates*), Mary James (*Susan Leigh*), Karen Koziol (*Penny Wise*), Meg O'Rourke (*Ena Hunt*), Andrew Pillar (*Marcia English*)

Those with continuing concerns: Gene Wells, Frank & Pam Feagle, Carlene Pawlowicz, Ralph Wimberly, Jessica McComb, April Jacobs, Jana Speer, Debbie & Max Anderson, Korie MacDougall, Nicole Ceccato, Deborah & Steve Tucker, Neal Fenter, Ellen Free, Steve Scott, Bernie Sutter, Raymond Campbell, Art France, Angela Tulloh (*Louise Tulloh*)

Soldiers & families at Ft. Moore and St. Thomas members & friends who are deployed: Krk Malit

Those celebrating birthdays: Grayson Connery 11/13, Bonnie Ellis 11/14, Paul Johnston 11/15, Ann Johnston 11/15, Rion Turner 11/15, Sydney Godwin 11/15, Sara Ginter 11/16, Karen Lord 11/16, Maryjane Wrenn 11/16, Lauren Demko 11/16

Those celebrating anniversaries: Paul & Ann Johnston 11/12, Kathy & Arthur Frost 11/12

Those who have died: Sam Harmon 11/25/23, Bill Thomas 11/25/23, Dixie Harmon 12/23/23, Bob Wadkins 1/11/24, Judy Harding 1/22/24, Murray Craig 4/4/24, Judy Gunter 4/6/24, Rick McKnight 7/30/24

Announcements

For more information about the ministries of St. Thomas, pick up our latest *Seasons* newsletter or visit our website at www.StThomasColumbus.org.

Sundays

Coffee Time: 8:45-10:15. Homemade and packaged snacks are available in the parish hall.

Formation for all ages: 9:30-10:15am

Children PreK- 4th grade meet in the Outreach Center: Epic Journeys- Bible Stories of Faith & Courage

Tween and Teens meet in the Youth Room: Echo the Story Youth will explore and experience the biblical narrative through storytelling, creative reflection, and dialogue.

Adults meet in the Library: Sunday Adult Formation

Worship:

Contemplative/Healing will be held on Sun. Nov. 17 and Sun. Dec. 22 at 5:00pm in the chapel. Join us for a holy time of silence, prayer, candlelight, simple Taizé chanting, scripture and meditation, Holy Eucharist with homemade bread, anointing, healing prayers, and the treasured opportunity to spend sacred time alone with God.

Wednesdays

Wednesday Eucharist: 5:30 in the Chapel. This brief Eucharist focuses on a saint being celebrated that day or week.

Wonderful Wednesdays at St. Thomas

Schedule: 5:30 to 6 - Eucharist in the Chapel

5:30 to 6:15 - Dinner served on the buffet. This week: Taco Bar. Youth room open for youth to eat together there.

6:00 - Playground open for children who have finished dinner. Go to the Children's Center in case of rain. An adult must bring children to the playground or center.

6:30 to 7:30 - Formation time for everyone. Children in the Children's Center. Youth in the Youth Room or outside. Adults in the library, All Saints Hall, & Parlor for Journey Groups

6:30 to 8:15 - Choir rehearsal in the Chapel or All Saints Hall

Wednesday Night Menus

1st Wednesdays - Pasta Bar, 2nd Wednesdays - Taco Bar, 3rd Wednesdays - Baked Potato Bar
4th Wednesdays - Salad Bar, 5th Wednesdays - Hot dog or chili bar, depending on the season

News for this week

Youth Confirmation Classes Youth Confirmation Classes are halfway through! Our last classes are on Sunday afternoons from 3-4:30 on November 10, December 1, and December 8 (all are invited to that last class for a very special Eucharist). Please remember these students and their mentors in your prayers as they learn and grow together.

Lunch Bunch *Tuesday, November 12, 11:30 am, Parker's Pantry, (1815 Garrard St.)* All women are invited to gather for lunch on the second Tuesday of each month at Parker's Pantry at 11:30. After each person orders in the line, we will gather in the private dining room. At noon, there will be a brief prayer and devotion. Hope to see you there!

Women's Group *November 14, 6 pm at Mark's City Grill* Gather with women from St. Thomas for fellowship and a meal. All who identify as women are welcome to gather. Next gathering is November 14 6:00 Mark's City Grill. It is located at 7160 Moon Rd. Sign up online to let us know you're coming!

OUR NOVEMBER EXCURSION is to attend the play "These Shining Lives" in the studio theater of the CSU Dept. of Theatre and Dance. The play, by Melanie Marnich, is based on the true story of four women who worked for the Radium Dial company, a watch factory in Illinois in the 1920's and 30's, and showcases the dangers they faced. Professor/St. Thomas member Larry Dooley is providing us with a great reduced price of \$12, general admission. Saturday, November 16 at 7:30 pm. **FIRM deadline of Nov. 10 to sign up**, so contact Roxane as soon as possible.

Upcoming & Ongoing

Wynnton Neighborhood Network Thanksgiving Unity Service *November 17, 6 pm St. Paul Church, 2101 Wildwood Ave.* This service gathers the eight congregations that make up the Wynnton Neighborhood Network together to give thanks for a year of service to our neighbors. A reception following the service will be in the Fellowship Hall. Rabbi Larry Schlessinger from Temple Israel is this year's preacher.

Wynnton Neighborhood Network Service Nights *Wednesday, November 20 6:30 pm St. Thomas* youth will pack grocery bags for Wynnton Neighborhood Network's Thanksgiving distribution on November 20th. Packing will take place during the regular Wednesday night programming time.

YACT November Social *Thursday November 21, 6 pm* YACT is heading to Scofflaw in November for a get-together to enjoy the Fall weather. Please contact Taylor if you plan to attend.

Thanksgiving Service & Dinner *Sunday, November 24, 4:30 pm* If all goes according to plan, we will gather in the nave for our first look at the remodeled space and share in a service of Thanksgiving there. Bring an offering of canned goods for the Wynnton food pantry. Following the service, a buffet Thanksgiving dinner will be served in the parish hall. Volunteers are needed to help set up tables after the 10:30 service that morning. Nursery care will be available during the service for young children. Older children will participate in the service. More information will be sent to parents closer to the date. *Please RSVP online or with the church office.*

Big Gobble Feeding the Valley is looking for volunteers to assist with their Big Gobble event. This Thanksgiving holiday, they will mobilize hundreds of volunteers to work together, preparing and deliver warm, nutritious meals to people in need. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please read the opportunities below. Note: All volunteers in the kitchen must be 16 years or older to participate.

Volunteer Roles: 1. Kitchen Help - Prep, cook, seal food, and clean up (opportunities from now until Thanksgiving daily in the kitchen!) 2. Drivers - Receive the plates Thanksgiving morning and deliver the meals using a route provided by Feeding the Valley. Contact Meg to sign up.

Women's Lectionary Bible Study *Thursdays, 10 to 11 am* All women are invited to join Rev. Cindy Cox Garrard in the library or by Zoom from 10 to 11 am on Thursdays to study the lectionary readings for the coming week. A handout for the week's study is emailed to each participant. Contact the church office to be added to the mailing list.

Brewer Reading Buddies Tuesdays, 9-10 am Brewer Reading Buddies began a new year of reading with kindergarten students at Brewer Elementary. Volunteers are invited to come read for one or two thirty minute blocks. To sign up contact Meg in the church office to let us know you're interested in learning more.

Men's Group Gathering - NEW DATE Join us at Trevioli (located at the Rapids at 1329 Front Ave) at 5:30pm on Thursday November 21st We always have a wonderful time and I hope you'll join us!

Altar Flowers: The giving of Altar Flowers on Sunday is a wonderful way to celebrate a special occasion or remember our loved ones. In addition to enhancing the beauty of worship, the name(s) of those being honored or remembered and the name(s) of the donor will be listed in the Sunday bulletin. A contribution of \$75 is requested for altar flowers prepared by the Flower Guild, or you may order flowers from a professional florist if you prefer. Sign up online or contact the church office for the schedule. More info at stthomascolumnbus.org/altar-flowers/

Zoom Evening Prayer: *Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 - 5:45 or so on Zoom.* We gather on Tuesdays and Thursdays online at 5:30 for a brief time of prayer in the evening. The link is available on our LinkTree.

QR Code for signups! Use the QR code to find a list of current signups at St. Thomas including Wednesday night dinners! New to QR codes? Open the camera on your smartphone (or a QR reader), point at the black and white code box, when prompted push the link that shows up on your screen.



St. Thomas Staff

Administrative Assistant: Lupe Ortiz-Sanchez; *Director of Children and Family Ministries:* Shayla Holloway; *Director of Parish Administration:* Patty Slembariski; *Director of Parish & Community Engagement:* Meg Olive-Allison; *Director of Youth & Young Adults:* Taylor Mack; *Interim Choir Director:* Debbie Anderson; *Interim Organist:* Adley Scott; *Kitchen Manager & Sexton:* Seth Burgamy; *Livestream Technician:* Nick Williams; *Maintenance & Cleaning:* Frances Woolfolk; *Nursery:* Riley Mullen, Evie Smith, Dorothy Uwanawich, Jenneken Varnum; *Sexton Assistant:* Morgan Camp

St. Thomas Clergy

Associate Rector for Mission: Darius Sudayi; *Associate Rector for Pastoral Care:* Roxane Gwyn; *Rector:* Grace Burton-Edwards