



St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
1108 Providence Road, Towson, MD
(410) 821-5489
www.stthomastowson.org

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
9:30 AM Holy Eucharist, September 2, 2018

Announcements and Welcome

Hymn: Jesus, lover of my soul

#699

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

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

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires are 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:

S-280

Celebrant: The Lord be with you

People: *And also with you*

Celebrant: Let us pray together

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.

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."

After the Reading, the Reader says

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 religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

After the Reading, the Reader says

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

Hymn: If thou but trust in God to guide thee

#635

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating 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.”

After the Gospel, the reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon

Rev. Loree Penner

Blessing of the Backpacks

The Nicene Creed

pg. 358

Prayers of the People

Reader: Heavenly Father,

You have promised to hear when we pray in the name of your Son. Therefore in confidence and trust we pray for the Church:

(please add your own petitions, either silently or aloud)

Reader: Father, enliven the Church for its mission.

People: That we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.

Reader: Breathe fresh life into your people.

People: Give us power to reveal Christ in word and action.

Reader: We pray for the world:

(please add your own petitions, either silently or aloud)

Reader: Creator of all, lead us and every people in the ways of justice and peace.

People: That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.

Reader: Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.

People: Teach us to care creatively for its resources.

Reader: We pray for the community:

(please add your own petitions, either silently or aloud)

Reader: God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others, especially Donald our President.

People: That all may act with integrity and courage.

Reader: Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours.

People: May we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.

Reader: We pray for those in need:

(please add your own petitions, either silently or aloud)

Reader: God of hope, comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind or spirit.

People: May they know the power of your healing love.

Reader: Make us willing agents of your compassion.

People: Strengthen us as we share in making people whole.

Reader: We remember those who have died and those who mourn:

(please add your own petitions, either silently or aloud)

Reader: We remember with thanksgiving those who have died of the faith of Christ and those whose faith is known to you alone.

People: Father, into your hands we commend them.

Reader: Give comfort to those who mourn.

People: Bring them peace in their time of loss.

Reader: We praise you for all your saints who have entered you eternal glory.

People: May their example inspire and encourage us.

Reader: We pray for ourselves and our ministries: Lord you have called us to serve you.

All: Grant that we may walk in your presence:

Your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds, your strength in our wills;

Until at the end of our journey, we know the joy of our homecoming

And the welcome of your embrace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession	pg. 360
The Peace	pg. 360
The Blessing of Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries	pg. 830
The Offertory: Here, O my Lord	#318
Doxology	#380 (vs. 3)
The Great Thanksgiving Prayer A	pg.361
Sanctus:	S-130
The Communion of the People (St. Thomas' extends the invitation to all baptized members of any Christian Church to receive the consecrated bread and wine.)	
Communion Hymn: One bread, one body	
Post Communion Prayer	pg. 366

Dismissal:

Celebrant: Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

~~~ CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 3rd ~~~

**Monday, September 3rd: Labor Day (Offices Closed),** 7pm- NA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

**Tuesday, September 4th**

**Wednesday, September 5th:** 6pm- Baltimore Ski Club (Fellowship Hall), 7pm- Greater Baltimore Church (Church)

**Thursday, September 6th**

**Friday, September 7th:** 6:30pm Johns Hopkins Parkinson's Support Group (Fellowship Hall), 7pm- AA Meeting (Classroom #7)

**Saturday, September 8th:** 10am- Christian Stitchin' (Counting Room)

**Sunday, September 9th:** 9:30am- Worship Service (Sanctuary), 11am- Vestry Meeting

\*Private events are not included on this calendar. Please contact the church office if you would like to reserve space.

## ~~~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~~~

**Altar Guild:** For the month of September the Wafers, Wine and Eucharistic Candles are given in Thanksgiving for their many blessings, by Peter and Beth Crosby. The Branch Candles are given in memory of Kay Sharpe by Larry and Nancy Yeatman. The Sanctuary Candle is given in memory of Pearl Licht by Daniel Licht. The arrangements on the altar are given in memory of William and Elsie Licht by Daniel Licht, and in memory of Leslie Wolsey by Patricia Wolsey. The cost of each dedication is \$30. Please contact Diane Flayhart, [410-426-4618](tel:410-426-4618) or [dflayhart.stthomas@gmail.com](mailto:dflayhart.stthomas@gmail.com), or the church office, [410-821-5489](tel:410-821-5489), if you are interested in reserving a dedication. Thank you.

### **Back to Church Sunday (SEPTEMBER 16)**

September 16th is National Back to Church Sunday. The vision of National Back to Church Sunday is to create a movement of churches encouraging their members to invite every person in America back to church. Start thinking about who you will invite, and if your invitations haven't worked in the past remember this: Don't measure your success on if the answer is "Yes". Know that by asking you have succeeded in that God is working through you. The "Yes" or "No" is up to God. You have done your part by asking and starting the conversation.

Our 9:30 service will be followed by a pancake breakfast, featuring Flanders Flapjacks, old friends, new friends, and new memories! We are looking for donations of an egg dish (casserole, perhaps), sausage or bacon, fruit, and/or any other complimentary dish you would like to share. Please email Jill at [stthomastowson@gmail.com](mailto:stthomastowson@gmail.com) if you are able to help, or let Diane Flayhart know. Many thanks!

**Sunday School begins on September 16th.** We are praying to have more people get involved with Sunday School this year. If there is a lesson or Bible story that is particularly close to your heart or a fun craft that you would love to share with the kids, please contact us so we can put you on the schedule for the fall.

**To begin your Fall house cleaning, please stop by St. Thomas' on Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>:** from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm to shred loose paper, old magazines, bills, tax returns, checks and investment statements. Chesapeake Shredding will not accept any electronics, items in binding clips or 3 ring notebooks. Stapled sheets of paper are fine.

**Prayers for Healing are requested for those who are ill or in any need:** Mo Otradovec, Dottie D., Jan Jr., David J., Jeri Adams, Robert Yoos, Andrew Bures, Bill D., Rick D., David Harper, Pete, Leigh, Vera O., Wanda S., Dowell S., Bill F., Mary Lou P., Curtis Meador, Lou W., Amy S., Janet, Kathy, Rev. Loree.

**And for those who are homebound:** Theresa Welsch, Mary Shorter, Nan Fitzgerald, Charles and Susan Harryman, Carrie Hemberger, Susan Herring, Ellen Monahan, Connie Waxter, and Dan Licht.

Rev. Loree Penner, Rector  
443-377-9048

Diane Flayhart, Sr. Warden  
410-426-4618

Sharon Greenbeck, Jr. Warden  
410-963-2996