



**St. Thomas' Episcopal Church**  
1108 Providence Road, Towson, MD  
(410) 821-5489  
[www.stthomastowson.org](http://www.stthomastowson.org)

**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**9:30 AM Holy Eucharist, September 30, 2018**

## **Announcements and Welcome**

### **Hymn: Lord of all hopefulness**

**#482**

Celebrant: Blessed be the one, holy and living God.

*People: Glory to God forever and ever.*

*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: 10,000 Reasons**

Celebrant: God be with you.

*People: And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

*O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

### **Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22**

The king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me-- that is my petition-- and the lives of my people-- that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated. Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

*After the Reading, the Reader says*

The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

**Psalm 124**

1 If the Lord had not been on our side, \*  
let Israel now say;

2 If the Lord had not been on our side, \*  
when enemies rose up against us;

3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive \*  
in their fierce anger toward us;

4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us \*  
and the torrent gone over us;

5 Then would the raging waters \*  
have gone right over us.

6 Blessed be the Lord! \*  
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; \*  
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

8 Our help is in the Name of the Lord, \*  
the maker of heaven and earth.

**James 5:13-20**

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

*After the Reading, the Reader says*

The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

## Hymn: Great is thy faithfulness

### The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark 9:38-50

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

*After the Gospel, the reader says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

### The Sermon

Joe Zollickoffer

### The Nicene Creed

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### 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: We pray for those in the armed forces at home and abroad.

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: Good to be alive**

**Doxology**

**#380 (vs. 3)**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

**Sanctus: Holy, holy, holy Lord**

**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: Word of God speak**

**Post Communion Prayer**

**Blessing**

**Recessional Hymn: All hail the power of Jesus' name**

**#450**

**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 OCTOBER 1ST ~~~**

**Monday, October 1st:** 7pm- NA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

**Tuesday, October 2nd:** 6:30pm -Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

**Wednesday, October 3rd:** 7pm Johns Hopkins Parkinson's Support Group (Fellowship Hall)

**Thursday, October 4th:** 7:30pm- Music Practice

**Friday, October 5th:** 7pm- AA Meeting (Classroom #7)

**Saturday, October 6th:** 10am- Shred It Day (Parking Lot)

**Sunday, October 7th:** 9:15am -Sunday School (Room 5), 9:30am- Blessing of the Animals (Sanctuary), 10:30am -The Forum (Fellowship Hall)

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

~~~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~~~

**Altar Guild:** The arrangements on the altar are given in celebration of the wedding anniversary of Beth and Peter Crosby, and in honor of the birthdays of Beth Crosby and George Gaylor. For the month of October, Wafers, Eucharistic Candles, the Sanctuary Candle and altar flowers for the week of 10/21 still available for dedications. 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.

**Loose Change Counts! Accept the challenge!** Start the habit of donating your loose change with your weekly offering. Every bit counts!

**Join us for Sunday School!** 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, October 6th** : 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.

**Blessing of the Animals Service:** St. Thomas' invites you to join us on **October 7th at 9:30am** for our Annual Blessing of the Animals! People and pets of all faiths are welcome. This will be a simple service filled with faith, fun and fellowship. Please ensure your pets are properly leashed or caged.

**Basket Bingo** will be held on Friday, October 12th - doors open at 6 pm and Bingo begins at 7 pm. It's a wonderful evening of food, fellowship, and fun! Tickets are \$20, and special drawing tickets are available for \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Please contact Diane Flayhart, [410-426-4618](tel:410-426-4618), or Vicki Sappe, [410-456-5060](tel:410-456-5060), to reserve your spots! In addition, we are making a list of anyone willing to contribute a dessert! Volunteers are also needed on the event night to help set up, greet guests at the door, help with ticket or food sales, clean up, and to donate desserts and door prizes. Baskets will be available before and after services for volunteers to fill with items or a \$25 gift card. This is always a great fundraiser - made possible by the generosity of all of you!! Thanks very much; hope to see you all there!

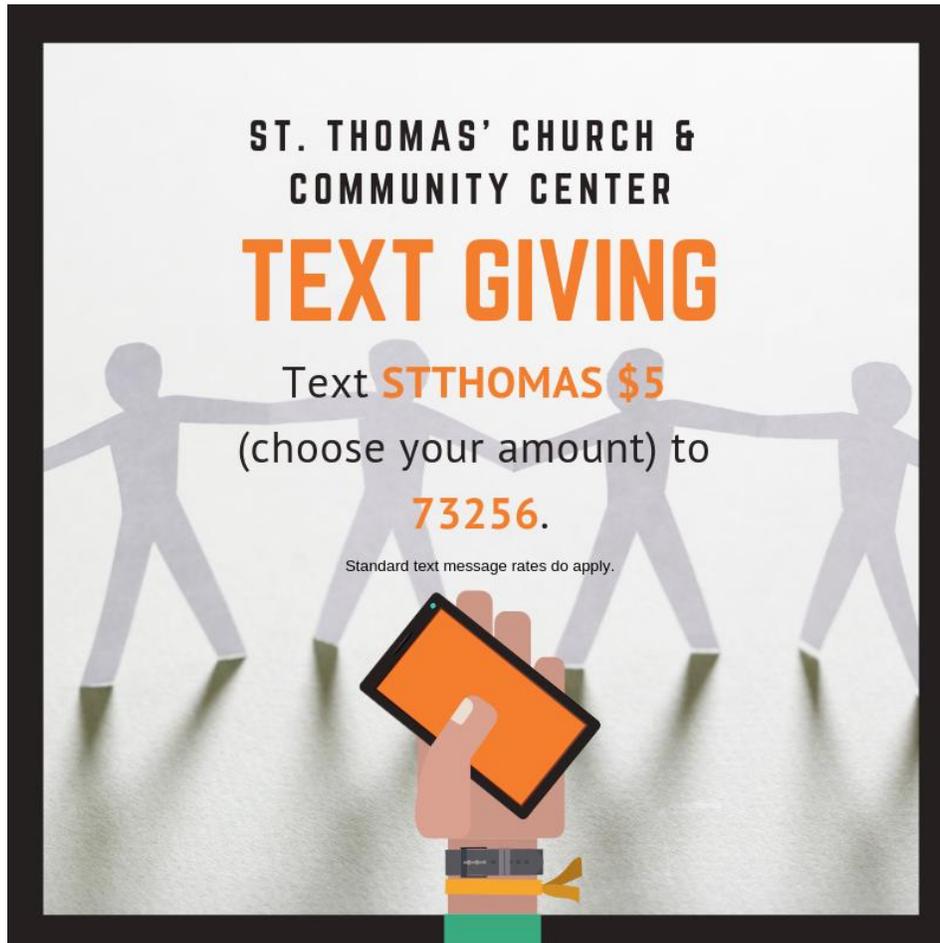
**Prayers for Healing are requested for those who are ill or in any need:** Mo Otradovec, Dottie D., Jan Jr., David J., Jeri Adams, Robert Yoos, Andrew Bures, Bill D., Rick D., Pete, Leigh, Vera O., Wanda S., Dowell S., Bill F., Mary Lou P., Curtis Meador, Lou W., Amy S., Janet, Kathy, Larry, Tammy J.,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

**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**



Help support St. Thomas' Church & Community Center.  
**Text STTHOMAS \$10 (\$3 minimum amount) to 73256.**

We are working to become a vital one-stop-shop for community members to access education, theater arts, youth and senior programs, commodities, and have a safe place to participate in recreational activities and special events. Every extra dollar you can spare goes a long way in helping us to grow and strengthen our community. We could not do what we do, without you!

Funds received will be used to support the continuation and expansion of the programs and services offered.

*St. Thomas' Episcopal Church is a 501(c)3, non-profit organization.*