

*Welcome to*  
ST. THOMAS  
*Episcopal*  
CHURCH



*16 E. Van Buren St.  
Battle Creek  
(269)965-2244  
[www.StThomasBC.org](http://www.StThomasBC.org)*

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

*August 31, 2025*

The Holy Eucharist

*ORDER OF SERVICE*

*Please use the following order of service to find your place in The Book of Common Prayer located in the pew racks in front of you. The blue Hymnal 1982 and supplemental hymnals Wonder Love and Praise and Lift Every Voice and Sing II contain hymns and service music.*

*If you are new to our community, please fill out a welcome card found in the pew racks and place it in the collection plate during the offering.*

*Coffee and refreshments are served in the Parish Hall after each service, through the double doors to the right of the altar and down the hallway. There, you will have an opportunity to visit with members of the church community.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Opening Hymn*

*Hymnal 423*

✠ Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.  
**Glory to God for ever and ever.**

*The Collect of the Day*

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.*

## ***The Lessons***

*The First Lesson:* Sirach 10:12-18

A Reading from the Wisdom of Jesus, Son of Sirach.

The beginning of human pride is to forsake the Lord;  
the heart has withdrawn from its Maker.  
For the beginning of pride is sin, and the one who  
clings to it pours out abominations.  
Therefore the Lord brings upon them unheard-of  
calamities, and destroys them completely.  
The Lord overthrows the thrones of rulers,  
and enthrones the lowly in their place.  
The Lord plucks up the roots of the nations,  
and plants the humble in their place.  
The Lord lays waste the lands of the nations,  
and destroys them to the foundations of the earth.  
He removes some of them and destroys them,  
and erases the memory of them from the earth.  
Pride was not created for human beings,  
or violent anger for those born of women.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

*Psalms 112*

*Said by all*

1 Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord \*  
and have great delight in his commandments!

2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; \*  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

3 Wealth and riches will be in their house, \*  
and their righteousness will last for ever.

4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; \*  
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

5 It is good for them to be generous in lending \*  
and to manage their affairs with justice.

6 For they will never be shaken; \*  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; \*  
their heart is right;  
they put their trust in the Lord.

- 8 Their heart is established and will not shrink, \*  
until they see their desire upon their enemies.
- 9 They have given freely to the poor, \*  
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;  
they will hold up their head with honor.
- 10 The wicked will see it and be angry;  
they will gnash their teeth and pine away; \*  
the desires of the wicked will perish.

*The Second Lesson: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16*

A Reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

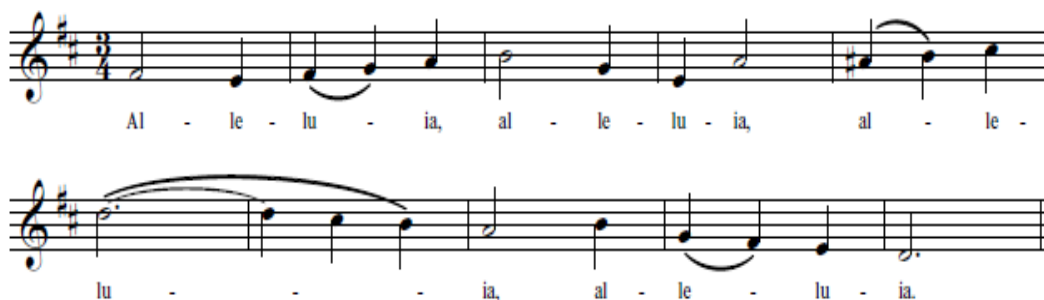
Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation*

*Sung by all before and after Gospel*



*The Gospel Lesson: Luke 14:1, 7-14*

The ✠ Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

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

### *Today's Music*

Opening Hymn No. 423  
Offertory Hymn No. 376  
Communion Hymn  
Closing Hymn No. 344

*St. Denio*  
*Hymn to Joy*  
*LEVAS 148*  
*Sicilian Mariners*

---

### *Announcements*

Please welcome **Brooks Grantier** as our guest organist.

Please join us in welcoming **Laurie Atwater**, our ministry student, who will be with us for the first time this Sunday!

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God.

### **THIS WEEK:**

- **September is volunteer month for Coffee Hour.** Please sign up in the Parish Hall.

**LOOKING AHEAD:**

- **The next meeting of the Mystery Book Club will be on** Thursday, September 25th in the lounge. The title of the book is *Bruno — Chief of Police* and the author is Martin Walker.

- **The next issue of the New Spirit will be in September.** Thank you to everyone who helped by sending in an article or a picture!
- **We invite you to offer a donation to the work of the church.** You might donate to a special project or a ministry, or just because you want to. You may bring your donation to the office, put it in the collection plate, drop it in the mail, or donate through Realm.
- **St. Francis Day Pet Blessings** will be offered the weekend of October 4. More information to come!
- **30 Good Minutes** will begin next Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, from 11:30 to 12:00 in the Lounge. The topic will be "How to Read the Bible."
- **A special diocesan Healing Service** will be held at St. Thomas on September 20<sup>th</sup>. This service is offered for those seeking healing from the past misconduct of bishops in our diocese. Details will be shared as they become available.
- **Wednesday's Noon Mass** in the Chapel will resume on September 17<sup>th</sup>.

**A list of this week's activities is posted on the hallway bulletin board or on our website: [www.StThomasBC.org](http://www.StThomasBC.org).**

**Next Week's Lessons:** Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33

*Serving this Week*

*Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.*

Celebrant	The Rev. Michael Spencer
Preacher	The Rev. Michael Spencer
Deacon	The Rev. Trish Harris
Lector	Megan Phelan, Kellan Petronski
Intercessor	Grady Petronski
Crucifer	Jodi Nickerson
Chalice	Megan Phelan
Altar Chapter	Bob Harberts, Brenda Hillman
Ushers	Roy Hillman, Ross Dingwall
Vestry Liaison	Brenda Hillman
A/V Tech	Joerg Himmelreich