

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

50 E. Bagley Road † Berea, OH 44017



Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany February 16, 2025

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist – Rite II

The Rt. Reverend Anne Jolly, Bishop

Interim Rector: Reverend Dawson Moorer
330-256-7554

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Parish Office Phone: (440) 234-5241
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Kira Seaton, Minister of Music: scuola.musica@sbcglobal.net

Barbara Telfer, Deacon: TelferBJT@hotmail.com



Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany February 16, 2025

All music can be found in the Red Hymnal in the pews.

PRELUDE: Prelude on *Azmon*

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

PRAYER FOR ST. THOMAS

All: Almighty God, look graciously on all of us here at St. Thomas, during this time of transition. Be with us, and lead us, as we seek the next rector for our church. We ask your direction and guidance, for all the individuals that will step up to be part of the search committee here, so that they will choose the right spiritual leader for this parish. We pray we receive an upright and faithful priest, who will care for your people, and equip us for our ministries. Grant us perception, faithfulness and joy, so that we may hear your voice in all our deliberations. Grant us also the desire, and the ability, to truly hear each other, and those who have entrusted us with this process. Give us courage to respond, and act as you lead us. We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

OPENING HYMN “O For a Thousand Tongues To Sing” Hymn 493 *Azmon*
(Verses One through Three and Verse Six)

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 355)

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

People: **And Blessed be his Kingdom now and forever. AMEN.**

It is customary to make the Sign of the Cross here. Subsequent places where making the Sign of the Cross is appropriate will be marked with a ✝

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

The Celebrant says: 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.

All: AMEN.

GLORIA: S 280 *(in the front of the Hymnal)*

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Please be seated for the Readings

THE FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Reader: A reading from the book of Jeremiah

Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD.

They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse--who can understand it?

I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

PSALM 1 *(read responsively)*

Beatus vir qui non abiit

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

2 Their delight is in the law of the LORD, and they meditate on his law day and night.

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

4 It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked is doomed.

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Reader: A Reading from Corinthians

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ--whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Please stand if you are able.

SEQUENCE HYMN: "If Thou But Trust" Hymn 635 *Wer nur den lieben Gott*
(Verse One before the Gospel, Verse Two after)

THE GOSPEL

Luke 6:17-26

The Rev. Dawson Moorer

Celebrant The Holy Gospel according to Luke

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus came down with the twelve apostles and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.

Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven;
for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.”

"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

"Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

"Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ

SEQUENCE (reprise): “If Thou But Trust” Hymn 635 *Wer nur den lieben Gott*
(*Verse Two*)

Please be seated.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dawson Moorer

Please stand if you are able.

THE NICENE CREED

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:

(At italic words, it is traditional to bow in remembrance that God became truly human at Christ's incarnation)

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 (BCP Form III)

(The Reader and People pray responsively)

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church; **That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do Your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; especially those on our parish list. We raise them up to You, O Lord, and place them in our hearts this week;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

CONCLUDING COLLECT:

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect, then All: Amen.

GENERAL CONFSSION

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor

Celebrant & 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.

Celebrant:

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.

All: Amen.

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Be seated for the Offertory

OFFERTORY: "Beatitudes"

Darryl Ducote

THE HOLY COMMUNION

(Eucharistic Prayer B)

The people stand if able The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says:

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds:

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:

SANCTUS: **S 125** *(in the front of the Hymnal 1982)*

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all who minister in your Church, especially presiding Bishop Sean and Bishop Anne, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 forever. **Amen.**

And now as our Savior taught us, we are bold to say,

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, forever and ever. Amen.**

FRACTION ANTHEM S 169 *(In the front of The Hymnal 1982)*

COMMUNION HYMN: "I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord" Hymn 304 *Land of Rest*
*(Verse One as a solo, all join as they are able in Verses Two through Four during communion,
and verse five after any dedication of lay ministers.)*

After Communion, the Celebrant says: Let us pray.

ALL: Almighty and ever living 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 your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN: “Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun” Hymn 544 *Duke Street*
(Verses One, Two, Four, and Five)

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE: Postlude on *Duke Street*

SERVING TODAY:

Celebrant: The Rev. Dawson Moorer
Altar: Barb Pertz
Flowers: Linda Kinsey
Musicians: The Choir

Chalice Bearer : Joseph Allotta
Lay Reader: Mary Lee Stowell
Bread Baker: Nancy Braford

CALENDAR:

SUNDAY 2/16	10:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST-RITE II Father Dawson Moorer, Celebrant Choir rehearsal before service only.
MONDAY 2/17	Alcoholics Anonymous- Harkess Hall, (7-9pm)
WEDNESDAY 2/19	Vestry Meeting 7pm - Church Office
THURSDAY 2/20	AA/Bluebook: Harkess Hall, (7-9pm)
SUNDAY 2/23	10:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST-RITE II Father Dawson Moorer, Celebrant Choir rehearsal before and after service.

IN THE NEWS

SPECIAL CONCERT TODAY SUNDAY, FEB. 16th at 12:00 PM: St. Thomas Parishioners are invited to a concert in the 1893 Sanctuary after church. Professor Steve Koh and Baldwin Wallace University string faculty will perform a String Quartet Concert. This talented group, including Maestro Koh, who impressed the September S.T.A.R. audience, will provide a wonderful free opportunity. Join us after services on February 16th for this enchanting event.

GOTTA DANCE! The Elegance Dance Studio, our immediate neighbors, has graciously extended an offer to St. Thomas for free dance lessons on Saturday evenings, contingent upon sufficient interest from parishioners. Both couples and singles are welcome to participate,

regardless of prior experience. To gauge the level of interest, please add your name to the sign-up sheet located on the church office window by Feb. 18th.

AS ST. THOMAS TRANSITIONS into the search for a new rector, Senior Warden Lorrie Beatty seeks input, feedback, and ideas to help St Thomas thrive. Communication between congregants and vestry members is crucial at this time. An open dialog with clear and concise exchange of ideas, thoughtful planning, and a shared vision for the future of St. Thomas are important components of a successful rector search and a fulfilling parish life. Lorrie is available during the day at **216-215-7111** or by email ltbeatty@gmail.com.

THE 2025 ST. THOMAS VESTRY:

After the 2024 Annual Meeting on January 26, 2025, the Vestry met with new and returning members. Please welcome the 2025 seven-member Vestry: Lorrie Beatty (Senior Warden), Dan Patterson (Junior Warden), Laura Gaba, Theresa Hartman, Hannah Jackson, Barb Pertz, and Michael Strama. Julia Kalbrunner will serve as Clerk, and Bruce McLaughlin remains the Treasurer.

LAY READERS NEEDED: If you are interested in joining the lay reader ministry, please contact Carl Scheu at (440) 292-7189 or send an email to thrud62@yahoo.com.

THE BREAD BAKERS are looking for bakers to join their team of volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Peggy Zambounis at 440-336-1682.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED in the church office to help maintain presence during the week, maintain sick list, and assist with parish bulletin. Contact Senior Warden Lorrie Beatty by calling **216-215-7111** or e-mailing at ltbeatty@gmail.com. If you are interested.

THE RED DOOR CAFÉ IS BACK open for business at the beginning of the Spring term at BWU! This is St. Thomas' outreach to the Baldwin Wallace campus community. Pour-over coffee, tea, and conversation are served up on Tuesdays from 10 AM to Noon, engaging with BW students and passer-by spreading love, hope, and an invitation to St. Thomas. And as always, taking prayer requests.

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

"Do not be anxious about anything
but in every situation, by prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving, present your requests to God". Philippians 4:6-7

Caregivers: George D'Arras, Nancy Braford, and Tom Griffith

Missionary Service: Michelle Wood

Birthday: Sean Suckart

Military Service: David Brabson, Ryan Dawson, Robby Hartman, Annmarie Miller, Eli Modesitt, John Toolis, Blake Schwartz, Jimmy Loder, Caleb Jones, and Maria Estrada.

Sick and Suffering: Shelly Campbell, Heather Flowers, Kevin Flowers, Brenna, Dan Skjei, Phyllis Hall, Tammy Pletcher, Bev Smith, Carol Flowers, Spencer Griffith, Evelyn & Churchill Ward, Alma Stoica, John Willis, Sandy Shoenfelt, Clint Hist, Bill Hacker, Nellie Cooper, Clint Anderson, Alison Griffith, Jay Murillo, Thor Kerbusch, Sue Zimdars, Marilyn Thomas, and Reva Telfer.

Recovering: John Staub, Dennis Braford, Gerald Gower, Carole Strama, Polly Burns, and Tim Cooper.

Pray for those: worldwide suffering from devastating fires, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, famine, earthquakes, volcano eruptions, extreme heat or lack of clean water, and pray for the victims of gun violence everywhere.

Pray for peace in the Middle East, and Ukraine: Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESSINGS AND PRAYER CARDS:

Every month, a new set of members or friends of our church family will be selected as card recipients; it is amazing how receiving a card in the mail can brighten someone's day!

For February 2025:

Heather Flowers: 13602 St. James Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44135

Julie Kalbrunner: 26494 Cook Road, Olmsted Falls, OH 44138