

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

50 E. Bagley Road ✝ Berea, OH 44017



First Sunday after Pentecost, Holy Eucharist – Rite II
10:00 AM **May 31, 2026**

The Rt. Reverend Anne Jolly, Bishop

Interim Rector: Reverend Dawson Moorer
330-256-7554

Barbara Telfer, Deacon: TelferBJT@hotmail.com

Kira Seaton, Minister of Music: scuola.musica@sbcglobal.net

St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Berea, Ohio
Parish Office Phone: (440) 234-5241
Email: churchoffice@stthomaschurch-berea.org

St. Thomas
Website

Give to St.
Thomas

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

PRAYER FOR ST. THOMAS

All: Loving God, we come to you with hopeful hearts, seeking your guidance during this time of transition, as we search for our next rector. We especially lift up our search committee; grant them clarity and wisdom in their endeavors. May they, along with the entire congregation, know your presence throughout this journey. We thank you for the many blessings in our lives and for the leadership that has guided us over the years.

God, we ask for a future priest with deep love for your people and the wisdom to prepare us for your ministries. May we be attuned to your voice in our deliberations. Grant us the courage to respond and act as you lead us. Let us be united in wisdom, compassion, and joy as we strive to fulfill your purpose. We pray this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE: Prelude on “*Nicaea*”

OPENING HYMN: “Holy, Holy, Holy!”

Hymn 362 *Nicaea*

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

(The people standing)

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

People: And blessed be God’s reign, now and for ever. 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 Presider 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 278 *(In the front of the Hymnal)*

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Presider: God be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given to us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of your divine Majesty to worship the Unity: Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see you in your one and eternal glory, O Father; who with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Please be seated for the Readings

THE FIRST LESSON

Lay Reader: A Reading from Genesis

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Lay Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 8

(read responsively)

Domine, Dominus noster

- 1 O LORD our Governor,
How exalted is Your Name in all the world!
- 2 Out of the mouths of infants and children
Your majesty is praised above the heavens.
- 3 You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries,
To quell the enemy and the avenger.
- 4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
The moon and the stars You have set in their courses,
- 5 What is man that You should be mindful of him?
The son of man that You should seek him out?
- 6 You have made him but little lower than the angels;
You adorn him with glory and honor;
- 7 You give him mastery over the works of Your hands;
You put all things under his feet:
- 8 All sheep and oxen,
Even the wild beasts of the field,
- 9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea,
And whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.
- 10 O LORD our Governor,
How exalted is Your Name in all the world!

THE SECOND LESSON

Lay Reader: A Reading from 2nd Corinthians

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Lay Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand if you are able.

SEQUENCE HYMN: "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" Hymn 366 *Grosser Gott*
(Verses One, Two and Three before the Gospel, Verse Four after)

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Officiant: The Gospel of our Savior.

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

SEQUENCE HYMN: (reprise): "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" Hymn 366
(Verse Four after the Gospel)

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,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.
 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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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 - FORM IV

Deacon or other leader:

Leader: Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, especially those on our parish list. We raise them up to You, O Lord, and place them in our hearts this week;

Silence

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

The Presider adds a concluding Collect.

Presider:

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Deacon or Presider says:

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created.

We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

THE PEACE *All stand.*

Presider: The Peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of Jesus Christ.

Be seated for the Offertory

OFFERTORY HYMN: “Come, Thou Almighty King” Hymn 365 *Moscow*
(The Congregation sings all four Verses)

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer 1

The people remain standing. The Presider, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

Presider: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider: It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing (say):

Presider and People:

SANCTUS S 128

The Celebrant continues

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Presider and People:

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

The Presider continues

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with the Ever Blesses Virgin Mary, Blessed Thomas, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People and Presider: (You are invited to pray the Lord's Prayer using the version dearest to your heart.)

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.*

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your Name,
Your kingdom come, Your will be
done, On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
Now and forever. *Amen.*

FRACTION ANTHEM S 155

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation or similar words:

Presider: **The Gifts of God for the People of God**

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

The Bread and Cup are given to the communicants with these words:

Presider(s): The Body of Christ, the bread of Heaven **AMEN.**

The Blood of Christ, the cup of Salvation. **AMEN.**

COMMUNION HYMN: “This is the Hour of Banquet” Hymn 316 *Canticum refectiois*

(A long introduction is played, and then as people are returning from the communion rail, Verse One and Two are sung with interludes. If Home communion is being given out, Verse Three will be sung after the Eucharistic Ministers have been commissioned.)

COMMISSIONING OF LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

HEALING PRAYERS, ANOINTING WITH OIL, AND LAYING-ON OF HANDS

(As musicians continue to play our Communion Hymn, Father Dawson is calling for all who wish to receive healing prayer, anointing with oil, or blessings, to step up into the Chancel at this time, or signal to the ushers that they be visited in their seats.)

Presider: Let us pray.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

The People may join in saying this prayer:

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you made us one with your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior.

Fr. Dawson leads the Adult Formation class beginning at 7PM

DEDICATION OF THOR'S MEMORIAL TODAY, SUN. MAY 31 @ 2:00 PM IN THE NEWLY RENOVATED COURTYARD

All parishioners are invited to attend the 2:00PM dedication of the very special memorial to Thor the Therapy Dog and special, loving companion of Bill Kerbusch, fellow parishioner. Also in attendance will be Cleveland Clinic Staff from the Strongsville and Middleburg Heights Family Health Center locations where Thor did his therapy work. The dedication will be followed by a 3:00PM reception in Harkess Hall.

CARD-SENDING: Sending a card can lift someone's spirits during illness, grief, or tough times. See the last page of the bulletin for a list of people who could use some encouragement.

SEND PRAYER REQUESTS OR NOTEWORTHY ITEMS TO SHARE:

Email information to churchoffice@stthomaschurch-berea.org. Deadline for submission is Wednesday night for inclusion in the weekly E-Pistle and Sunday Bulletin. Don't use email? Please reach out by phone; call the Church Office (440) 234-5241. Thank you!

WE'RE UPDATING THE FUR BABIES BULLETIN BOARD

If you have a pet not already included or a new pet to include, please give pictures to Anita Cooper or leave them in the office. Also, include your pet's name and age.

COLUMBARIUM EXPANSION IS HAPPENING!

One block of four niches is sold, and another block of four niches is pending sold. Are you interested in purchasing a niche for yourself and/or your loved ones? We must purchase niches in blocks of four. The approximate all-inclusive cost of one niche is currently less than \$600.00. If you'd like to know more about obtaining a niche(s), please call the church office at 440-234-5241 or send an email to churchoffice@stthomaschurch-berea.org. Be sure to include your name, phone number, and a good time to reach you.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. THOMAS:

COMMUNION BREAD BAKER: This is great service for the whole church, done with a little prayer right in your own home. If you're interested, contact Peggy Zambounis at (440) 336-1682.

LAY READERS NEEDED: Do you enjoy reading aloud? If you are interested in joining this ministry, please contact Carl Scheu at (440) 292-7189 or email thrud62@yahoo.com. Training

provided.

COOKOUT GAME NIGHT

✦ hot dogs/hamburgers

✦ bring sides to share

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

**JUNE 20
2026
5 PM - 8PM**

**Come see what everyone
is talking about!
Parishioners and their
friends are invited to a
fun-filled night of indoor
and outdoor games, food,
great company, and lots of
laughter. Plan now to join
us!**



IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

Caregivers: George D'Arras, and Nancy Braford

Missionary Service: Michelle Wood

Birthdays: Julie Kalbrunner

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

Sick and Suffering: Heather Flowers, Kevin Flowers, Dan Skjei, Phyllis Hall, Tammy Pletcher, Bev Smith, Sara Perry, Evelyn & Churchill Ward, Alma Stoica, Sandy Shoenfelt, Clint Hist, Bill Hacker, Nellie Cooper, Clint Anderson, Jay Murillo, Marilyn Thomas, Reva Telfer, Linda Miller, Jacob, Kate Stocker Holly, Harold Roberts, Mary Lou, Marcie Hist, Sue Zimdars, Carol Flowers, Anne Statz, Patricia Shook, and Bill Walker.

Recovering: Alison Griffith, Dennis Braford, Gerald Gowern, Carole Strama, Carole Pozek, Spencer Griffith, Sue Griffith, Rick Finklestein, Anita Cooper, Mike Leonardo.

Pray for the dear departed: William (Bill) Scott Walker (father of Caitlyn Walker)

Pray for those worldwide: who suffer from disease, natural disasters, extreme heat or lack of clean water, pray for the victims of gun violence everywhere.

For peace among the nations: Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Special Intentions, Prayer Requests, & Blessings:

Each month we will list names of select members or friends of our church who would benefit from receiving notes or cards by mail to brighten their day, or we will set special intentions to pray for. To nominate someone for a card or request special intentions or prayers, please email: churchoffice@stthomaschurch-berea.org.

For May Card sending:

Carol Flowers, (took a fall, broke her arm) 13602 St. James Ave, Cleveland, OH 44135

David Zambounis, new address:

PFC ZAMBOUNIS DAVID
BLDG 29721 A73RD
616 BARNES AVE
FT GORDON, GA 30905