

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

50 E. Bagley Road † Berea, OH 44017

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, Holy Eucharist – Rite II

10:00 AM July 26, 2026

The Rt. Reverend Anne Jolly, Bishop

Interim Rector: Reverend Dawson Moorer
330-256-7554

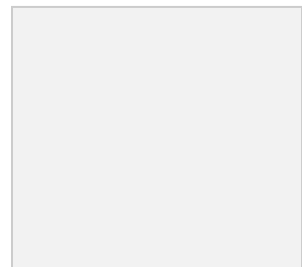
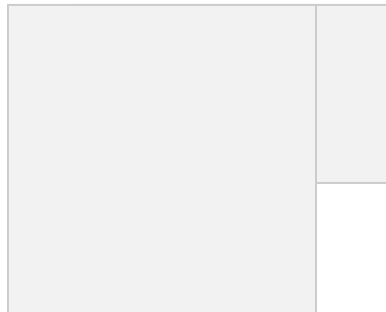
Barbara Telfer, Deacon: TelferBIT@hotmail.com

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



*All congregational music can be found in the Black and Red Hymnal,
Lift Every Voice and Sing II, which is found 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 “Solid Rock”

OPENING HYMN: “On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand” LEVAS 99

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.

SONG OF PRAISE

“I Will Rejoice” LEVAS 244

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

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

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; 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

Lay Reader: A Reading from the book of 1st Kings

1 Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?”

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 119:129-136 *(Read responsively by verse)* **Mirabilia**

129 Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

130 When your word goes forth it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

131 I open my mouth and pant; I long for your commandments.

132 Turn to me in mercy, as you always do to those who love your Name.

133 Steady my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

134 Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.

135 Let your countenance shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

136 My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law.

THE SECOND LESSON

Lay Reader: A Reading from St. Paul's letter to the Romans

Romans 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family.

And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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: “Great is Thy Faithfulness” LEVAS 189

(Verses One and Two before the Gospel, Verse Three after)

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

Deacon Barb Telfer

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

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

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Presider: The Gospel of our Savior.

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

SEQUENCE HYMN: (reprise): “Great is Thy Faithfulness” LEVAS 189

(Verse Three 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 CHOIR ANTHEM: “Children of the Heavenly Father” (*LEVAS 213*)

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):

ALL:

SANCTUS: LEVAS 255

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 *(based loosely on LEVAS 268)*

Chorus Leader: Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia! **ALL:** Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia!

Verse (3X) Leader: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:
ALL: Therefore let us keep the feast

Chorus **ALL:** Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia!

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: “Circle the Table” (From Voices Found 85) *See the next page:*

Directions: 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 Visitors 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 calls 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. Amen.

THE BLESSING:

Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you and all those you love, now and forever. *Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN: "Just a Closer Walk With Thee" LEVAS 72
(All verses, with the refrain following each verse as written)

DISMISSAL:

POSTLUDE: Postlude on "Closer Walk"

SERVING ON SUNDAY, JULY 26TH

Presider: The Rev. Dawson Moorer

Altar: Etta Scheu

Lay Reader: Sue Griffith

Seaton, Bassoonist Sue Griffith, Cantor Amanda Bosley, and the Choir

Chalice Bearer: Deacon Barb Telfer

Bread Baker: Etta Scheu

Flowers: Julie Kinsey **Musicians:** Kira

CALENDAR:

SUNDAY 7/26	10:00am HOLY EUCHARIST-RITE II EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Father Dawson Moorer, Presider ECW meeting after worship in Harkess Hall
MONDAY 7/27	Alcoholics Anonymous- Harkess Hall, (7-9pm)
TUESDAY 7/28	Healing Service 6 pm – in the Chapel Alcoholics Anonymous- Harkess Hall, (7-9pm)
THURSDAY 7/30	AA/Bluebook: Harkess Hall, (7-9pm)
SUNDAY 8/2	10:00am HOLY EUCHARIST-RITE II TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Father Dawson Moorer, Presider

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ECW MEETING TODAY AFTER WORSHIP!!!

Topics for this meeting include planning crafting dates for Trunk-or-Treat and a kitchen cleaning date before S.T.A.R. resumes in September. Please join us this Sunday.

HEALING SERVICE TUESDAYS @ 6pm

Every Tuesday evening at 6:00 pm, Father Dawson Moorer presides over an expressive worship service that includes the Word of God, a Litany of Healing, Anointing, and the Holy Eucharist.

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. Please e-mail or reach out by phone; call the Church Office (440) 234-5241. Thank you!

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.

COLUMBARIUM EXPANSION IS HAPPENING! Two blocks of four niches have been purchased (two extra niches are available for sale to parishioners). Are you interested in purchasing a niche for yourself and/or a family member? Want to know more about obtaining a niche(s)? Please call the church office at 440-234-5241 for more information or send an email to churchoffice@stthomaschurch-berea.org. Always include your name, phone number, and good time to call you back if you leave a message.

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

Caregivers: George D'Arras, and Nancy Braford

Missionary Service: Michelle Wood

Birthdays: Carl Scheu III, Heather Flowers, Troy Thomas

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: Kevin Flowers, Dan Skjei, Phyllis Hall, Tammy Pletcher, Bev Smith, Sara Perry, Evelyn & Churchill Ward, Alma Stoica, Sandy Shoenfelt, Clint Hist, Bill Hacker, Clint Anderson, Jay Murillo, Marilyn Thomas, Reva Telfer, Linda Miller, Jacob, Kate Stocker Holly, Harold Roberts, Mary Lou, Marcie Hist, Sue Zimdars, Shelly Campbell, and Michael Rocha.

Recovering: Alison Griffith, Heather Flowers, Carol Flowers, Dennis Braford, Gerald Gown, Carole Strama, Carole Pozek, Spencer Griffith, Sue Griffith, Rick Finklestein, Anita Cooper, Cindy Lowrey, Tony Domenick, and Bill Kerbusch.

Dearly Departed: Nellie Cooper, (mother of Tim Cooper)

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 July Card sending:

Tony Domenick (Linda Kinsey's boyfriend; recovering from hip surgery)
279 Franklin Dr, Berea, OH 44017

Shelly Campbell

Brunswick Pointe Rehab Center, 4355 Laurel Rd. Brunswick, OH 44212

David Zambounis, new address:

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