St. Thomas Episcopal Church

50 E. Bagley Road ✝ Berea, OH 44017

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, Holy Eucharist – Rite II

10:00 AM **August 16, 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

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost August 16, 2026

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 "*Revive*"

OPENING HYMN: "Revive Us Again" LEVAS 157

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.

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

Please be seated for the Readings

THE FIRST LESSON

Lay Reader: A Reading from the book of Isaiah **Isaiah 56:1, 6-8**

Thus says the Lord: "Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.

And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant--these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel,

"I will gather others to them besides those already gathered."

Lay Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 67 *(Read responsively by verse)* ***Deus misereatur***

(Lay Reader, please read all verses aloud to allow livestream viewers to hear all verses of the Psalm.)

1 May God be merciful to us and bless us,
show us the light of His countenance and come to us.

2 Let Your ways be known upon earth,
Your saving health among all nations.

3 Let the peoples praise You, O God;
let all the peoples praise You.

4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for You judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon earth.

5 Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

6 The earth has brought forth her increase;
may God, our own God, give us His blessing.

7 May God give us his blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

THE SECOND LESSON

Lay Reader: A Reading from St. Paul's letter to the Romans **Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32**

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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:"Pass Me Not, O, Gentle Savior" LEVAS 139
(*Verses One and Two before the Gospel Reading, Verses Three and Four after)*

THE GOSPEL **Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28** ***The Rev. Dawson Moorer***

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit."

But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us."

He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and

knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Presider: The Gospel of our Savior.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SEQUENCE HYMN: (reprise): "Pass Me Not, O, Gentle Savior" LEVAS 139
(*Verses Three and Four after the Gospel Reading)*

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: "Lead Me, Guide Me" *(LEVAS 194)*

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: "Taste and See" LEVAS 154
(Verse One and Two are sung with interludes in between. Verse Three will be sung after 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 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 all 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: "Oh How I Love Jesus" LEVAS 95

DISMISSAL:

POSTLUDE: Postlude on "*Oh How I Love Jesus*"

SERVING ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 16th

Presider: *The Rev. Dawson Moorer*
Chalice Bearer: *Julie Kalbrunner*
Altar: *Laura Gaba*
Bread Baker: *Lorrie Beatty*
Lay Reader: *Lorrie Beatty*
Flowers: *Julie Kalbrunner*
Musicians: *Kira Seaton, Bassoonist Sue Griffith, Cantor Amanda Bosley, and the Choir*

The flowers for August 9th were dedicated to the glory of God in memory of Jonathan Patrick Flowers and given by Carol, Heather, and Kevin Flowers.

The flowers for Sunday, August 16th, are dedicated to Nellie Cooper, the dearly departed mother of parishioner Tim Cooper.

CALENDAR:

SUNDAY 8/16	**10:00am HOLY EUCHARIST-RITE II TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Father Dawson Moorer, Presider**
MONDAY 8/17	**Alcoholics Anonymous ~ Harkess Hall 7-9pm**
TUESDAY 8/18	**Healing Service 6 pm ~ in the Chapel Alcoholics Anonymous ~ Harkess Hall 7-9pm**
WEDNESDAY 8/19	**Vestry Meeting ~ Harkess Hall 7 pm**
THURSDAY 8/20	**AA/Bluebook ~ Harkess Hall 7-9pm**
SATURDAY 8/22	**Kitchen Clean-Up 10 am-1pm**
SUNDAY 8/23	**10:00am HOLY EUCHARIST-RITE II THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Father Dawson Moorer, Presider**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAVE THE DATE! OUTDOOR SERVICE AND PICNIC SUNDAY, SEPT 20TH

Sunday Worship service and parish picnic will take place at the Wallace Lake Grill Pavilion in the Berea Metroparks. More information and directions to the location coming soon. The worship service and picnic will take place rain or shine due to the ability to close garage door-like windows and be in air conditioning. Watch the bulletin, E-Pistle, and Church office window for more details coming soon and a sign-up sheet for sides, salads, and desserts.

140 WAYS FOR 140 DAYS

Now – September 12 | 11:00 a.m. | St. Luke's, Cleveland

St. Luke's invites the Diocese of Ohio to join them in prayer and action for 140 days leading up to their 140th anniversary on the corner of West 78th St. and Lake Ave. in Cleveland.
Click here for a welcome video, prayer guide, tickets to our Sister Act Sing-Along Fundraiser Brunch, and to sign up for the Sister Act Sing-Along Community Choir.

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.

ST. THOMAS, BEREA ~ PARISH PROFILE

St. Thomas Episcopal Church, a small but active membership with a rich history in the Diocese of Ohio, seeks a 3/4 time Priest-in-Charge to lead a congregation of dedicated Christians who seek to serve Christ in all persons, both in the parish and the comm unity.

We are seeking a priest who wants to connect more deeply with our neighbors and the Community at large.

We hope our next priest will be a compassionate leader who will help this warm, welcoming parish find innovative ways to grow. This person would also help us listen to how the Holy Spirit is directing us, not only in growth, but also in caring for each other.

Pastoral care is important to this congregation, but we also see this as a priest-parish partnership. We seek someone who connects well with young people, and will help us expand our community and college outreach.

VIEW THE PARISH PROFILE

SO MANY MUGS!

Dear St. Thomas Family, so many mugs are residing above the sinks in the kitchen. If you have one there and are using it at church functions, great! Please use a permanent marker and print your name on the bottom with the word "KEEP". If you have one here but are not using it, please take it home. Mugs not claimed or marked as "KEEP" will be washed and put out for any church members to take/use if they wish. Mugs not claimed by mid-September will be donated to a resale charity. If you do not have a mug on a hook, feel free to bring one in, mark it, and use it at church functions.
Thank you, Julie Kalbrunner ~ STAR clean up committee

A DELAYED THANK YOU to David Coxe, a fine friend of this congregation, who substituted at the piano for last week's service. It is always a pleasure for the congregation, and a great blessing for the Minister of Music to have such an able musician to be able to call for jumping into the music of a service! Come back soon!

SEND PRAYER REQUESTS OR NOTEWORTHY ITEMS TO SHARE: Email information to **churchoffice@stthomaschurch-berea.org.** Deadline to submit is Wednesday night to publish in the weekly E-Pistle and Sunday Bulletin. Use e-mail or reach out by phone; call the Church Office (440) 234-5241. Thank you!

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: Abby Gaba, Scott Munson Sr.

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

Sick and Suffering: Kevin Flowers, Dan Skjei, Phyllis Hall, Tammy Pletcher, Bev Smith, Evelyn & Churchill Ward, Alma Stoica, Sandy Shoenfelt, Clint Hist, Bill Hacker, Clint Anderson, Jay Murillo, Marilyn Thomas, Deacon Barb Telfer, Linda Miller, Jacob, Harold Roberts, Mary Lou, Marcie Hist, Sue Zimdars, Michael Rocha, Beata, (friend of Deaon Barb's), Andrea.

Recovering: Alison Griffith, Heather Flowers, Carol Flowers, Dennis Braford, Gerald Gowern, Carole Strama, Carole Pozek, Spencer Griffith, Sue Griffith, Rick Finklestein, Anita Cooper, Cindy Lowrey, Tony Domenick, Mike Turner, Shelly Campbell, 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 August Card sending:

Clint and Marcie Hist – 8150 Crestwood Drive, North Ridgeville, OH 44039-7312

Deacon Barb Telfer – 4619 Hickory Ridge, Brunswick, OH 44212