

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

50 E. Bagley Road † Berea, OH 44017



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Holy Eucharist – Rite II

10:00 AM September 13, 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 congregational music can be found in the Hymnal 1892 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: on “Lauda anima”

OPENING HYMN: Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven”

Hymn 410 *Lauda anima*

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: “We Praise You and Acknowledge You”

Te Deum *Holst*

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

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

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ 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 Genesis **Genesis 50:15-21**

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 103:(1-7), 8-13 *(Read responsively, speaking the bold passages)* **Benedic, anima mea**

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

1 [Bless the LORD, O my soul, *and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.

2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, *and forget not all his benefits.

3 He forgives all your sins *and heals all your infirmities;

4 He redeems your life from the grave *and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;

5 He satisfies you with good things, *and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

6 The LORD executes righteousness *and judgment for all who are oppressed.

7 He made his ways known to Moses *and his works to the children of Israel.]

8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *slow to anger and of great kindness.

9 He will not always accuse us, *nor will he keep his anger for ever.

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

12 As far as the east is from the west, *so far has he removed our sins from us.

13 As a father cares for his children, *so does the LORD care for those who fear him.

THE SECOND LESSON

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

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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: "Come Down, O Love Divine" Hymn 516 *Down Ampney*
(Verses One and Two before the Gospel, Verse Three after the reading)

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Presider: The Gospel of our Savior.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SEQUENCE HYMN: (reprise): “Come Down, O Love Divine” Hymn 516 *Down Ampney*
(Verse Three after the 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - FORM III

The Leader and People pray responsively.

Leader: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People: **That we all may be one.**

Leader: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People: **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

Leader: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

People: **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Leader: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People: **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Leader: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People: **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Leader: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People: **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Leader: Give to the departed eternal rest;

People: **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Leader: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People: **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Leader: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

People may add their own petitions.

The Officiant adds a concluding Collect.

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **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 SOLO: “Go Down, Moses”

(from LEVAS 228)

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer III

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:

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

SANCTUS: S 125

The Presider continues

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Presider and People: **Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

The Presider continues

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with Bishops Sean and Anne, the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Thomas, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Presider: Blessed are you now and for ever.

People: AMEN.

Presider: 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 169

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: "Come With Us, O Blessed Jesus" Hymn 336 *Werde munter*

*Verse One is solo, with an interlude after the verse. The Congregation joins in the signing of Verse Two.
We will all sing the Third Verse after the dedication of the the Eucharistic Ministers.*

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:

May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who Broods over the world as a mother over her children, be upon you and all those you love, now and forever. *Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN: “Go Forth for God”

Hymn 347

Litton

DISMISSAL:

POSTLUDE: on *Litton*

SERVING ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH

Presider: The Rev. Dawson Moorer

Chalice Bearer: Peggy Zambounis

Altar: Mary Lee Stowell

Bread Baker: Peggy Zambounis

Lay Reader: Michael Strama

Flowers: Barb Emigh

Musicians: Kira Seaton, Bassoonist Sue Griffith, and Cantor Dann Herwerden.

We welcome Dann Herwerden to the lecturn to lead the hymns and responses today. Although we have seen Dann in services before, this marks his first time cantoring for us.

CALENDAR:

SUNDAY 9/13	10:00am HOLY EUCHARIST-RITE II FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Father Dawson Moorer, Presider <i>Altar/Bread Bakers Meeting after service</i>
MONDAY 9/14	Alcoholics Anonymous ~ Harkess Hall 7-9pm
TUESDAY 9/15	Healing Service 6 pm ~ the Chapel Discovering the Psalms 7 pm ~ the Chapel Alcoholics Anonymous ~ Harkess Hall 7-9pm
WEDNESDAY 9/16	Vestry Meeting 7 pm ~ Harkess Hall
THURSDAY 9/17	AA/Bluebook ~ Harkess Hall 7-9pm
SUNDAY 9/20	10:00am HOLY EUCHARIST-RITE II Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost Father Dawson Moorer, Presider Outdoor Service and Picnic ~ Wallace Lake Pavilion <i>(See map and instructions below.)</i>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEALING SERVICE EVERY 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. Adult Forum classes follow at 7:00 pm.

DISCOVERING THE PSALMS: PASSION, PROMISE, AND PRAISE~ SEPT 8th:

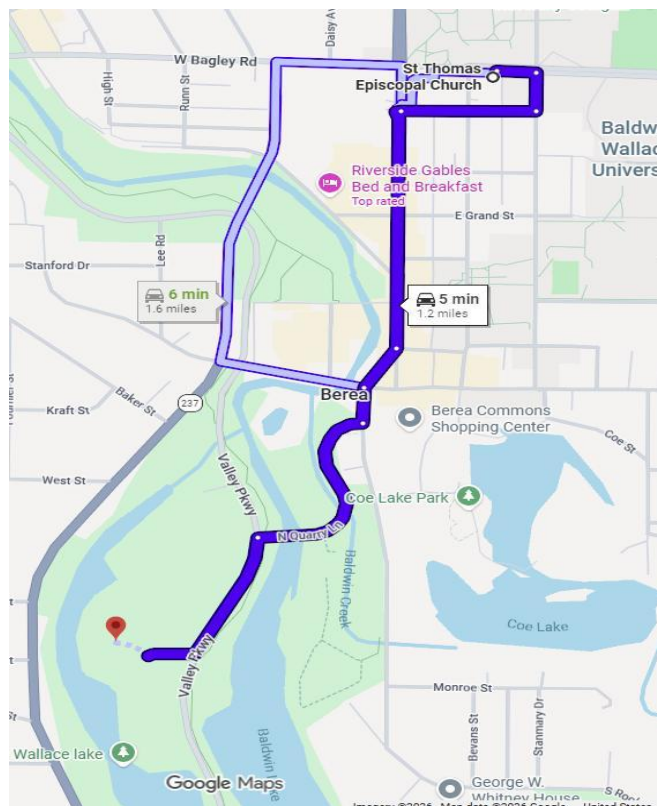
Beginning on September 8th at 7:00 pm the Tuesday night Adult Forum will resume with a seven-session study of the Book of Psalms. The study will explore the uses of this wonderful book of poetry and song both in its original setting and in the life of Christians today. This study reveals the richness of the Psalms as a source of spirituality, personal growth, and worship.

Contents:

The Book of Psalms: An Overview, Prayers and Poetry, Prayer Book for God's People, Psalms of Sacred History, Psalms of Trust, Psalms of Lament, and Psalms of Praise

NEXT SUNDAY, SEPT 20th **OUTDOOR SERVICE AND PICNIC**

Our Sunday Worship service and parish picnic will take place at the Wallace Lake Grill Pavilion in the Berea Metroparks (see red marker on the map). 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. The Church office window has a sign-up sheet for sides, salads, and desserts for the lunch meal portion of our program!



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!

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 community. 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](#)

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

September Birthdays: Ronald Thomas (9), Bill Kerbusch (13), David Zambounis (14), Jerry Zambounis (15), Marlene Carlsen (19), Bruce McLaughlin (21), Polly Burns (26), Barb Pertz (28)

September Anniversaries: Lorrie Beatty and Gil Wancheck (5)

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, Linda Miller, Jacob, Harold Roberts, Mary Lou, Marcie Hist, Sue Zimdars, Michael Rocha, Beata, (friend of Deacon Barb's), Andrea, Spencer Griffith

Recovering: Alison Griffith, Heather Flowers, Carol Flowers, Dennis Braford, Gerald Gownen, Carole Strama, Carole Pozek, Sue Griffith, Rick Finklestein, Anita Cooper, Cindy Lowrey, Tony Domenick, Mike Turner, Shelly Campbell, Deacon Barb Telfer, Kira Seaton, and Bill Kerbusch.

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 September Card sending:

Sandra Shoenfelt 437 Sterling Circle, Berea, OH 44017

Carole Pozek 36 Parkway, Olmsted Falls, OH 44138

Spencer Griffith 3000 Brookpark Rd., Sunset #9, Cleveland, OH 44134