St. Thomas Episcopal Church

50 E. Bagley Road ✝ Berea, OH 44017



Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost Holy Eucharist Rite II
10:00 AM November 8, 2026
Guest Officiant: Rev. James Kulma

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
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St. Thomas Website

Give to St. Thomas

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 2026

EARLY 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 "Be Not Afraid" Bob J. Dufford

(Please stand if you are able):

OPENING HYMN: "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" Hymn 436 *Truro*
(Verses One, Two, and Three)

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION *(Stay standing, if you are able)*

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

Presider: 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**.

TE DEUM: "We Praise You" ***(see next page)***

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

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

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he 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 Wisdom **Wisdom 6:12–16**

Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her,
and is found by those who seek her.
She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.
One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty,
for she will be found sitting at the gate.
To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding,
and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care,
because she goes about seeking those worthy of her,
and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought.

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

PSALM 70 *(Read in unison)* ***Deus, in adjutorium***

Lay reader: Please read ALL verses into the microphone

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me.
2 Let those who seek my life be ashamed and altogether dismayed; let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.
3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back, because they are ashamed.
4 Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; let those who love your salvation say for ever, "Great is the LORD!"
5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me speedily, O God.
6 You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

THE SECOND LESSON

Lay Reader: A Reading from St. Paul's letter to the Thessalonians **4:13-18**

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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: "Jerusalem, My Happy Home" Hymn 620 *Land of Rest*
(Verses One and Two before the Gospel Reading, Verses Three and Five after)

THE GOSPEL Matthew 25:1-13 ***The Rev. Jim Kulma***

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

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

SEQUENCE HYMN REPRISE: "Jerusalem, My Happy Home" Hymn 620 *Land of Rest*
(Verses Three and Five after the Gospel Reading)

(Please be seated.)

THE SERMON ***The Rev. Jim Kulma***

(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.

Officiant: 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.

Please be seated and join in singing the Offertory Hymn

OFFERTORY HYMN: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence: Hymn 324 *Picardy*
(Verses One, Two, and Three)

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer III

The people stand as the elements are brought forth. The Presider faces them and 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,
(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. You are invited to join in singing Verse Two before the dedication of the Eucharistic Ministers. After this, we will sing Verse Three)

HEALING PRAYERS, ANOINTING WITH OIL, AND LAYING-ON OF HANDS
(You are welcome to come forward after the Hymn ends for healing prayer)

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:

Presider: 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.

People: ***Amen.***

CLOSING HYMN: "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" Hymn 690 *Cwm Rhondda*

DISMISSAL:

POSTLUDE on "*Cwm Rhondda*"

SERVING ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8th

Presider: *The Rev. Dawson Moorer* ***Chalice Bearer:*** *Peggy Zambounis* ***Altar:*** *Lorrie Beatty*
Lay Reader: *Sue Griffith* ***Flowers:*** *Julie Kalbrunner* ***Bread:*** *Etta Scheu*
Musicians: *Kira Seaton, Amanda Bosley, James Kulma and Sue Griffith*

LAST CALL FOR THANKSGIVING DONATIONS:

St. Thomas Episcopal Church is sharing & caring with the Berea community through this food drive. Please drop off your food items no later than 11:45 am tomorrow, Monday, November 9th, to the containers outside the Church Office. Monetary donations in an envelope are also welcome (see table next to Chapel door). Use the collection basket or give to Julie Kalbrunner or Lorrie Beatty. See the last page of this bulletin for the complete list of needed items.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 11/8	**10:00am HOLY EUCHARIST-RITE II** **Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost** **Father Jim Kulma, Officiant**
MONDAY 11/9	**Alcoholics Anonymous ~ Harkess Hall 7-9pm**
TUESDAY 11/10	**Alcoholics Anonymous ~ Harkess Hall 7-9pm**
THURSDAY 11/12	**S.T.A.R 12:15 pm Chapel/Luncheon 12:45 pm** **AA/Bluebook ~ Harkess Hall 7-9pm**
SUNDAY 11/15	**10:00am HOLY EUCHARIST-RITE II** **Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost** **Father Jim Kulma, Officiant** **Coffee Hour with activity**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEXT S.T.A.R. CONCERT IS THIS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER, 12th:
Program to be announced but it's always top-notch entertainment! Lunch is vegetable soup, rolls, butter and fabulous desserts. It is not too early to make your reservation. Contact the church office at (440) 234-5241 or contact Julie Kalbrunner at (440) 220-2494.

COFFEE HOUR NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH:
St. Thomas will say thank you to Fr. Jim for spending the past three Sunday mornings with us and there will be a special all parish activity you won't want to miss! There will be stickers, and wall charts, and lots of your ideas to share. Thank you in advance for donations of baked goods, fresh fruit, cheese and crackers, or whatever you wish to bring on November 15th.

HEALING SERVICE & PSALMS CLASS WILL RESUME NOVEMBER 17, 2026
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. **Discovering the Psalms class** follows at 7:00 pm.

COMING DECEMBER 5th: ECW WINTER TEA
There are still some open seats available. This is an equal opportunity tea, which means **all** are welcome to attend! Join us at Miss Hickory's Team Room, on Mill Hollow Lane in Strongsville at 11:00 am. Attendees are responsible for the cost of their lunch. A sign-up sheet is on the Church office window.

COLUMBARIUM NICHES FOR SALE: 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.

AED TRAINING: St. Thomas seeks at least 8 regular church attendees for training in using an automated external defibrillator (AED) and for CPR certification. Bruce McLaughlin has started a sign-up list and welcomes more participants.

About the Course:

Learn lifesaving skills through CPR and AED training. The course covers breathing, cardiac, and first aid emergencies, preparing you to respond until professional help arrives.
Each class covers CPR and AED procedures. Certification requires participants to take a practical and written exam; the Red Cross offers practice quizzes and practice time to help participants prepare for testing.
To participate, sign up on the church office window. If you have already spoken with Bruce, he will add your name—no need to sign up again. Once at least 8 people are interested, Bruce will arrange convenient training times. St. Thomas and Elegance Studio participants are welcome!

Dear St. Thomas Friends:

The diocese has informed us that, at this time, there are no viable candidates for the priest-in-charge position. Although this may be disappointing, we remain confident that the Holy Spirit is guiding the process and will bring the right person to us in time.

We have also been assured that, should our current priest leave for any reason, the diocese will provide a long-term supply priest. This will ensure that our parish continues to celebrate Holy Eucharist on a regular basis.

Let us remain faithful, patient and prayerful as we trust God's timing and guidance for our parish.

Sincerely, Linda Kinsey
Search Committee Chair

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

Caregivers: George D'Arras, and Nancy Braford

Missionary Service: Michelle Wood

November Birthdays: Nick Gaba (2)

November Anniversaries: Charles and Marilyn Glass (14)

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, Sandy Shoenfelt, Clint Hist, Bill Hacker, Clint Anderson, Jay Murillo, Marilyn Thomas, Linda Miller, Jacob, Harold Roberts, Mary Lou, Marcie Hist, Mike Turner, Michael Rocha, Beata, (friend of Deacon Barb's), Andrea, Sheri Letterle, Jane Boomer, Spencer Griffith, Fr. James Ferris, Toni Kulma, and Catherine Malone, and Carole Strama.

Recovering: Alison Griffith, Heather Flowers, Carol Flowers, Dennis Braford, Gerald Gowern, Carole Pozek, Sue Griffith, Rick Finklestein, Sue Zimdars, Anita Cooper, Shelly Campbell, Deacon Barb Telfer, Melissa Vandergriff, Bill Kerbusch, and Father Dawson.

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.

Pray for the dear departed: Lea Turner Siroky (sister of Lorrie Beatty), and Erma Stoica

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 that 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 November Card sending:

Father James Ferris 709 Wyleswood Drive, Berea OH 44017 *(recuperating medical procedures)*
Bev and Jan Smith 8516C Gunpowder Road, Florence KY 41402 *(Considering hospice for Bev)*
Father Dawson Moorer 793 Trebisky Road, South Euclid, OH 44143