

*Welcome to*

**ST. THOMAS CHURCH**

*16 E. Van Buren St.  
Battle Creek  
(269)965-2244  
www.StThomasBC.org*

**THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

*October 25, 2020*

*Attending worship in person during the global Corona Virus pandemic entails the risk of the transmission of the disease. By remaining in church, you consent to this risk and agree to hold St. Thomas Episcopal Church of Battle Creek harmless and without fault. St. Thomas has taken reasonable steps to mitigate the transmission of the disease and to protect those who choose to attend worship in person. Participants must abide by all safety procedures, i.e., mask wearing, physical distancing, hand washing, etc., or else are encouraged to stay home and participate remotely through live streaming.*

**THE HOLY EUCHARIST**

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

*The Celebrant prays the Collect for Purity.*

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*THE COLLECT OF THE DAY*

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The people sit.*

*First Lesson - Leviticus 19:1-2,15-18*

A Reading from the Book of Leviticus.

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD. You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm 1*

- 1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, \*  
nor lingered in the way of sinners,  
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
- 2 Their delight is in the law of the LORD, \*  
and they meditate on his law day and night.
- 3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; \*  
everything they do shall prosper.
- 4 It is not so with the wicked; \*  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
- 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, \*  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
- 6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, \*  
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

*Second Lesson - 1 Thessalonians 2:1-18*

A Reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians.

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*All stand, as they are able, for the reading of the Gospel.*

*Gospel Lesson - Matthew 22:34-46*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'? If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*THE SERMON*

*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:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
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 and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He 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*

*After each petition the people respond*

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant prays a concluding collect.*

*CONFESSION OF SIN*

*The people stand or kneel. The Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Priest stands and says the Absolution.*

*The Celebrant introduces the Offertory. The bread and wine for communion are set upon the altar. The gifts of the people are presented at the altar.*

*The offerings may be made by texting “StThomasBC” to 73256. You can also click or paste this link into your internet browser’s search field: <https://onrealm.org/stthomasbc/give/now>, or go to our website [www.StThomasBC.org](http://www.StThomasBC.org) and click the green “Contribute Now” button at the bottom of the page. Thank you for your generosity.*

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING*

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Here the Proper Preface is said. Then all join in the Sanctus*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The Celebrant praises God for the salvation of the world through the holy self giving of Jesus; and remembering the events of the Last Supper, prays that the gifts of bread and wine may become the Body and Blood of Christ.*

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

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

*At the end of the prayer the people respond*

**Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

*THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD*

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**Therefore let us keep the feast.**

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*Please remain at your place. Communion will be distributed to the people where they are. The Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist is normally reserved for baptized Christians of any denomination. For more information about baptism, please speak to the clergy.*

*After communion the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us  
as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen**

*The vestry liaison gives the announcements.*

*The Celebrant prays for God's blessing on the people and then dismisses them with these words*

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

#### *ANNOUNCEMENTS*

**The altar flowers are given** by Pat Peterson in Celebration of Jerry Peterson's life 9/23/39-2/7/20.

**Next Sunday's Lessons** Revelations 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10,22; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12.

#### ***Reminders THIS WEEK:***

Tuesday - Staff Meeting, 10:30am  
Wednesday - Holy Eucharist, Feasts of St. Simon & St. Jude, 6pm  
Friday - Bible Study, 11am;  
- Holy Eucharist, 12pm  
- Diocesan Convention  
Saturday - Breakfast Program, 7am-10:30am  
- Diocesan Convention

**All Saints' Day, November 1 - Opportunity for Baptism** - baptism is available to adults, infants and children.  
Please contact Fr. Brian immediately if you or someone you know would like to be baptized.

**Please remember Daylight Savings Time** begins November 1<sup>st</sup> – Fall Back.

**Breakfast Program:** St. Thomas volunteers needed for November 14, please sign up to help across from the parish office.

#### *Serving this Week*

Presider: Fr. Brian Coleman  
Subdeacon: Jodi Nickerson  
Lector: Keith Phillips  
Ushers: Ken Surprenant, Lori Kiess & Judy Gray  
Altar Chapter: Brenda Hillman & Keith Phillips  
Vestry Liaison: Sue Shafe