

Welcome to

ST. THOMAS CHURCH

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

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 13, 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.

If you are new to our community, we welcome you and encourage you to fill out a welcome card, found in the pew racks, and place it in the collection plate as you leave.

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.

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.**

First Lesson - Genesis 50:15-21

A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 103: 8-13

- 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.

Second Lesson - Romans 14:1-12

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson - Matthew 18:21-35

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

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

On Sundays and other Major Feasts there follows, all standing

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 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 in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary by Sharon & Mark Engle.

Saturday breakfast program dates for St. Thomas: Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14 and Dec. 12. Please sign-up across from the office.

Mid-week Eucharists will resume in the chapel beginning in September on Wednesdays at 6 pm and Friday at Noon. Maximum of 10 people allowed in person, but will also be live-streamed.

Friday Lectionary Bible Study at 11 a.m. meets in the Lounge and will also be available to those who wish to participate remotely via Zoom. We study the lessons appointed for the upcoming Sunday.

Next Sunday's Lessons: Jonah 3:10-4:11; Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16.

Check out our website at: www.StThomasBC.org.

SERVING THIS WEEK

Presider:	Fr. Brian Coleman
Subdeacon:	Michele Reid
Lector:	Kathy Dingwall
Usher:	Roy Hillman & Doug Chapel
Altar Chapter:	Julie McDonald & Mira Wuerges
Vestry Liaison:	Hans Prechtel