

Welcome to

ST. THOMAS CHURCH

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

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 20, 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.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson - Jonah 3:10-4:11

A Reading from the Book of Jonah.

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 145: 1-8

- 1 I will exalt you, O God my King, *
and bless your Name for ever and ever.
- 2 Every day will I bless you *
and praise your Name for ever and ever.
- 3 Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *
there is no end to his greatness.
- 4 One generation shall praise your works to another *
and shall declare your power.
- 5 I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty *
and all your marvelous works.
- 6 They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, *
and I will tell of your greatness.
- 7 They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; *
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.
- 8 The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

Second Lesson - Philippians 1:21-27

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson - Matthew 20:1-16

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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 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 loving memory of William Reid by Michele Reid.

Next Sunday's Lessons: Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32; Psalm 25:1-8; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32.

Renewal Works is coming! See your vestry liaison or Sue Shafe

Reminders THIS WEEK:

Tuesday - Staff Meeting, 10:30am
Wednesday - Feast of St. Matthew (tr) Holy Eucharist, 6pm
- iBelieve, 6:30 pm
Friday - Bible Study, 11am; Eucharist, noon
Saturday - Breakfast Program

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

- SERVING THIS WEEK

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| Presider: | Fr. Brian Coleman |
| Subdeacon: | Mark Olmstead |
| Lector: | Keith Phillips |
| Usher: | Dan Holcomb, Tom Goodsell & Jill Goodsell |
| Altar Chapter: | Bob Harberts, Mira Wuerges & Keith Phillips |
| Vestry Liaison: | Michele Reid |