

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 20, 2020 8:30 a.m.
Morning Prayer Rite II
www.stthomasgreenville.org or
Saint Thomas Episcopal Church, Greenville, Alabama Facebook Page



ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
210 Church Street, Greenville, Alabama 36037
334.382.8914

Clergy and Staff

The Rt. Rev. Russell Kendrick, *Bishop of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast*
The Rev. Linda Suzanne Borgen, *Rector*
James Warren, *Director of Music*; Gary Mather, *Organist*
Dent Neilson, *Vergers*
Noel Seale, *Parish Administrator*
Julie Smith, *Nursery Nanny*

Vestry

Jean Hancock, *Senior Warden*; Lori Neilson, *Junior Warden*
Laura Watts, *Clerk*; Cemira Powell, *Treasurer*
Kenneth Edwards, Ed McFerrin, Lucy McGowin,
Magoo Hamilton, Travis Powell and Mickey Worthington

Current Diocesan and Alabama Public Health Guidelines for in-person worship:

- **Masks must be worn for everyone sitting outside their vehicles where a minimum distance of 6 ft. social distancing cannot be maintained.**
- **Please refrain from singing if you are sitting outside your vehicle.**

DAILY MORNING PRAYER: RITE TWO

Opening Hymn

Singing songs of expectation

H 527

Singing songs of expectation,
onward goes the pilgrim band,
through the night of doubt and sorrow,
marching to the promised land.
Clear before us through the darkness
gleams and burns the guiding light:
trusting God we march together
stepping fearless through the night.

Opening Acclamation

BCP 78

The hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will
Worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. *John 4:23*

The Confession of Sin

BCP 79

The Officiant says to the people

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Officiant and People

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 Absolution

BCP 80

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Invitatory

BCP 81

Officiant The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:
People *Come let us adore him.*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
 let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
 and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *
 and a great King above all gods.
 In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
 and the heights of the hills are his also.
 The sea is his, for he made it, *
 and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
 and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
 For he is our God,
 and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
 Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

The Psalm

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

Confitemini Domino

BCP 756

- ¹ Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; *
 make known his deeds among the peoples.
- ² Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
 and speak of all his marvelous works.
- ³ Glory in his holy Name; *
 let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
- ⁴ Search for the LORD and his strength; *
 continually seek his face.
- ⁵ Remember the marvels he has done, *
 his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
- ⁶ O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
 O children of Jacob his chosen.
- ³⁷ He led out his people with silver and gold; *
 in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.
- ³⁸ Egypt was glad of their going, *
 because they were afraid of them.
- ³⁹ He spread out a cloud for a covering *
 and a fire to give light in the night season.
- ⁴⁰ They asked, and quails appeared, *
 and he satisfied them with bread from heaven.
- ⁴¹ He opened the rock, and water flowed, *
 so the river ran in the dry places.

⁴² For God remembered his holy word *
and Abraham his servant.
⁴³ So he led forth his people with gladness, *
his chosen with shouts of joy.
⁴⁴ He gave his people the lands of the nations, *
and they took the fruit of others' toil,
⁴⁵ That they might keep his statutes *
and observe his laws.
Hallelujah!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen

The First Reading Exodus 16:2-15

Lay Reader

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” Then the LORD said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?” And Moses said, “When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD.” Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.’” “And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. The LORD spoke to Moses and said, “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’” “In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Isaiah 55:6-11

Officiant and People

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found; *
call upon him when he draws near.
Let the wicked forsake their ways *
and the evil ones their thoughts;
And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion, *
and to our God, for he will richly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts, *
nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, *
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
For as rain and snow fall from the heavens *
and return not again, but water the earth,
Bringing forth life and giving growth, *
seed for sowing and bread for eating,
So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; *
it will not return to me empty;
But it will accomplish that which I have purposed, *
and prosper in that for which I sent it.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Second Reading Philippians 1:21-30

Lay Reader

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, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

A Song of Penitence*Kyrie Pantokrator*

BCP 90

*Prayer of Manasseh 1-2, 4, 6-7, 11-15**Officiant and People*

O Lord and Ruler of the hosts of heaven, *
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
and of all their righteous offspring:
You made the heavens and the earth, *
with all their vast array.
All things quake with fear at your presence; *
they tremble because of your power.
But your merciful promise is beyond all measure; *
it surpasses all that our minds can fathom.
O Lord, you are full of compassion, *
long-suffering, and abounding in mercy.
You hold back your hand; *
you do not punish as we deserve.
In your great goodness, Lord,
you have promised forgiveness to sinners, *
that they may repent of their sin and be saved.
And now, O Lord, I bend the knee of my heart, *
and make my appeal, sure of your gracious goodness.
I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, *
and I know my wickedness only too well.
Therefore I make this prayer to you: *
Forgive me, Lord, forgive me.
Do not let me perish in my sin, *
nor condemn me to the depths of the earth.
For you, O Lord, are the God of those who repent, *
and in me you will show forth your goodness.
Unworthy as I am, you will save me,
in accordance with your great mercy, *
and I will praise you without ceasing all the days of my life.
For all the powers of heaven sing your praises, *
and yours is the glory to ages of ages. Amen.

Sequence Hymn*O Master, let me walk with thee*

H 660

O Master, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 20:1-16

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 Word of the Lord

People *Thanks be to God*

The Sermon

The Reverend Linda Suzanne C. Borgen

The Apostles' Creed

BCP 96

Officiant and People together, all standing

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Peace

BCP 360

The Announcements

Bulletin page 13

Offertory Sentence

BCP 376

Officiant

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

(Offerings may be placed in the alms basin at the altar following our worship, mailed or given to the church office, or given securely online at www.stthomasgreenville.org)

Doxology

H 380, v 3

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, you heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 97

The People stand as they are able.

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

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 Suffrages

BCP 97

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

R. *And grant us your salvation.*

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. *Let your people sing with joy.*

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. *For only in you can we live in safety.*
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. *And guide us in the way of justice and truth.*
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. *Your saving health among all nations.*
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. *Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.*
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. *And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.*

The Collects

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthy 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 your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

For Discipleship

BCP 215

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Cities

BCP 825

Heavenly Father, in your Word you have given us a vision of that holy City to which the nations of the world bring their glory: Behold and visit, we pray, the cities of the earth. Renew the ties of mutual regard which form our civic life. Send us honest and able leaders. Enable us to eliminate poverty, prejudice, and oppression, that peace may prevail with righteousness, and justice with order, and that men and women from different cultures and with differing talents may find with one another the fulfillment of their humanity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Prayers of the People

Form IV

BCP 388

Intercessor

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray especially for our President, Donald Trump; our Governor, Kay Ivey and our Mayor, Dexter McLendon.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us; we pray for the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially remembering those on our parish prayer list _____12 _____.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles. We pray especially for those affected by the West coast wildfires, those recovering from Hurricane Laura and for those beginning recovery from Hurricane Sally, as well as for the ongoing efforts in addressing COVID-19. Bring them, and us, O Lord, the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Officiant

BCP 395

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The General Thanksgiving

BCP 101

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;

but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

BCP 102

Officiant and People

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

The Closing Sentence

BCP 102

Officiant

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen. 2 Corinthians 13:14*

Closing Hymn

Rock of Ages, cleft for me

H 685

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure;
save from wrath and make me pure.

Dismissal

Officiant Let us bless the Lord, Alleluia, alleluia.

People Thanks be to God, Alleluia, alleluia.

St. Thomas Prayer List
September 20, 2020

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Parishioners: Midge Bennett; Richard Boulay; Brittany Dobbs; Ceil Hamilton; Cissi Jones; Gary Mather; Rosa McGowin; Marion Norman; Kenny Parker; Boo Privett; Suzie Snow.

Family and Friends of Parishioners: Toni Bass; Noah Batistelli; Jill Black; Kelley Black; Ric Brown; Tony & Peggy Campolo; Anne Bailey Cates; Sarah Sewell Chapman; Deborah Crews; June Earnest; Juanita, Brian, and Susan Garrett; Dale Gates; Totsye Godwin; Butch & Cass Hamrick; Chalice Hutchins; Charlie Jernigan; Kirk Johnson; Tamara Jones; David & Jennifer Knight; Sam Lambert; Donnie & Mary Helen McGough; Cheryl McNaughton; Lucrecia Middleton; Michael Owens; Easley Jane Phelps; Anne Saint; Dale Simmons; Greg Smith; Edna Steen; Christi Stewart; Karen Troppman; Dusk Tucker; Micah Waddell; Susie Winters; those affected by COVID-19 and Hurricane Sally; and in the Diocesan cycle of prayer for St. Peter's Jackson and St. John's, Monroeville, and for the prison ministry of the Coffee County Jail Complex, New Brockton.

*Please help us keep our prayer list current.
Call (334.382.8914) or email (office@stthomasgreenville.org)
our Parish Administrator with any updates by Wednesday of each week.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, September 27th: Morning Prayer Rite II 8:30 a.m.

Sunday, October 4th: Holy Eucharist Rite II 8:30 a.m.

We will continue outdoor worship through the month of October. Please see our parish website for our worship guidelines.

In-person Lectio Divina will meet in the parish hall on Wednesday, September 23rd at 6 p.m. The Zoom link will also remain available for those wanting to join us online. Masks must be worn and social distancing guidelines will be observed.

Small Group Study: John the Gospel of Light and Life

Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. beginning September 29th we will meet in-person outside in the courtyard for this study of the Gospel of John using Adam Hamilton's book listed above. If you would like a copy of the book ordered through the office please call 334-382-8914 or email office@stthomasgreenville.org by 1 p.m. tomorrow, September 21st.

Copies are also available on Amazon.

We will have a Zoom link available for those who wish to join the study online.

TODAY!

Please join us this afternoon at 5 for Celebration Sunday!

In keeping with the theme of 2020, our celebration will be a little bit different this year. We will gather outside to enjoy a fish fry and some fun, including a "Bloopers Reel" from our Youtube services.

We will follow ADPH guidelines for social distancing and food serving. I encourage you to bring a chair as we have for our services. All food will be prepared and served by people wearing the required PPE. Do not bring any food to share. We will have tea, water and lemonade. If you would like a beverage other than these, you may bring drinks for your personal consumption.