

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 29, 2024



St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
Camden, Maine

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

*Children are always welcome in the church.
Please be sure your cell phone is inaudible.*

Prelude

Opening Hymn 427 When morning gilds the skies *Laudes Domini*

Opening Acclamation Book of Common Prayer, page 355

Gloria (*insert in Hymnal*) *William Mathias* Hymnal S278

Children and Chaplain come forward for children's chapel

The Collect

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The First Reading

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

The king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me-- that is my petition-- and the lives of my people-- that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

Psalm 124

- 1 If the LORD had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;
- 2 If the LORD had not been on our side, *
when enemies rose up against us;
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
in their fierce anger toward us;
- 4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *
and the torrent gone over us;
- 5 Then would the raging waters *
have gone right over us.
- 6 Blessed be the LORD! *
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
- 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
- 8 Our help is in the Name of the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

The Second Reading

James 5:13-20

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not

rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Sequence Hymn 419 Lord of all being

Mendon

The Gospel

Mark 9:38-50

John said to Jesus, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

“For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

Sermon

The Rev. Paul Briggs

Nicene Creed

page 358

Prayers of the People

page 392

Blessings for Anniversaries and Birthdays

The Peace page 360

Offertory

Offertory Hymn 424 For the fruit of all creation *East Acklam*

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A page 361

Sanctus (*insert in Hymnal*) *Robert Powell* Hymnal S129

The Lord's Prayer page 364

The Breaking of the Bread

The Communion

This is God's table, all are welcome.

Gluten-free wafers are available; ask the priest when you come to the altar rail.

You can request that Communion be brought to your pew by letting an usher know.

Communion Voluntary

Postcommunion Prayer page 365

Blessing

Dismissal Hymn 413 New songs of celebration render *Rendez a Dieu*

The Dismissal

Postlude

The Bible texts of the Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel lessons are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA and used by permission. The Collects, Psalms and Canticles are from the Book of Common Prayer, 1979. Hymn permissions (including streaming music) in this Service obtained from ONE LICENSE: License #A-712382. All rights reserved.



The flowers this morning are given by Connie and Bob Bock to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for their life in Maine.

Welcome visitors and newcomers; we are glad you are here! If you would like more information about the community of St. Thomas, please speak to a greeter or a member of the clergy. To receive information by email, please fill out a blue card found in the pew and give to an usher or place in the offering plate.

Liturgical Ministers

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Paul Briggs
Organist: Clarissa Brown
Lay Eucharistic Minister: Amy Frankel, Doc Wallace
Lay Readers: Gwen Prosser, Jan Lyle
Intercessor: Benjy Lowry
Ushers: Jim Ebbert, Lucy Ebbert

People in our Prayers

Healing: Carolyn Moore, Debra and Amy, Ned and Kathleen Bachus, Lynne, Anna and her child Brody, Warren and Ginny Terrell, Ruth Tolman, Edmund, Andrew, Helene, John, Phyllis, Michael, Bob, Sylvia, Matthew Jackson, Marlene, Percy, Joan Grey, Cathy, James, Jennifer Smith, Ken, Joseph, Kelli McGuire, Tony, Jo Panayotoff, Joyce S, Jan Schaefer, Christine & Paul M, Jason, Kristen, Jeanie, Cathie, Brian, Bob S., Gary P., Fr. Tom Pike, Jan Dolcater, Evie Bridges, Luke Morelli, Leah, Tim Peters, Janice Boetsch, Lucy Ebbert, Shirley, Tiffany Andrews, Budge Walen, Chris, Sandy, Vicki Boetsch, Catherine G, Annabel, Virginia, Pam Kaler, Margery, Nick, Stephanie, Kyle R.

Thanksgiving for the birth of: Elliott Russell Reed

October Birthdays: Rosalee Glass (1), Lucy Lowry (6), Chris Groman (9), Bill Conrad (14), Phyllis Barry (17), Stephen Thomas (17), BC Lowry (18), Polly Chatfield (19), Nancy Wright (25), Kathleen Buchanan (27)

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St. Andrew, Winthrop, and for the reverent care of all the world as we continue to observe the Season of Creation

This Week at St. Thomas'

Sunday, September 29:

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II
10:15 a.m. Parish Meeting on Bell Tower
4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer

Wednesday, October 2:

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Healing
11:00 a.m. Bible Study

Thursday, October 3:

6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 6:

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (*Coffee Hour Follows*)
11:15 a.m. Acolyte Training
4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer
4:00 p.m. Blessing of Animals at U.C.C. Church

A.A. meetings are held daily at 6:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, October 19:

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Lasagna Dinner: Please make a reservation on our website or in the sunroom.
All proceeds will go to Christmas Food baskets for those in need.

Church Staff and Parish Officers

Kayla Clay, Parish Administrator

admin@stthomascamdenme.org

Office: 207-236-3680

The Rev. Paul Briggs, Interim Rector

interimrector@stthomascamdenme.org

(860) 384-9193

The Rev. Dr. Rosalee Glass, *Deacon Emeritus*

Clarissa Brown, *Organist & Choir Director*

Tony Coyne, *Sexton*

Elizabeth Moran, *Senior Warden*

Br. Donovan Bowley, BSG, *Junior Warden*

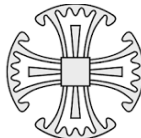
Terry Mello, *Treasurer*

Anne Rogers-Popejoy, *Vestry Clerk*

Online Donation Options: Scan the QR Code below or click the Donate Button on our website (www.stthomascamden.org)



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St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

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