

**Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**February 23, 2025**



**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 366

Holy God, we praise thy name

*Grosser Gott*

## Opening Acclamation

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen

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## Gloria

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*Children and chaplains come forward and are dismissed by the Celebrant for Children's Chapel after the Collect is said.*

## The Collect

O Lord, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing: Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## A Reading from the Book of Genesis [45:3-11, 15]

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord

of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there--since there are five more years of famine to come--so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty."

And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People:* Thanks be to God

### **Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42**

- 1 Do not fret yourself because of evildoers; \*  
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
- 2 For they shall soon wither like the grass, \*  
and like the green grass fade away.
- 3 Put your trust in the Lord and do good; \*  
dwell in the land and feed on its riches.
- 4 Take delight in the Lord, \*  
and he shall give you your heart's desire.
- 5 Commit your way to the Lord and put your trust in him, \*  
and he will bring it to pass.
- 6 He will make your righteousness as clear as the light \*  
and your just dealing as the noonday.
- 7 Be still before the Lord \*  
and wait patiently for him.
- 8 Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, \*  
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
- 9 Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; \*  
do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.
- 10 For evildoers shall be cut off, \*  
but those who wait upon the Lord shall possess the land.
- 11 In a little while the wicked shall be no more; \*  
you shall search out their place, but they will not be there.
- 12 But the lowly shall possess the land; \*  
they will delight in abundance of peace.

- 41 But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the Lord; \*  
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.
- 42 The Lord will help them and rescue them; \*  
he will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,  
because they seek refuge in him.

### **A Reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians [15:35-38, 42-50]**

Someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

### **Sequence Hymn 674**

Forgive our sins as we forgive

*Detroit*

### **The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke [6:27-38]**

*People:* Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus said, "I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who

begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

<b>Sermon</b>	The Rev. Paul Briggs
<b>Nicene Creed</b>	page 358
<b>Prayers of the People Form IV</b>	page 388
<b>Confession of Sin</b>	page 360
<b>Prayers for birthdays, anniversaries, travel etc.</b>	
<b>The Peace</b>	page 360
<b>Announcements</b>	
<b>Offertory</b>	
<b>Offertory Hymn 512</b>	Come Holy Spirit, heavenly dove <i>Mendon</i>
<b>The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B</b>	page 367
<b>Sanctus: Holy, Holy, Holy Hymnal S130</b>	<i>Franz Peter Schubert</i>
<b>The Lord's Prayer</b>	page 364
<b>The Breaking of the Bread</b>	

**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.*

**Postcommunion Prayer**

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**Blessing**

**Dismissal Hymn 365**

Come thou, almighty king

*Moscow*

**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*

**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

**9:30 a.m.**

Eucharistic Minister: Sandy Lyle, Pam Bardon

Readers: Sarah Groman, Benjy Lowry

Intercessor: Pam Bardon

Usher: Cheryl Reif, Cheryl White

**People in our Prayers**

**Healing:** Ted and Kit Wagner, Sandy, Dana, Nancy Remchuk, Mya Delisle, Andrew Moran, Donovan, Carolyn Moore, Debra and Amy, Ned and Kathleen Bachus, Lynne, Anna and her child Brody, Ruth Tolman, Helene, John, Phyllis, Michael, Bob, Sylvia, Matthew Jackson, Marlene, Percy, Joan Grey, Cathy, James, 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, Evie Bridges, Luke Morelli, Tim Peters, Janice Boetsch,

Lucy Ebbert, Shirley, Budge Walen, Chris, Sandy, Vicki Boetsch, Catherine G, Annabel, Virginia, Pam Kaler, Margery, Nick, Stephanie, Kyle R., Ezra, Chris Strazzulla

**February Birthdays:** Susan Such (2), Cathy Harrell (6), Ron Zdrojeski (11), Sarah Groman (18), Teague Buchanan (21), Isa Babb (28), Rachel Bok-Goldman (28), Virginia Johns (29)

**Diocese Cycle of Prayer:** St. Francis-by-the-Sea, Blue Hill, St. Bartholomew's, Yarmouth

***This Week at St. Thomas'***

**Sunday, February 23:**

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (*Coffee Hour Follows*)

4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer (*Lady Chapel*)

**Wednesday, February 26:**

11:00 a.m. Bible Study (*online*)

**Sunday, March 2:**

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (*Coffee Hour Follows*)

4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer (*Lady Chapel*)

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

**Church Staff and Parish Officers**

**Kayla Clay, Parish Administrator**

[admin@stthomascamdenme.org](mailto:admin@stthomascamdenme.org)

Office: 207-236-3680

**The Rev. Paul Briggs, Interim Rector**

[interimrector@stthomascamdenme.org](mailto:interimrector@stthomascamdenme.org)

(860) 384-9193

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

Clarissa Brown, *Organist & Choir Director*

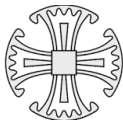
Tony Coyne, *Sexton*

Elizabeth Moran, *Senior Warden*

Br. Donovan Bowley, BSG, *Junior Warden*

Terry Mello, *Treasurer*

Anne Rogers-Popejoy, *Vestry Clerk*



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