

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Eustis, Florida

September 27, 2020

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 21



The Reverend Canon Ernie Bennett, Interim Priest-in-Charge

We Welcome You

Be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent;
for this is the House of God.

Before the service we speak to the Lord.

During the service we let the Lord speak to us.

After the service, we speak to one another.

“A traditional Episcopal Church where you can worship God with a sense of belonging.”

Today's flowers are given in loving remembrance of George and Evelyn Webster from the Webster Family. Arrangement by Sally Hartenstein.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Central Florida are carefully monitoring the Lake County Covid Statistics and doing everything possible to keep our parishioners safe. We will keep you apprised of any and all changes as they occur. If you have experienced any symptoms and/or been exposed to Covid 19, please take care of yourself and stay at home.

We are now livestreaming our Sunday service at 9:00am on Facebook. The Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/StThomasEustis/>. Please join us if you are unable to attend in person.

Please join Canon Ernie for the Thursday Healing Service at 10am in the sanctuary. This service is smaller and easier to social distance.

Lectors:

OT: Suzy Burlock
NT: Margaret Emerson
POP: Monika Potter

Ushers:

Stephen Luche
Carol Ann Luche

Altar Guild:

Naomi Townsend
Margaret Emerson
Cynthia Lenninger
Carol Ann Luche

Please bring your non-perishable food items to church on Sunday or drop them by the office during office hours.

(352) 357-4358

317 S. Mary Street Eustis, Florida 32726

email: stthomasec@earthlink.net

Services are livestreamed Sunday at 9am at

<https://www.facebook.com/StThomasEustis/>

website: www.stthomaseustis.com

**Interim Priest-in-Charge
Deacon
Music Director
Audio Visual**

**Rev. Canon Ernie Bennett
Rev. Janet Clarke
Richard Mangiagli
Suzy Burlock**

The Holy Eucharist Rite Two

The Word of God

Opening Hymn *(Please Stand)*

#439 What Wondrous Love this Is, v. 1 & 3

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
To lay aside his crown for my soul!*

*And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on!*

The people standing, the Celebrant says:

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

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

The Celebrant says:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The following hymn of praise is sung, all standing.

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 Celebrant says to the people:

The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Celebrant says 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 Lessons

The people sit.

A Reading from the Book of Exodus

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

- 1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
- 3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.
- 4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
and the wonderful works he has done.
- 12 He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
- 13 He split open the sea and let them pass through; *
he made the waters stand up like walls.
- 14 He led them with a cloud by day, *
and all the night through with a glow of fire.
- 15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.
- 16 He brought streams out of the cliff, *
and the waters gushed out like rivers.

A Reading from Philippians

Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death--
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn *(Please Stand)*

#343 Shepherd of Souls, v, All

*Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless thy chosen pilgrim flock
With manna in the wilderness, with water from the rock.*

*We would not live by bread alone, but by thy word of grace,
In strength of which we travel onto our abiding place.*

*Be known to us in breaking bread, and do not then depart;
Savior, abide with us, and spread thy table in our heart.*

*Lord, sup with us in love divine, thy Body and thy Blood,
That living bread, that heavenly wine, be our immortal food.*

Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying:

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Matthew 21:23-32

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon: The Rev. Canon Ernie Bennett, Interim Priest in Charge

All stand for

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

Form III

All kneel.

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

We pray for those who are sick:

Rev. Dick Castro, Pastor Larry Boone, Jeff and Pam Ray, Carole Warner, Evelyn Wright, Monika Potter, Nancy Pyle, Sharon Miller, Ruth Pawliczak, Toni, Donna Pfister, Penny Pfister, David Easter, Kathy Easter, Pat Joyce, Margo Odom, Ruth Chester, Linda Shreve, Brandon, Jerry Fields, Firefighters, Police Officers, Our Vestry, St. Thomas Church, Robert Winslow, Marsha Winslow, Chuck Croan, Burt Gulston, Kirt Gillum, and Bruce Rispoli, Bill Albin, victims of the west coast fires.

(Please note: Intercessory prayer will be offered for 4 weeks for each person, then assuming a healing, they will be moved from the prayer list. If you would like someone added back onto the list, simply call the church office or drop their name in the collection plate. Thank you! This will keep our prayer list current.)

Shepherd of the Hills Church, Lecanto and St. James Church, Leesburg

I ask your thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthdays and Anniversary:

Birthdays: 01 Edward Squire 02 Bette Dufour 03 Sue Kiefer

Anniversary 27 Tony and Marilyn Gordon

01 Dick and Ellen Judd

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant add a Collect.

Confession of Sin

The Deacon or Celebrant says;

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister 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 Celebrant, stands and says:

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 Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people:

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Then the Ministers and People may safely greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

Offertory Hymn

Instrumental Music

The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand for Eucharistic Prayer A

The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest Hosanna in the highest.***

The people stand or kneel while The Celebrant continues:

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant:

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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Then Celebrant may sing or say:

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

After Communion, the Celebrant says:

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

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.

Closing Hymn

#483 The Head That Once was Crowned with Thorns v., 1-31

*The head that once was crowned with thorns is crowned with glory now;
A royal diadem adorns the mighty victor's brow.*

*The highest place that heaven affords is his, is his by right
The King of kings, and Lord of lords, and heaven's eternal Light;*

*The joy of all who dwell above, the joy of all below.
To whom he manifests his love and grants his Name to know.*

The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses them with these words:

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God.