

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Eustis, Florida

September 13, 2020

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 19



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 to the glory of God in Thanksgiving by Jimmie Clark.

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: Ginny Kieran
NT: Gail Carlson
POP: Suzy Burlock

Ushers:

George Pawliczak
Carol Ann Luche

Altar Guild:

Thelma Martin
Terry Oldham
Diane Squire

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

(352) 357-4358

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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)*

#390: Praise to the Lord, v. 1 and 3

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
Join the great throng, psaltery, organ, and song,
Sounding in glad adoration.*

*Praise to the lord, who doth prosper thy way and defend thee;
Surely his goodness and mercy shall ever attend thee:
Ponder a new what the Almighty can do,
Who with his love doth befriend thee.*

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, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The people sit.

A Reading from the Book of Exodus

Exodus 14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm 114

1 Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a people of
strange speech,
2 Judah became God's sanctuary *
and Israel his dominion.
3 The sea beheld it and fled; *
Jordan turned and went back.
4 The mountains skipped like rams, *
and the little hills like young sheep.
5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *
O Jordan, that you turned back?

6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *
you little hills like young sheep?
7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

A Reading (Lesson) from Paul's Letter to the Romans

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn (*Please Stand*)

#411 Oh Bless the Lord, My Soul v 1,-4 and 5

*O bless the Lord, my soul!
His grace to thee proclaim!
And all that is within me join
To bless his holy Name!*

*He pardons all thy sins,
Prolongs thy feeble breath;
He healeth thine infirmities
And ransoms thee from death.*

*He clothes thee with his love,
Upholds thee with his truth;
And like the eagle he renews
The vigor of thy youth.*

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 18:21-35

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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:

Jeff and Pam Ray, Leon Stricklen

Carole Warner, Evelyn Wright

Donna Pfister, Penny Pfister, David Easter, Kathy Easter, Pat Joyce, School Children and Teachers, those affected by the hurricanes.

Margo Odom, Toni, Sharon Miller, Ruth Pawliczak, Nancy Pyle, Monika Potter, Ruth Chester, Linda Shreve, Ashley, Brandon, Jerry Fields, Firefighters, Police Officers, Vestry Members, Robert Winslow, Marsha Winslow, and St. Thomas Church

(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.)

Church of the Good Shepherd, Lake Wales, All Saints' Church, Lakeland

I ask your thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthdays and anniversaries,

Birthdays: 14 Gail Norris, Suzanne Leclair, Adrian Carter 15 Blossom Mahoney

17 Douglas "DJ" Johnson

Anniversary: 19- Pete and Kelly Ortiz

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

#302 Father We Thank Thee v All

*Father, we thank Thee who hast planted
Thy holy Name within our hearts.
Knowledge and faith and life immortal
Jesus Thy Son to us imparts.
Thou, Lord, didst make all for Thy pleasure,
Didst give man food for all his days,
Giving in Christ the Bread eternal;
Thine is the power, be Thine the praise.*

*Watch o'er Thy church, O Lord, in mercy,
Save it from evil, guard it still.
Perfect it in Thy love, unite it,
Cleansed and conformed unto Thy will.
As grain, once scattered on the hillsides,
Was in this broken bread made one,
So from all lands Thy church be gathered
Into Thy kingdom by Thy Son.*

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.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord: who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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.

*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.*

*Teach me thy patience; still with thee
in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong,*

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.**