

St. Thomas Memorial Church
The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost:
Proper 9
The Holy Eucharist – Rite 2
July 5, 2026



BEFORE WORSHIP: Please remember that many use the time before the first hymn quietly to pray and to prepare themselves for worship. If you need to speak to someone when you come into church then please do so in soft voices so as not to disturb those around you who may be praying.

Prelude "Variations on "America"" Charles Ives

Processional Hymn #718 "God of our fathers, whose almighty hand"

Starting on Pg. 355 of the Book of Common Prayer (BCP)
Priest Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

Prayer for Purity
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.

Gloria—Hymn #S-236
Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; you are worthy of praise; glory to you.
Glory to you, for the radiance of your holy Name; we will praise you and highly exalt you forever. Glory to you, in the splendor of your temple; on the throne of your majesty, glory to you. Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; we will praise you and highly exalt you forever. Glory to you, beholding the depths; in the high vault of heaven, glory to you. Glory to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; we will praise you and highly exalt you forever.

Priest The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you.*
Priest Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

A Prayer for Our Country
Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from

violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

The First Lesson: Zechariah 9:9-12
Reader The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 145:8-15

The Second Lesson: Romans 7:15-25a

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn "I vow to thee my country"

I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love:
The love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,
That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
The love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,
Most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;
We may not count her armies, we may not see her King;
Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
And soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,
And her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.

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Before the Gospel

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*
The Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

After the Gospel

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.
People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Sermon... ..The Rev. Jeffrey D. Murph

The Nicene Creed (Pg. 358, BCP)

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 worshipped 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.

Prayers of the People, Form III (Pg. 387, BCP)

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.

We remember the sick and distressed:

Give to the departed, especially Kevin Benzenhoefer and Bernard Rottschaef, 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 all the men and women in the armed forces, and we pray, as your son taught us, for our enemies.

We pray for our Outreach Ministries, Shepherd's Heart, and our Eucharistic ministry.

We pray for the Pittsburgh Diocese, especially the Rt. Rev. Dr. Ketlen Solak, Scott Solak, and all Clergy Spouses.

We remember those who are celebrating their birthdays this week, especially Wilma Gaughan, Jim Becker, Dana Fusaro, B.J. Rottschaefer, R.J. King, Trudy Hakas, Brandon Trecki, and Todd Hayes.

We remember those who are celebrating their anniversaries this week, especially Peter & Pamela Mysels, and R.J. & Julie King.

(Concluding prayer read by the celebrant.)

250th Anniversary of Independence Day prayer

Gracious and loving God, King of kings and Lord of every nation, you inspired our forebears to seek life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in the conviction that all people are equal and created in your own image. For two hundred and fifty years, you have blessed our land and made this country a light of freedom and hope to people all over the world. Mend our shortcomings, O Lord, and strengthen our virtues that we may be accountable to the blessings you have poured upon us for all the years to come; through Jesus Christ our only King, who with you, Father, and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

The Confession (Pg. 360, BCP)

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

The Peace

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People *And also with you.*

Announcements

First Holy Communion

Christian Education Director: Fr. Murph, I present this child as a candidate for first Holy Communion.

Priest: The cup of blessing which we bless is a sharing in the Blood of Christ. The bread which we break is a sharing in the Body of Christ.

Priest: As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup;
People: *You proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

Priest: Let us pray.

Grant, Almighty God, that this child may be nourished by the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, to strengthen him in love and holiness of life that he may love others as Christ has loved him, and at the last come to the joy of your heavenly feast with all your saints in light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for Independence Day (pg. 242 BCP)

Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Holy Communion

Offertory

“Lord of All Hopefulness” by Jan Struther
Offered by Soloist Julie King

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Offering of Bread, Wine and Alms

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B (Pg. 367, BCP)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant 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.....Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. 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:

Hymnal S-130 —Holy, holy, holy Lord Schubert
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full, 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.

Then the Celebrant continues page 368, BCP

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation...In Him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us.....“Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine.....“Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
Celebrant and People
We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O lord of all presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine...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 forever. Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
Our Father, who art in heaven,...for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Priest Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Invitation

Hymn S-164—Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us. Jesus bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world: give us your peace, give us your peace.
(All baptized persons are welcome to receive the sacrament at our altar rail.)

Communion Hymn #599 “Lift every voice and sing”

Hymn “In Christ Alone”

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless Babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.
‘Til on the cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied,
For every sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then, bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin’s curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me;
From life’s first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand;
‘Til He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I’ll stand!

Keith Getty/Stuart Townend 2002 Thankyou Music Used by Permission CCLI #940217

After Communion the Priest says
Let us pray.

Priest 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.

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn “Battle Hymn of the Republic”

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
he has loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword: His truth is marching on.

*Refrain: Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on!*

I have seen him in the watchfires of a hundred circling camps.
They have builded him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read his righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps: His day is marching on.
(Refrain)

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never sound retreat;
he is sifting out the hearts of men before his judgment seat.
O be swift, my soul, to answer him! Be jubilant my feet! Our God is marching on. (Refrain)

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea
with a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me;
as he died to make men holy, let us live to make all free, while God is marching on. (Refrain)

Words: Julia Ward Howe Music: Traditional CCLI #940217

The Dismissal

Priest *Alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ.*
People *Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Postlude

“Variation on “America””

Charles Ives

Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Bernard L. Rottschaefter, by Betti Rottschaefter.

We at St. Thomas, members of the Body of Christ, are called by God to Grow;
Spiritually, in Parish Life, in Community Life, and as a Congregation.

SAINT THOMAS MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Email: sttomoakmont@gmail.com

The Rev. Jeffrey D. Murph, Rector

The Rev. Daniel J. Isadore, Associate Rector

The Rev. Guy W. Brown, Assistant Priest

Mrs. Louise Lugar, Organist/Choir Director

St. Thomas' Vestry

Julie King
Sr. Warden

Paul Cammisa (NV)
Jr. Warden

Jonathan Dailey
Vestry Clerk

Betti Rottschaefter (NV)
Treasurer

Shahnaz Alam-Denlinger, Kristin Brown, Mitzi Fidler,
James Fischer, LuAnn Brink Hunter, Bill Lugar, Richard Williams
NV = Non-voting member

UPCOMING / ONGOING EVENTS:

Monday—Thursday 9 am Morning Prayer in the Thomas House Chapel

Tuesdays at 11 am Bible Study in the Guild Room

Wednesdays at 10 am Healing Eucharist Service in the Thomas House Chapel

Sundays at 9:30 Adult Sunday School in the Guild Room

** The annual St. Thomas Independence Day cookout hosted by the Fischer family will be held today following the service. All are welcome to attend.

** Fr. Murph's retirement luncheon will be held on Sunday, July 12 following the 10:30 service. If you have not already done so, please RSVP to the office at sttomoakmont@gmail.com or 412-828-9680.

** Ladies of all ages are invited to join in fellowship and fun conversation on Wednesday, July 22 at 7 pm in the Guild Room. Refreshments will be provided. Childcare will be available upon request. For more information, contact Darrell Powell at 412-828-0502 or DL7JP_2W8@yahoo.com.

** As part of entering into a time of transition, with the retirement of Fr. Murph as rector of St. Thomas Church, the vestry is inviting all parishioners to a season of prayer for God's future for our parish. Most vestry members will host or lead prayer groups over the next couple months to pray for our church, for guidance and discernment that we might identify who and what kind of leader God wants for the future of our parish. Small groups will meet for about an hour every two weeks to discuss and pray together. The answers to these prayers will be brought back to a plenary meeting to be discerned and used in the search. This prayer season will begin after Fr. Murph's last Sunday, July 12, so please contact a vestry member or sign up in the parish hall or call the church office if you are willing to participate. (There will be zoom-accessible groups for those unable to travel)

Participants for this service:

Acolytes: Lauren Brown, Matthew Fischer

First Lesson: Darrell Powell

Psalm: Lauren Brown

Second Lesson: Sara Gildersleeve

Leader, Prayers of the People: Kristin Brown

Verger: Theresa McClain

Ushers: Darrell Powell, Jon Dailey

Coffee Hour: Independence Day Cookout hosted by the Fischer Family

Last week's attendance: 8:00: 22

10:30: 46

Total Donations: \$937.00