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Serving Today:
Celebrant: The Rev. Fr. Copeland D. Johnston
Organist: Sylvia Sutter
Acolytes: Robert Tankard (8), Mack Simpson (10)
Eucharistic Minister: Larry McAvoy (8)
Joan Long (10)
Lector: Judi Miller (8) Betty Wheeler (10)
Ushers: Bob Sutter, Jimmy Latham
Altar Guild: Susan Tankard
Coffee Hour: Susan Stewart, Kathy Sutter
Flower Guild: Susan Tankard

This week in your prayers, please remember:

Healing & Guidance: Ivan McRoy, Jim & Muffy Bowman, Rosemary Turnage, Lou Batton (Mark Batton's mother, Sylvia Sutter's sister), Alethia Anderson, Donald Michaud, Bob Cruse, Bishop Carl Wright, Bishop David O' Connell, Olivia Hill, Jayne Spangler, Jason Alford, Alan Daughtry, Katherine Mitchell, Sallie Sawyer, The Wester family, David Smith (Tim Smith's brother), Joe Buziak, The Thobe family, Sue Stewart, Victoria Messina, John Denton, Sharon Cortesi, Everett Moulton, Robbie Moulton, Wendy Thienpont, Allen Harris, Vreni Gruber, David Wheeler, Victoria Messina, Jack & Kathryn Brake
Remember the Caregivers: Joe Cortesi, Tina Chin, Jessica Harris
Military: Bradley Craig Ward, Chris Raducha, Adam Raducha, Hayden Tankard, Nathaniel Bowen, Frank Yenny (Jack & Kathryn Brake's grandson), McCauley Griffin (Annie Griffin's grandson), Sloan Smith (Robert Tankard's niece), Walker Brown (Pat & Sue Brown's grandson), Lonnie Carraway (Stephanie & Ken Reynold's son-in-law)
Birthdays: Susan Stewart (3rd), Ginger Morrison (7th)

PLEASE REMEMBER ST. THOMAS IN YOUR WILL

The Rev. Fr. Copeland D. Johnston, Rector
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Mrs. Barbara Willis, Parish Administrator
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Parish web address: StThomasParishNC.org

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Bath, North Carolina
Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Holy Eucharist

September 1, 2024, 8 AM & 10 AM



North Carolina's Oldest Church

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WELCOME

LITURGY OF THE WORD

PRELUDE: *Quiet Meditation*

David Paxton

372 *Praise to the living God!*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

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

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

The Collect for Purity

355

S278 *Gloria*

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Priest: Let us pray.

The Collect For The Day

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Moses said: So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you. You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

Psalm 15

1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *
who may abide upon your holy hill?

2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *
who speaks the truth from his heart.

3 There is no guile upon his tongue;
he does no evil to his friend; *
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
but he honors those who fear the Lord.

5 He has sworn to do no wrong *
and does not take back his word.

6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

7 Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.

The Second Lesson: James 1:17-27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

574 *Before thy throne, O God, we kneel*

The Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."