

Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.” When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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POSTLUDE: Grand Choeur	Cesar Franck (1822-1890)

Serving Today:
Celebrant: The Rev. Fr. Bob Hudak
Organist: Sylvia Sutter
Acolytes: Robert Tankard (8), Mack Simpson (10)
Eucharistic Minister: Susan Tankard (8), Jimmy Latham (10)
Lector: Judy Kiricoples (8), Kathy Sutter (10)
Altar Guild: Jennifer Fletcher
Ushers: Fritz & Ginger Morrison
Flower Guild: Linda Baldree, Sharon Britt
Coffee Hour: Michael Weaver

The altar flowers today are given in honor of the Baldree’s daughter, Julia, and all breast can survivors

This week in your prayers, please remember:

Healing & Guidance: Ivan McRoy, Lou Batton (Mark Batton's mother, Sylvia Sutter's sister), Alethia Anderson, Donald Michaud, Bishop David O’ Connell, Olivia Hill, Jayne Spangler, Alan Daughtry, The Wester family, David Smith (Tim Smith’s brother), Joe Buziak, John Denton, Jack & Kathryn Brake, Hubert Yeatman, Allison Smith, Chip Ritter, Carol Sawyer, The McKenna family, Ruth Petersen, John Everett, Gwen & Harry Slade, Natalie Napierala, Bill Myatt, David Wheeler, Rob McClement, Kyle Chin, Alisha Thobe, Leslie, Dennis, Joseph Cortesi, Karen Britton, Paul Dropauer
Caregivers: Tim Smith, Tina, Charles
Military: Bradley Craig Ward, Chris Raducha, Adam Raducha, Hayden Tankard, Nathaniel Bowen, Frank Yenney (Jack & Kathryn Brake’s grandson), McCauley Griffin (Annie Griffin’s grandson), Walker Brown (Pat & Sue Brown’s grandson), Lonnie Carraway (Stephanie & Ken Reynold’s son-in-law), Alex Paschall
Birthdays: Abby Batton (9th)

PLEASE REMEMBER ST. THOMAS IN YOUR WILL

The Rev. Fr. Copeland D. Johnston, Rector
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St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Bath, North Carolina
Nineteenth Sunday After
Pentecost

Holy Eucharist

October 4, 2026, 8 & 10 AM



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WELCOME

PRELUDE: *Shall We gather at the River?* Arr. Dale Wood
Tune by Robert Lowry (1826-1899)

448 *O love, how deep, how broad, how high*

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 *The Gloria*

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

The Collect For The Day

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson: Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

Psalm 80:7-14

- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 8 You have brought a vine out of Egypt; *
you cast out the nations and planted it.
- 9 You prepared the ground for it; *
it took root and filled the land.
- 10 The mountains were covered by its shadow *
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.
- 11 You stretched out its tendrils to the Sea *
and its branches to the River.
- 12 Why have you broken down its wall, *
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?
- 13 The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, *
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.
- 14 Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;
behold and tend this vine; *
preserve what your right hand has planted.

The Second Lesson: Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

495 *Hail, thou once despised Jesus*

The Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

Jesus said, “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.” Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the