



ST. THOMAS' PARISH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH DUPONT CIRCLE



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 6, 2020

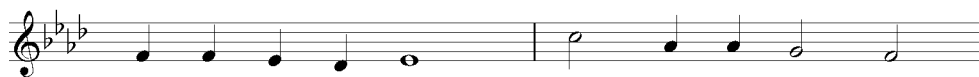
Opening Hymn 541

"Come, Labor On"

(all verses sung)



1	Come,	la - bor	on.	Who	dares	stand	i - dle
2	Come,	la - bor	on.	The	en - e - my	is	
3	Come,	la - bor	on.	A -	way	with	gloom - y
4	Come,	la - bor	on.	Claim	the	high	call - ing
5	Come,	la - bor	on.	No	time	for	rest, till



1	on	the	har - vest	plain,	while	all	a - round	us
2	watch - ing	night	and	day,	to	sow	the	tares, to
3	doubts	and	faith - less	fear!	No	arm	so	weak but
4	an - gels	can - not	share—		to	young	and	old the
5	glows	the	west - ern	sky,	till	the	long	sha - dows



1	waves	the	gold - en	grain?	And	to	each	ser - vant
2	snatch	the	seed	a - way;	while	we	in	sleep our
3	may	do	ser - vice	here:	by	feeb - lest	a -	gents
4	Gos - pel	glad - ness	bear:		re - deem	the	time;	its
5	o'er	our	path - way	lie,	and	a	glad	sound comes



1	does	the	Mas - ter	say,	"Go	work	to	- day."
2	du - ty	have	for - got,	he	slum - bered	not.		
3	may	our	God	ful - fill	his	right - eous	will.	
4	hours	too	swift - ly	fly.	The	night	draws	nigh.
5	with	the	set - ting	sun,		"Ser - vants,	well	done."

Opening Acclamation

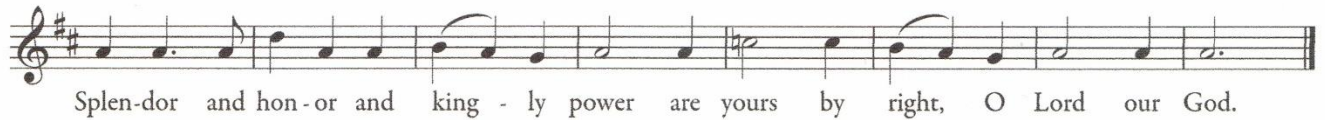
Celebrant: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People: Glory to God for ever and ever.

Song of Praise – Dignus es

Benjamin Pearce Straley (b. 1986)

(Congregation sings with choir at the congregational refrain)



The choir sings the verses.

For you created every thing that is,
and by your will they were created and have their being; *Refrain*

And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain,
for with your blood you have redeemed for God,
From every family, language, people, and nation,
a kingdom of priests to serve our God. *Refrain*

And so, to him who sits upon the throne,
and to Christ the Lamb,
Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor,
for ever and for evermore. *Refrain*

The Collect

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

First Reading

Exodus 12: 1-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with

unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Lector: The Word of the Lord People: Thanks be to God

Psalm 149

(recited by all)

- 1 Hallelujah!
Sing to the LORD a new song; *
sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.
- 2 Let Israel rejoice in his Maker; *
let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.
- 3 Let them praise his Name in the dance; *
let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.
- 4 For the LORD takes pleasure in his people *
and adorns the poor with victory.
- 5 Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; *
let them be joyful on their beds.
- 6 Let the praises of God be in their throat *
and a two-edged sword in their hand;
- 7 To wreak vengeance on the nations *
and punishment on the peoples;
- 8 To bind their kings in chains *
and their nobles with links of iron;
- 9 To inflict on them the judgment decreed; *
this is glory for all his faithful people.
Hallelujah!



The Holy Gospel

Matthew 18: 15-20

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord. **People:** Praise to you Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Lisa Ahuja

✠ *Please observe a moment of silence following the sermon*

Prayers of the People

Lord, help us empty our hearts and minds now of all cares of this world, and allow your Holy Spirit to deliver our innermost sighs and desires to you. Open our eyes and ears to receive your response.

Silence

Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans, "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us." During this time of uncertainty and anxiety, remind us that we are not, and cannot be, in control. We pray for your divine safekeeping.

Silence

Paul also says, "We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us." Help us remember how wonderfully we are made, and that each of us has a special ministry you have placed on our hearts. We pray for the right use of our gifts to advance your mission on Earth.

Silence

Isaiah promises that "the Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame." We give thanks and pray for our Bishops— Mariann, Chilton, and Gene—and for all ministers, congregations, and communities.

Silence

The Psalms teach us that you forgive all sins and heal all diseases. We pray for those who are sick, homeless, unemployed, alone, hungry, addicted, or abused. We pray especially for those on our parish prayer list.

Silence

You are invited to share your prayers of petition or thanksgiving either silently or aloud, or in the chat or comment box.

Silence

We pray for newborns. We pray for all celebrating birthdays. We pray for those who have died.

Silence

Forgive our complacency, Lord, and for wishing to stay in comfortable, predictable, yet perhaps unproductive places. Your world is constantly changing. Show us how to be good stewards of each new day. We pray for your direction, conviction, and compassion. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins to God.

(Silence may be kept)

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. **Amen.**

Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant: The Peace of Christ be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

✠*The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace.*



Offertory Anthem

“Now Thank We All Our God”

arr. William Allen Pasch

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in Whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed;
And free us from all ills, in this world and the next!

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given;
The Son and Him Who reigns with Them in highest Heaven;
The one eternal God, whom earth and Heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.



The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN,
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from
the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.



Spiritual Communion Prayer

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion. The presider invites the following prayer to be said by all:

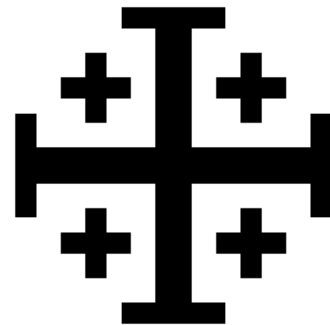
My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Blessing

Celebrant:

Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you always.

Amen



Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!

People: Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!

Closing Hymn WLP 773

"Heal Me, Hands of Jesus"

1. Heal me, hands of Je - sus, and search out all my pain: re -
 2. Cleanse me, blood of Je - sus, take bit - ter-ness a - way; let
 3. Know me, mind of Je - sus, and show me all my sin; dis -
 4. Fill me, joy of Je - sus: anx - i - e - ty shall cease and

store my hope, re - move my fear and bring me peace a - gain.
 me for - give as one for-given and bring me peace to - day.
 pel the mem - o - ries of guilt, and bring me peace with - in.
 heaven's se - ren - i - ty be mine, for Je - sus brings me peace!

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ST. THOMAS' PARISH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH • DUPONT CIRCLE

Announcements for Sunday, September 6, 2020

A Note from Our Priest in Charge

Dear Friends,

As we continue to be the Church outside of our building, I hear the Spirit inviting us to go deeper and focus on the practices that connect us as a Christian community: worship, study, action (outreach and justice), and building relationships. Ministry leaders are working together to form a schedule for the parish for the months of September through November to allow for each of us to plan and be intentional about our participation.



Throughout the fall we intend to have a time of study most Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. We'll send you the whole schedule next week, but the first Sunday morning study will be next Sunday, September 13. This series will be an Exploration and Renewal of our Faith. While these classes would be good preparation for Confirmation in the Episcopal Church, they would also be great refreshers for anyone looking to explore or renew their faith with us. Come for the sessions you are interested in, or for all sessions. These sessions will be recorded in case you miss them.

There will be other optional readings if you'd like to go deeper into your exploration of faith. This is also a time to build relationships with others in the parish.

Q. What is Confirmation?

A. **Confirmation** is the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop.

Reception: If you've been confirmed in another tradition and would like to become an Episcopalian, the bishop will officially receive you into the Church following your preparation.

Renewal: Those who have already been confirmed in an Episcopal Church may renew their faith in this service.

You could attend one or all of the classes, depending on your interest. If you are planning on Confirmation, Reception, or Renewal of your Confirmation vows you should attend all and/or watch any sessions you miss.

We will meet on Sundays from 9:30-10:15 on Zoom starting September 13. Here is the schedule, and I've included more on Confirmation, Reception, and Renewal below.

Sept 13:	Confirmation, Reception, and Renewal in the Episcopal Church an Overview and The Practice of Prayer.
Sept 20:	The Sacrament of Baptism
Sept 27:	The Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist
Oct 4:	Holy Scripture
Oct 11:	Church History and History of St. Thomas' Parish
Oct 18:	Discerning Your Ministry in the World and in our Church
Oct 25:	Bishop's Visit

If you do plan to prepare for Confirmation, Reception, or Renewal, please do let me know. If not, no need to register, just show up!

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Lisa+



Here is our Zoom online schedule for this coming week.

Sunday, September 6:

10:30 am	Worship (Zoom or Facebook streaming of the service)
11:15 am	Coffee Hour on Zoom

Monday, September 7: No Worship – Labor Day!

Tuesday, September 8:

6:30-7:00 pm	Evening Worship (with Evening Prayer or Compline.)
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Wednesday, September 9:

6:30-7:00 pm	Evening Worship with Taize Chant
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Thursday, September 10:

5:45-6:30 pm	Spanish Conversation Time with Al
6:30-7:00 pm	Evening Worship (with Evening Prayer or Compline.)

Friday, September 11:

6:30-7:00 pm	Evening Worship (with Evening Prayer or Compline.)
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Sunday, September 13:

9:30-10:15 am	Exploring our Faith Class: Into to Confirmation, Reception, and Renewal and The Practice of Prayer
10:30 am	Worship (on Zoom or go to our Facebook page)
11:15 am	Coffee Hour on Zoom

Zoom Code for all of our Worship, Social (Coffee Hour, etc.), Study, and Open Office Hours.

Meeting ID: 947 6442 4718

Password: 151718th

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94764424718?pwd=WFhJM0M5N2VxT2dVbVpaelljaVQ2UT09>

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Responding to Grief and Joy (and everything in between!) in our Community:

In this time when we cannot check in with one another face to face each week, you may wish to respond to the grief or joy in our community by sending a greeting card or making a phone call. If you do not have the individual's contact information, please check Realm or send your greeting card to that person % our church. We will make sure to share with them.

Healing:

- **Jerry Donohoe:** Here is a link to his Caring Bridge page for updates on his health: <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/jerrydonahoe>



Music Intern Program at St. Thomas' Parish

St. Thomas' Parish requests applications for its **Fall 2020 Music Intern program** for Washington, D.C.-area college students. The primary duties of Music Interns will be to sing with the choir during approximately 13 weekly Sunday afternoon recording sessions at St. Thomas'. The recordings will be included in virtual liturgies produced by the St. Thomas' Parish. Beyond exploring the repertoire of sacred music, there will be opportunities to compose, conduct, or implement a specialized musical project. In-person rehearsals will be with a maximum of ten people in the nave socially-distanced by at least 20-feet per person and guidelines required by the Episcopal Diocese of Washington will be followed. Apply through the link below or contact Interim Director of Music Michael Lodico. Thanks for helping us spread the word about this program.

Additionally, parishioners of St. Thomas' are most welcome to include singing in the choir as part of their ministry. If you would like more information regarding joining the choir or trying it out, please contact Interim Director of Music Michael Lodico.

Michael Lodico — MLodico@stthomasdc.org

Form to apply for Music Intern Program — <https://forms.gle/Vaac4rJYPqi6Fjnk8>

Reminder to fill out your census and register to vote:

Two actions you can take for justice are: filling out your census and registering to vote. Already done? Remind people you know to do the same.

www.2020census.gov

Check that you are registered to vote and/or register!



<https://vote.gov/>

VOTE FAITHFULLY

"We are blessed as a nation to vote. As citizens of this country, this is a right, an obligation, and a duty. Go vote. Vote your conscience. Your conscience informed by what it means to love your neighbor, to participate in the process of seeking the common good, to participate in the process of making this a better world. However you vote, go and vote. And do that as followers of Jesus."

-Presiding Bishop Michael Curry



REGISTER MOBILIZE COMMUNICATE ADVOCATE

#VoteFaithfully

You cannot vote unless you are registered! Don't procrastinate — get registered today!

✓ Visit <https://vote.gov/> to get registered NOW.

✓ Even if you believe you are registered, double-check your voter registration status to make sure.

✓ You don't have to register alone! Find friends and fellow parishioners who are not yet registered and sign up together. You can even make it a virtual event if you are able to register online or request registration form by mail.

✓ Talk to youth and young adults about the importance of registering and help get them registered. Many states allow young people to register as long as they will turn 18 on or before the next election.

United Planning Organization's Needs and Photos of Recipients



Need for Diapers Size 6

St. Thomas' Member Al shares that there is current need for diapers in size 6. Thank you for contributing to school supplies for seven of the parents Al serves who are in high school.

Al's contact information to contribute / coordinate delivery is: (202)604-3084 or alllanosdc@gmail.com

See below for the original note from Al, explaining his ministry in the community.

From St. Thomas' Member Al, who serves as a social worker in Columbia Heights.

"Hope that this note finds you well. I want to share with you a little bit about my work. Over the past six years my organization -The United Planning Organization (UPO)- has been providing Bell Teen Parents and CDC technical assistance to 32 low income families whose parents are immigrants from Central America. Some of them are teen parents (15 years old) Due to the pandemic, most parents are out of work. The children who attend the Center are between two weeks and three and a half years. Today these children stay at home with their families most of the day. Parents are in urgent need of items such as formula. (Similac Advance) Although they have their WIC checks, these funds are not enough to cover their needs. I work as a Family Engagement Specialist for UPO / Bell Teen Parents and CDC. One of my functions is to connect Parents with social services and provide them Advocacy and Child Development trainings among others. Unfortunately, in these times of crisis the Center as well as many agencies are closed. These families are in urgent need. These parents are specifically seeking donations for formula."

Al lives near St. Thomas' Parish on Beekman Place, NW. Call or email him for address or drop off 202-604-3084 or allanosdc@gmail.com



Baby Genesis

Reverend Lisa's Contact Information:

**The Rev. Lisa Saunders Ahuja
St. Thomas' Parish
1517 18th Street NW
Washington, DC 20036
1-202-361-2018 (cell)
lahuja@stthomasdc.org**

Celebrating Our September Birthdays

Barbara Hays (September 3)
Braxton Dyer (September 11)
Florence Asha Lodico (September 13)
Bob Sheavly (September 13)
Doug Dreier (September 22)
Cindy Adkins (September 24)
Mary de Boer (September 27)
John Stanton (September 29)

*If your birthday or anniversary is not listed here, please let us know at
administrator@stthomasdc.org.*

Parish Prayer List

Anne Marie Bohler
Matthew Briggs
Benjamin Bynum
Annette Carver
Peggyann Cohen
Mary de Boer

Jerry Donahoe
Ashley Forman
Ruth Bader Ginsburg
Mark Herzog
Kristin Jones
Mike Knapp

Dave Kucharski
Donna Norman
Elizabeth Powers-Brown
Mary Ellen Reed
Harvey Snyder

For the repose of the soul of:

Lewis East

Annie Untied Mirra

Jim Snedegar

You may submit a name for the list by sending an e-mail to: administrator@stthomasdc.org



ST. THOMAS' PARISH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH • DUPONT CIRCLE

"As St. Thomas' Parish we are followers of Jesus, striving to see Christ in each person, and to be Christ in our community, our city, and our world."

Vestry

Jessie Eddy, Senior Warden
Stephen Schembs, Junior Warden
Jennie Allison, Treasurer
Jean Holman, Clerk
Jennie Allison, Brian Crane, Jason Crighton, Bettina Hager,
Jane Saari, Brett Snyder, Gregory Zitterkob

Staff

The Rev. Lisa Saunders Ahuja	Priest-in Charge	lahuja@stthomasdc.org cell: 202-361-2018
The Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson	Bishop in Residence	@BishopGRobinson
Michael Lodico	Interim Music Director	mlodico@stthomasdc.org
Nolan DiFrancesco	Administrator	administrator@stthomasdc.org
Kimberly Davis	Nursery Care Worker	
Clifford Bowens	Nursery Care Worker	

St. Thomas' Parish

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