



Christ Church Cathedral, Mobile, Alabama

Holy Communion of the Simple Presence:

The Feast of St. Thecla of Iconium

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

5:15 p.m.

We invite you to participate in the worship of God. Our service is Holy Eucharist, Rite II. For ease of use, this booklet contains the congregational portions of the liturgy and service music. Congregational responses are printed in bold. Hymn numbers refer to The Hymnal 1982. Lesson and Gospel texts are taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. This year, when appropriate, the lessons for this service will commemorate Saints of the Episcopal Church.

Prelude

Welcome

The Word of God

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

God of liberating power, who called Thecla to proclaim the gospel and did not permit any obstacle or peril to inhibit her: Empower courageous evangelists among us, that men and women everywhere may know the freedom that you offer us in Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

Psalm 123

Ad te levavi oculos meos

BCP 780



- ¹ To you I lift up my **eyes**, *
to you enthroned in the **heavens**.
- ² As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their **masters**, *
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her **mistress**,
- ³ So our eyes look to the Lord our **God**, *
until he shows us his **mercy**.
- ⁴ Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have **mercy**, *
for we have had more than enough of **contempt**,
- ⁵ Too much of the scorn of the indolent **rich**, *
and of the derision of the **proud**.

Phos hilaron

The Eighth Tune

Hymnal 25

O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ, in you the Father's glory shone.
Immortal, holy, blest is he, and blest are you, his holy Son.

Now sunset comes, but light shines forth, the lamps are lit to pierce the night.
Praise Father, Son, and Spirit: God who dwells in the eternal light.

Worthy are you of endless praise, O Son of God, Life-giving Lord;
wherefore you are through all the earth and in the highest heaven adored.

The Holy Gospel:

Luke 24:1-11

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Meditation

Silence for reflection.

The Prayers of the People: Form II

The leader and people pray responsively.

BCP 385

Celebrant: I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop, Russell; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Pray for the Church.

Silence.

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace.

Silence.

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence.

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.

Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence.

I ask your prayers for the departed.

Pray for those who have died.

Silence.

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored especially St. Thecla of Iconium.

Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence.

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

Confession of Sin

BCP 360

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant 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.**

Celebrant:

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

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

Solo

Richard Farrant or John Hilton

(16th Century)

Lord, For Thy Tender Mercy's Sake

Mollie Adams, *soprano*

Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake, lay not our sins to our charge,
but forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives:
to decline from sin and incline to virtue, that we may walk in a perfect heart
before thee now and evermore. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

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.**

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, for the wonderful grace and virtue declared in all your saints, who have been the chosen vessels of your grace, and the lights of the world in their generations. 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:

Sanctus

Hymnal S-125

**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.

Celebrant:

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.

Celebrant :

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,

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

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.**

Fraction Anthem

BCP 364

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 365

Celebrant:

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.

Blessing

Closing Hymn

Lytlington
Hymnal 694

God be in my head
God be in my head,
and in my understanding;
God be in mine eyes,
and in my looking;
God be in my mouth,
and in my speaking;
God be in my heart,
and in my thinking;
God be at mine end,
and at my departing.

Dismissal



ST. THECLA OF ICONIUM PROTO-MARTYR AMONG WOMEN

Thecla was a saint of the early Christian Church, a reported follower of Paul the Apostle. The earliest record of her life comes from the ancient apocryphal *Acts of Paul and Thecla*.

Thecla's mother and her fiancé became concerned Thecla would follow Paul's demand "one must fear only one God and live in chastity", and punished both Paul and Thecla.

Thecla was miraculously saved from burning at the stake by the onset of a storm. She traveled with Paul to Antioch. There a nobleman named Alexander desired Thecla and attempted to take her by force. Thecla fought him off, assaulting him in the process. She was put on trial for assaulting a nobleman and was sentenced to be eaten by wild beasts. Again she was saved by a series of miracles.

She traveled to preach the word of God and became an icon encouraging women to also live a life of chastity and follow the word of the Lord.

CATHEDRAL NOTES



BAYLIGHTS AT BECKWITH

Friday, September 25 through Sunday, September 27.

Christ Church Cathedral is sponsoring the Friday night BayLights cookout. The fun begins at 6:30 p.m. Bring your lawn chair and relax outside under the stars with live entertainment. The cost for the evening is \$35 for everyone 13 and older, \$15 for youth ages 6 to 12, and children 11 and under are free. Leigh Rendfrey can answer any questions.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, October 4 at 4:00 p.m. in the Cathedral Courtyard

We bless pets on St. Francis' feast day because of his love for animals. Please bring your pets—on a leash or in a carrier—for their annual blessings. This year, we will be collecting donations for the Mobile Humane Society. Donations may include pet food, collars, leashes, beds, toys, and towels. A table will be set up where you can decorate a bowl for your pet! Each pet will receive a St. Francis medal after their blessing. Pet treats will be served.

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Hymnal 25: Words: Greek, 3rd cent.; tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984); para. of *O Gracious Light*. Music: *The Eighth Tune*, Thomas Tallis (1505?-1585).

Lord, For Thy Tender mercy's Sake: Words: Henry Bull, Christian Prayers and Holy Meditations (1568). Music: Richard Farrant or John Hilton (16th Century).

Hymnal S-125: Setting: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

Hymnal 694: Words: *Sarum Primer*, 1514. Music: *Lytlington*, Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875-1947). By permission of The Royal School of Church Music.



Ministers For Today

Celebrant The Reverend Thomas K. Heard
Organist.....Josh Coble
Cantor.....Mollie Adams
Altar Guild Barbara Archer, Skip Archer, Linda Grill



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL CATHEDRAL OF THE DIOCESE OF THE CENTRAL GULF COAST

The Right Reverend J. Russell Kendrick, *Bishop*
The Very Reverend Beverly F. Gibson, Ph.D., *Rector and Dean*
The Reverend Thomas K. Heard, *Priest Associate*
The Reverend Pratt Paterson, *Deacon*
Dr. Joshua H. Coble, *Organist and Choirmaster*
Mollie A. Adams, *Cantor*
Andy R. Palileo, *Audio-Visual Specialist*

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