

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
Madison, AL



The Third Sunday of Easter
April 14, 2024

Fr. Chris Hartley, Rector
Fr. Dillon Green, Associate Rector
Rev. Lynn Bullard, Deacon
Tom Killian, Music Director
Susan Fletcher, Organist

Holy Eucharist Rite II

The Prelude

“Regina Coeli” *(Everett Titcomb)*

Organist

The Entrance Rite

Hymn #180

“He Is Risen, He Is Risen”

Opening Acclamation, *all standing*

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Collect for Purity

Celebrant 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.

Canticle 13, Hymn #S-236 *The following is sung, all standing*

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 for ever.

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 for ever.

Glory to you, beholding the depths;

in the high vault of heaven.

Glory to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit;

we will highly exalt you. Glory to you!

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

The First Reading

Acts 3:12-19

A Reading from the Book of Acts.

Peter addressed the people, “**Y**ou Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

“**A**nd now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through

all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 4

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; *
 you set me free when I am hard-pressed;
 have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 "You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; *
 how long will you worship dumb idols
 and run after false gods?"
- 3 Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful; *
 when I call upon the LORD, he will hear me.
- 4 Tremble, then, and do not sin; *
 speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.
- 5 Offer the appointed sacrifices *
 and put your trust in the LORD.
- 6 Many are saying, "Oh, that we might see better times!" *
 Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O LORD.
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart, *
 more than when grain and wine and oil increase.
- 8 I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; *
 for only you, LORD, make me dwell in safety.

The Second Reading

1 John 3:1-7

A Reading from the First Letter of John.

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: #343 “Shepherd Of Souls, Refresh And Bless”

The Holy Gospel

Luke 24:36b-48

Deacon ✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have

flesh and bones as you see that I *have*.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to *eat*?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with *you*—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be *fulfilled*.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

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

The Sermon

Fr. Dillon

The Nicene Creed, *please stand*
All pray together:

**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 worshiped 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.

The Prayers of the People

Form III

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 Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Glenda and Brian, our Bishops; Chris, our Rector; Dillon, our Associate Rector; Lynn, our Deacon; Karen, our postulant for Holy Orders; Lauren, our missionary in Kenya; Steve, Bob, and Sam, our retired clergy; for our staff, vestry, and laity; and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for our president, Joe; our vice president, Kamala; our governor, Kay; our mayor, Paul; and for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

We pray for The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia; our companion Diocese of Honduras and their Bishop, Lloyd; Cursillo #232 Pilgrims & Staff; St. Matthew's Grief Share; and for peace in Ukraine, Israel, and Palestine. 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.

✠ Give to the departed 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 for those of others.

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

The Peace *Please Stand*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Welcome & Announcements

Offertory “Quietly, Beneath The Dark Earth” (*Don Michael Dicie*) Choir

Hymn #380

The Doxology (*vs. 3*)

The Liturgy of the Table

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer D

The people remain standing.

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.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

Sanctus, Hymn #S-125 *Celebrant and People*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues,

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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.”

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ’s death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

**We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs and matriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Celebrant then continues

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

**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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The priest breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

Fraction Anthem, Hymn #S-154 *Celebrant and People*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Hymn #186 **“Christ Jesus Lay In Death’s Strong Bands”**

After Communion, the Celebrant says

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.

The Blessing, *all standing*

Hymn #182

“Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing”

The Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

The Postlude

“Finale From Firework Music” (*G. F. Handel*)



WORSHIP SERVERS:

VOD: E Snell

	8:30am	11:00am
Altar Guild:	Buzby	Lo
Nursery:	Anderson/Brown	Anderson/Brown
Hospitality:	Sharp	Klasing
Ushers:	Sampson/Buzby	Weaver/Anderson
Lectors:	Clem/Killian/Pezzula	Kerr/Marques/Womack
LEM's:	Carpenter	Bishop
Counters:	Christopher/Lewis	Bishop/Keary
Acolytes:	A Maddox/E Maddox/C Pezzula/M Pezzula A Utt/V Mullins/B Mullins/N Rasmussen	

ALTAR GIFTS: WE NEED YOUR HELP! Altar Flower and Bread & Wine sign up sheets are located on the worship board in the hallway. Cost for flowers is \$45 per arrangement and we need two per week. Cost for bread & wine is at your discretion. These can be given in celebration of a special event, in memory of a loved one, in honor of someone special, etc. Please sign up to help provide these. THANK YOU!

LIVE STREAM SERVICE REMINDER – please be mindful that the 11:00am service is live-streamed every week. Therefore, names may be audible and faces may be visible to anyone watching online.