

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Madison, Alabama



THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

JULY 26, 2026
8:15AM/10:00 AM

The Rev. Emily Rowell Brown, Rector
The Rev. Taylor Johnson, Associate Rector
Tom Killian, Music Director
Susan Fletcher, Organist

Quiet before the service helps us to mark sacred space and time. Please use this time to prayerfully prepare for worship. Please remember to silence your cell phone.

*Elements marked with * are included in the 10:00 am worship service.*

The Liturgy of the Word

***The Prelude**

Vespers Voluntary VIII

(Edward Elgar)

***Processional Hymn #677**

God moves in a mysterious way

Opening Sentences, *Standing*

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

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

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.***

****Gloria, #S-236, Sung by all***

**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 you 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.**

**Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we

lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lesson, Genesis 29:15-28

Laban said to Jacob, “Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?” Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah’s eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, “I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.” Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.” So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.” So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?” Laban said, “This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.” Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 105:1-11, 45b

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.
- 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.
- 3 Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
- 4 Search for the LORD and his strength; *
continually seek his face.
- 5 Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,

6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.
7 He is the LORD our God; *
his judgments prevail in all the world.
8 He has always been mindful of his covenant, *
the promise he made for a thousand generations:
9 The covenant he made with Abraham, *
the oath that he swore to Isaac,
10 Which he established as a statute for Jacob, *
an everlasting covenant for Israel,
11 Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan *
to be your allotted inheritance."
45b Hallelujah!

The Epistle, Romans 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

***Sequence Hymn #635, *Standing, sung by all* If thou but trust in God to guide thee**

The Holy Gospel, Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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

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

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Taylor Johnson

The Nicene Creed, *Standing*

BCP 358

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

BCP 387

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 Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for Richard, our Bishop; for Emily and Taylor, our clergy; for 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, Donald; our vice president, JD; our governor, Kay; our mayor, Ranae; 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 our Companion Diocese of Honduras and for their bishop, Lloyd; for the Food Bank of North Alabama; for First Stop; for the Episcopal Relief and Development; for Sawyerville; for the Huntsville Assistance Program; for the National Children's Advocacy Center; for peace in Ukraine and the Middle East. Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

We pray for those who are in areas of conflict and disaster who are in harm's way. 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.

A Litany of Thanksgiving for Retirement of Debt

Celebrant Our Help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
Blessed be our God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier.

People **We give you thanks, O Lord, for your unfailing love and faithfulness.**

Celebrant The good hand of the Lord has been upon us, and he has prospered us by his grace, enabling us to finish this work. We remember the vision, sacrifices, and generosity of those who came before us, and of everyone who contributed to this milestone.

People **Thanks be to God for his abundant provision.**

Celebrant Lord, we dedicate this debt-free facility to your service. May these walls always be a sanctuary of hope, healing, and truth for this community, both now and for generations to come.

People **Sustain us in our vocation and ministry to truly and devoutly serve you, that our hearts and resources will be poured out to expand your kingdom. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty and everlasting God, we offer our selves and this facility entirely to you. As we celebrate the retirement of our indebtedness, we ask that you multiply the resources you have freed up. Use us boldly to serve those in need, to spread the Gospel, and to be a beacon of light in our community. Bless every individual who has prayed, sacrificed, and given to make this day possible. **Amen.**

The Peace *Standing*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements

***Offertory Anthem,** *Sung by choir*

The Christ Who Died

(Alfred V. Fedak)

***Presentation Hymn #380,** *Standing, sung by all*

The Doxology *(vs. 3)*

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

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 right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth...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 #S-130, Sung by all**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full, 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.

Standing or kneeling

Celebrant We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

Celebrant And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Matthew and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. 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, *Said by all*

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 #S-164, *Sung by all

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: Have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:

Give us your peace, give us your peace.

Invitation to Communion

Regardless of the denomination of your baptism, you are invited to receive Holy Communion in the Episcopal Church. If you wish to receive a blessing, please come to the altar rail and cross your arms over your chest. If you are interested in being baptized, please speak with the clergy after the service or contact the church office.

During the distribution of communion, anyone who would like is invited to light one of the candles located in the back right transept as a symbol of prayer.

***Communion Hymn #307**

Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendor

***Communion Hymn #601**

O day of God, draw nigh

The Postcommunion Prayer *Said by all, standing or kneeling*

BCP 365

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.**

The Blessing, *all standing*

***Closing Hymn #388,** *Standing, sung by all* **O worship the King, all glorious above!**

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

***The Postlude**

Prelude on *Hanover*

(C. S. Lang)



Remember in your prayers this week:

Bill Byrd, Chuck, Lorna, and Roy Vickers, Dottie Aldredge, Gina Centanni, Terry Schuster, David Osmond, Anna Post, Bev Ryberg, David Newton, Jane Prince, Mary Travers, Anne Sullivan, Judy Elkins, Bob & Eileen Bogard, Brenda Kirkendall, Chris King, Eileen Lewis, Molly Killian, Trudie Gruman, Ray and Shirley White, George and Sandra Burgess, Norm Smith, Keith Ulrich, Tyron Newton, Clarissa Dozier, Daryl Carpenter, Carmen M. Colon, Robert Sampson, Deborah Harrison, Scott Cechovic, Joan East, Jeff Anderson, Barbara Combs, Laura Weatherbee, David Lawrence, Rev. Emily Rowell Brown and family.

Also pray for our friends and family members, especially:

Brenda Anderson, Diana Parks, Martha Bergmann, Chuck Sewell, Wes Patterson, Richard Hattoway, Jenny Williams, Rosie Brown, Jewell Newton, Ginger Eich, Catherine S. Williams, Joe Allen, Caroline Thomas, Elyssa Nelson, Bill Fischer, Sally Flanigan, Theresa Richerson, Scott Marbut, Todd Newman, Cathy Taveras, Fran Woytowich, BB McCalpin, Stephen Byrd, Bronwen Murray, Katie Ray, Peggy Wagner, Joe Frank Trevino, Emmy & Drew Champion, Ron Mandelbaum, Dave Knowles, Wade Allen, Emily Nebrig, Bobby Paysinger, Barbara Lemley, Steve Sands, Felicia Temple, John David Landin, Mike Bolton, Dr. Mark Bronner, Ashley Jenkins, Mark Anderson, Judy Tuck, Ann Reid Cronin, Elizabeth Hodges, Jill Kanuchok, Mike Mumfrey, Joyce Lewis, Allan Scott, Christine Van Dyke, Christopher Taveras, Mike and Suzette Rice, Shannon Carpenter, Jarilyn Alleman, Jake Sowder, Cheryl Lavazza, Margaret McHugh, Shawn and Rachel Blanco, Jane Stanland, Wisam Safie, Diego Candia, The Hardin family, Anthony Hardin, Cathy Collier, Elizabeth Lundey, Anthony Kanuchok, Cathy Rasnick, Johanna Nicole Bratcher, Catherine Ott, Lisa Murray.

SERVING TODAY (8:15 AM)

PREACHER: The Rev. Taylor Johnson

CELEBRANT: The Rev. Emily Rowell Brown

ALTAR GUILD: Dee Buzby

LEM: Bobby Williams, Andy Williams

LECTOR: Todd Clem

CRUCIFER: Erin Bruce

USHERS: Carla Stagner, Dennis Utt

MEDIA MINISTRY: Larry Stanbery

HOSPITALITY: Barbara Carpenter

COUNTERS: Jeff Cooper, Cindy Byrd

VESTRY OF THE DAY: Beau Womack

SERVING TODAY (10:00 AM):

PREACHER: The Rev. Taylor Johnson

CELEBRANT: The Rev. Emily Rowell Brown

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Tom Killian

ORGANIST: Susan Fletcher

ALTAR GUILD: Alinda Coiner, Donna Kleinjung

LEM: Kathy Barr, Jason Vaughn

LECTOR: Angel Utt

EPISTOLER: Michael Harrison

INTERCESSOR: Jeff Anderson

CRUCIFER: Austin Utt

GOSPELER: Ben Watson

TORCHBEARERS: Nora Rasmussen, Miles Rasmussen

USHERS: Nancy Snell, Joel Simõneau

MEDIA MINISTRY: Dane Rasmussen

COUNTERS: Michael Harrison, Paul Lewis

HOSPITALITY: Mary Brown

NURSERY: Mary Brown, Amber Anderson

VESTRY OF THE DAY: Beau Womack