

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
Madison, AL



The Feast of St. Matthew  
A Service of Confirmation with Holy Eucharist  
September 17, 2023

The Rt. Rev. Glenda Curry, Diocesan Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Brian N. Prior, Assisting Bishop

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

Adagio in G Minor (*Tomaso Albinoni*)

*Susan Fletcher, Organist*

## The Entrance Rite

**Processional Hymn: #244** “Come, Pure Hearts, In Joyful Measure”

### Opening Acclamation, *all standing*

*Bishop* Blessed be God: ✙ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

*Bishop* There is one Body and one Spirit;

*People* **There is one hope in God’s call to us.**

*Bishop* One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

*People* **One God and Father of all.**

### Collect of the Day

*Bishop* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Bishop* Let us pray.

We thank you, heavenly Father, for the witness of your apostle and evangelist Matthew to the Gospel of your Son our Savior; and we pray that, after his example, we may with ready wills and hearts obey the calling of our Lord to follow him; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

# The Liturgy of the Word

## The First Reading

Proverbs 3:1-6

*Reader* A Reading from the Book of Proverbs.

My child, do not forget my teaching,  
but let your heart keep my commandments;  
for length of days and years of life  
and abundant welfare they will give you.  
Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you;  
bind them round your neck,  
write them on the tablet of your heart.  
So you will find favour and good repute  
in the sight of God and of people.  
Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
and do not rely on your own insight.  
In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 119:33-40

33 Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, \*  
and I shall keep it to the end.  
34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; \*  
I shall keep it with all my heart.  
35 Make me go in the path of your commandments, \*  
for that is my desire.

- 36 Incline my heart to your decrees \*  
and not to unjust gain.
- 37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; \*  
give me life in your ways.
- 38 Fulfill your promise to your servant, \*  
which you make to those who fear you.
- 39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, \*  
because your judgments are good.
- 40 Behold, I long for your commandments; \*  
in your righteousness preserve my life.

## **The Second Reading**

## **2 Timothy 3:14-17**

*Reader*      A Reading from the Second Letter to Timothy.

As for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn: #627**

“Lamp Of Our Feet, Whereby We Trace”

## The Holy Gospel

**Matthew 9:9-13**

*Deacon*       ✙ The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

*Deacon*       The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## The Sermon

*The Rt. Rev. Brian Prior  
Assisting Bishop*

## The Presentation and Examination of the Candidates,

*all remaining seated except for the Candidates and their Presenters*

*Bishop*       The Candidates will now be presented.

*Presenter*   I present these persons for Confirmation.

I present these persons to be received into this Communion.

*Bishop*       Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

*Candidates* I do.

*Bishop* Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

*Candidates* I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

*After all have been presented, the Bishop addresses the congregation, saying*

*Bishop* Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

*People* **We will.**

*Bishop* Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

## **The Baptismal Covenant**

*Bishop* Do you believe in God the Father?

*People* **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

*Bishop* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

*People* **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

*Bishop* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*People* **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

*Bishop* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Bishop* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Bishop* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Bishop* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Bishop* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Bishop* Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

## **The Prayers for the Candidates**

*Bishop* Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

*Leader* Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Send them into the world in witness to your love.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*A period of silence follows.*

*Bishop* Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **The Confirmation**

*The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says*

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant N. with your Holy Spirit; empower him/her for your service; and sustain him/her all the days of his/her life. **Amen.**

*The Bishop concludes with this prayer.*

*Bishop* Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and



obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

## **The Peace, *all stand***

*Bishop*      The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*      **And also with you.**

## **The Welcome & Announcements**

Offertory      “When Memory Fades” (*Cool/aar. Nelson*)      Choir

*Any undesignated offering received today will be sent to the Bishop’s Discretionary Fund. Checks can also be made out to the Diocese of Alabama, with “Bishop’s Discretionary Fund” in the memo line.*

**Hymn #380**      The Doxology (*vs. 3*)

## **The Liturgy of the Table**

**The Great Thanksgiving**      Eucharistic Prayer A

*The people remain standing.*

*Bishop*      The Lord be with you.

*People*      **And also with you.**

*Bishop*      Lift up your hearts.

*People*      **We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Bishop*      Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*      **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*The Bishop continues,*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

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 & Benedictus, Hymn #S-130**

*Bishop and People*

**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.**

*The Bishop continues*

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.***

*The Celebrant continues*

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. A

Il 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.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*The Bishop then continues*

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

*People and Bishop*

**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 Bishop breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.*

*Bishop* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
*People* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

### **Fraction Anthem, Hymn #S-164**

**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.**

*Bishop* 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 #232. By all your saints still striving

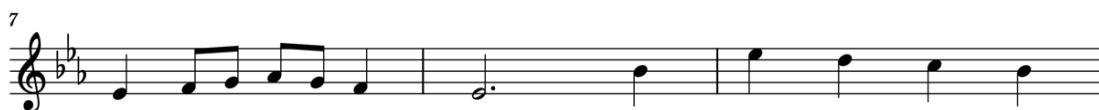
(for the Feast Day of St. Matthew)



1. By all your saints still striv - ing, for all your saints at  
2. We praise you, Lord, for Mat - thew, whose gos - pel words de -  
3. Then let us praise the Fa - ther and wor - ship God the



rest, your ho - ly Name, O Je - sus, for  
clare that, world - ly gain for - sak - ing, your  
Son and sing to God the Spi - rit, e -



ev - er - more be blessed. You rose, our King vic -  
path of life we share. From all un - right - eous  
ter - nal Three in One, till all the ran - somed



to - rious, that they might wear the crown and  
mam - mon, O raise our eyes a - new, that  
num - ber who stand be - fore the throne a -



ev - er shine in splen - dor re - flect - ed from your throne.  
we, what - e'er our sta - tion, may rise and fol - low you.  
scribe all power and glo - ry and praise to God a - lone.

Words: Horatio Bolton Nelson (1823-1913); ver. *Hymnal* 1982.

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Music: *Nyland*, Finnish folk melody; adapt. and harm. David Evans (1874-1948).

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**Communion Hymn: #281**

“He Sat To Watch O’er Customs Paid”

*After Communion, the Bishop says*

Let us pray.

*Bishop 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.**

**The Blessing,** *all standing*

**Recessional Hymn: #530**

“Spread, O Spread, Thou Mighty Word”

**The Dismissal**

*Deacon* Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Lobe den Herren *(J.G.Walther)*

*Susan Fletcher, Organist*



**9/17/23 Servers, 10:00am:**

<b>Vestry of the Day:</b>	Rick
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	B Hamilton
<b>Nursery:</b>	Anderson/Brown
<b>Ushers:</b>	Carpenter/Sampson
<b>Readers:</b>	C Lanier/L Lanier/B Loshuertos
<b>Counters:</b>	Tidwell/Byrd
<b>Acolytes:</b>	L Hartley/S Bruce/A Wales/B Watson

*Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Monica Wales in honor of her mother, Patricia Fulmer, who is being Confirmed today.*

**PRAYER NEEDS:** *Please pray for St. Matthews's members who are distressed in body, mind, or spirit:* Norm Smith, Bill Byrd, Chuck Vickers, Dottie Aldredge, Gina Centanni, Terry Schuster, George & Sandra Burgess, Ray & Shirley White, Canellia Patterson, David Osmond, Colleen Turner, Dick Pendleton, Anna Post, Bev Ryberg, David Newton, Jane Prince, the King family, Mary Travers, Eric & Mel Seemann, Marie Lutz, Josie Cooper, Anne Sullivan, Judy Elkins, Lynda Johnston, David Lawrence, Rebecca Franz, Maurice Hale, Jack Brown, Bob & Eileen Bogard, Tyron Newton, Roger & Rhoda Kitchen, Maurice Hale, Scott Martin, Lynn Beasley, Diane Loehr, Pamela Muery. *Also pray for our friends and family members, especially:* Nancy Laws, Brenda Anderson, Diana Parks, Martha Bergmann, Chuck Sewell, Wes Patterson, Mike Rice, Samantha Rice, Richard Hattoway, Jenny Williams, Rosie Brown, Jack Cooper, Michael & Nancy Laws, Jewell Newton, Ginger Eich, Catherine S. Williams, Joe Allen, Caroline Thomas, Elyssa Nelson, Vaughn Cassell, Bill Fischer, Sally Flanigan, Theresa Richerson, family of Madison Gilbert, Scott Marbut, Todd Newman, Jessica Goodwin, Cathy Taveras, Taylor Christopher, Fran Woytowich, BB McCalpin, Bob & Peggy Wagner, Nancy Ford, Stephen Byrd, Bronwen Murray, Katie Ray, Sherry Sampson, Kate Winkler, Angela Loehr & Meghan Loehr, Joe Frank Trevino, John David Landin, Joyce and Jim Savage.