St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
Madison, Alabama

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost
Holy Eucharist Rite II

November 8, 2026
8:30 & 11:00 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 11:00 am worship service.*

The Liturgy of the Word

The Prelude **His Truth Is Marching On** *(Raymond H. Haan)*

Processional Hymn #690 **Guide me, O thou great Jehovah**

Opening Sentences, *Standing* BCP 355

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 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.
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, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen***.

The Lesson, Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

A Reading from the Book of Joshua.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. "Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God." But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And

the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the LORD!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

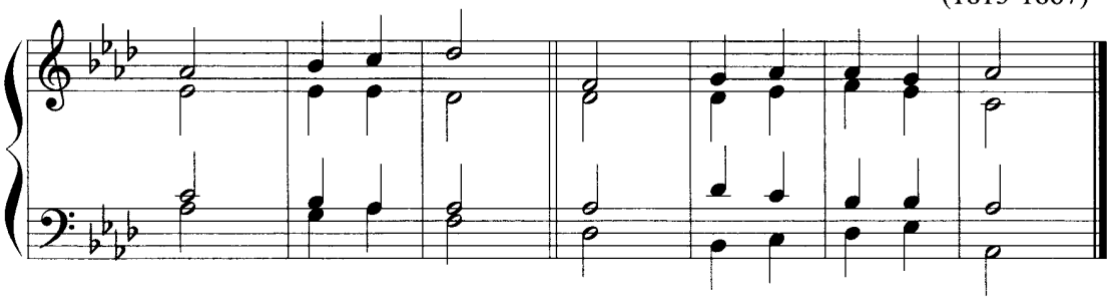
Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 78:1-7

S418

George A. MacFarren
(1813-1887)



1. Hear my teaching, | O my people; *
   incline your ears to the | **words** of my mouth.

2. I will open my mouth | in a parable; *
   I will declare the mysteries of | **an – cient** times.

3. That which we have heard and known,
   and what our forefathers have | **told** us, *
   we will not hide | from their **chil**-dren.

4. We will recount to generations to come,
   the praiseworthy deeds and the power | of the Lord, *
   and the wonderful | **works** he has done.

5. He gave his decrees to Jacob, and established a | law for Israel, *
   which he commanded them to | teach their **chil**-dren;

6. That the generations to come might know,
   and the children | yet unborn; *
   that they in their turn might tell it | to their **chil**-dren;

7. So that they might put their | trust in God, *
   and not forget the deeds of God,
   but keep | his com-**mand**-ments.

The Epistle, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A Reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians.

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Standing, sung by all

Sequence Hymn #719 **O beautiful for spacious skies**

The Holy Gospel, Matthew 25:1-13

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

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

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went

with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon The Rev. Emily Rowell Brown

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. We pray for our friends, family, and community in need of your care, especially Bob Bogard, Daryl Carpenter, Gina Centanni, Carmen M. Colon, Barbara Combs, Joan East, Molly Killian, Eileen Lewis, David Newton, Cathy Rasnick, Bill Pope, Jane Prince, Anne Sullivan, Chuck, Lorna, and Roy Vickers, Ray White, Carol Doyle, and Jerry Bentley. 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.

Confession of Sin BCP 360

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister 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.*

The Priest stands and says

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***.

***Children's Homily**

The Peace, *Standing*

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

Welcome and Announcements

The Offertory

Instrumental Offertory (8:30) **Aria** *(Craig Phillips)*
Choral Offertory (11:00) **Hark I Hear the Harps Eternal** *(arr. Mark Schweizer)*

Financial offerings are not mandatory; they are expressions of our thanksgiving towards God and an investment in St. Matthew's ministries. If you would like to give a one-time offering digitally, you may use the QR code here. Many who give choose to set up a recurring gift (a "pledge"). To pledge, email our office at office@stmatthewsmadison.org.

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 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.

8:30 only

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

***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

You are invited to receive 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. If you would like clergy to bring communion to you, please notify an usher.

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 #575 **Before thy throne, O God, we kneel**
Communion Hymn #620 **Jerusalem, my happy home**

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 #436 **Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates**

The Dismissal

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude **Prelude in A Minor** *(J. S. Bach)*

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Remember in your prayers this week: Bob Bogard, Daryl Carpenter, Gina Centanni, Carmen M. Colon, Barbara Combs, Joan East, Molly Killian, Eileen Lewis, David Newton, Cathy Rasnick, Bill Pope, Jane Prince, Brenda Stilson, Anne Sullivan, Chuck, Lorna, and Roy Vickers, Ray White, Carol Doyle, and Jerry Bentley.

Also pray for our friends and family members, especially: Ginger Eich, Anthony Hardin, Angela Loehr and family, Jim Thomas, Catherine Ott, Diana Parks, Mike Rice, Suzette Rice, Cathy Taveras, Shannon Carpenter, Fran Woytowich, Felicia Temple, Jan Blood, Afton Pruett Travens, Bren Stilson.

The names placed on our prayer list are held in prayer by this parish throughout the week. We are happy to include all prayer requests. Names will remain on the list for four weeks. Please contact the office or clergy if you desire a name to remain on after four weeks or to be removed sooner. Apart from prayers for the departed, we ask that you have the person's permission before adding them to the list.

Today we recognize our veterans:

Air Force
Jeff Anderson
Jerry Bentley
Dan Brown
David Burns
Daryl Carpenter
Rick Driesbach
Michael Harrison
Cate Hewitt
Jeff Hewitt
Chips Lanier
Paul Lewis
Nancy Newton
Emily Rowell Brown
Edward Snell
James Weaver
Andy Williams
Joe East

Navy
Kay Atwater
Ralph Atwater
Bill Byrd
Todd Clem
Mark Eich
Donald Gerber
Donald Klasing
Chuck Vickers
Lorna Vickers
Todd Youngblood

Army
Bob Bogard
Brian Buzby
John Charlton
Rebeca Colon-Franz
Joseph Fiala
Aaron Franz
Victor Hagan
Amy Hoppe
Ian Jones
Samantha Jones
Terry Lewis
Rick Lutz
Dick Pendleton
Margaret Petersen
Tim Petersen
Jim Siverd
Norman Smith
Dennis Utt
Kent Van Hoven
Ray Noble White
Nicholas Yurko
Al Turner

Marines
William Cassell
Jim Bob Roderick
Ryan Roderick

SERVING TODAY (8:30 AM)
PREACHER: The Rev. Emily Rowell Brown
CELEBRANT: The Rev. Emily Rowell Brown
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Tom Killian
ORGANIST: Susan Fletcher
ALTAR GUILD: Sheila Cape
LEM: Barbara Carpenter, Lorna Vickers
LECTOR: Bobby Williams
CRUCIFER: Bobby Williams
USHERS: Vicki Dawes, Robert Sampson
MEDIA MINISTRY: Larry Stanbery
HOSPITALITY: Veteran's Day Reception
COUNTERS: Harry Tidwell, Rick Driesbach
NURSERY: Amber Anderson, Mary Brown
VESTRY OF THE DAY: Jeff Anderson

SERVING TODAY (11:00 AM):
PREACHER: The Rev. Emily Rowell Brown
CELEBRANT: The Rev. Emily Rowell Brown
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Tom Killian
ORGANIST: Susan Fletcher
ALTAR GUILD: Nancy Snell
LEM: Jeff Anderson, Natalie Lapacek-Trout
LECTOR: Susan Fletcher
EPISTOLER: Terry Sampson
INTERCESSOR: Natalie Lapacek-Trout
CRUCIFER: Natalie Lapacek-Trout
GOSPELER: Cormac Trout
USHERS: Michael Harrison, James Weaver
HOSPITALITY: Veteran's Day Reception
COUNTERS: Sherry Cox, Paul Lewis
NURSERY: Amber Anderson, Mary Brown
VESTRY OF THE DAY: Jeff Anderson

LIVE STREAM SERVICE REMINDER – ***Please be mindful that the 11:00 am service is live-streamed every week. Therefore, names may be audible, and faces may be visible to anyone watching online. During the children's homily, a slide is displayed for children's privacy.***