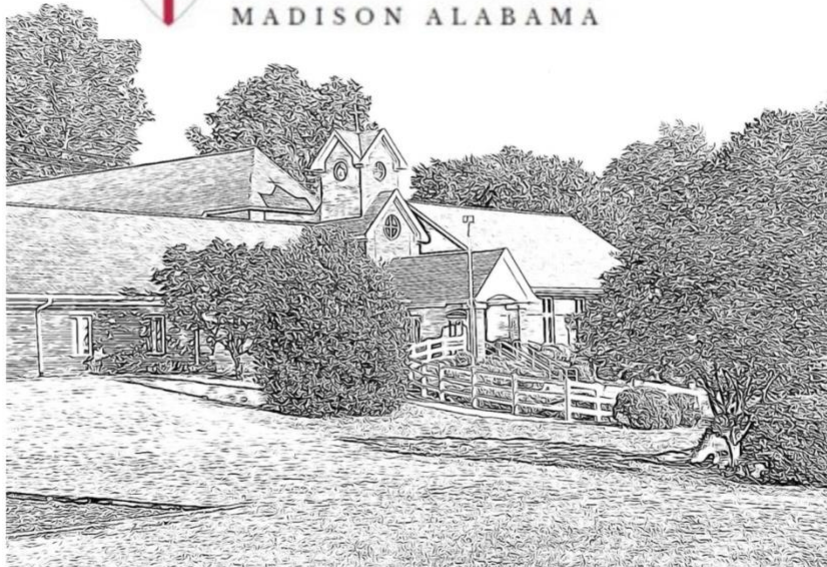




ST MATTHEW'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
MADISON ALABAMA



**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II  
DECEMBER 7, 2025  
10:00 AM**

*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.*

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

**Opening Voluntary**

**Partita on “Freu Dich Sehr”**

*(Georg Boehm)*

**Entrance Hymn #67**, *Standing, sung by all*

**Comfort, comfort ye my people**

**Opening Sentences** *Standing*

*Celebrant* Blessed are you, holy and living One.

**People** You come to your people and set them free.

**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.**

**Trisagion #3**, *(Located in pew racks), Sung by all*

**Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The Lesson, Isaiah 11: 1-10**

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall

live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19**

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, \*  
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously \*  
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, \*  
who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! \*  
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.  
Amen. Amen.

### **The Epistle, Romans 15:4-13**

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have

hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn #597, *Standing, sung by all*        O day of peace that dimly shines**

**The Holy Gospel**

**Matthew 3:1-12**

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

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 'I baptize you with water for repentance,

but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

*Deacon*      The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **The Sermon**

The Rev. Susan Sloan

## **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**

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; Glenda and Brian, our Bishops; Susan, our Interim Rector; Taylor, our Deacon; Bob and Sam, our retired clergy; Lauren, our missionary in Kenya; 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 The Church of Bangladesh; our companion Diocese of Honduras and their Bishop, Lloyd; the Diocesan Department of Liturgy and Music; Seminarians graduating in December; for the Food Bank of North Alabama, First Stop, Episcopal Relief and Development; Sawyerville; Huntsville Assistance Program; 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.**

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**

*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.***

**The Peace** *Standing*

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

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

**Welcome**

**Offertory Anthem, *Sung by Choir***

**Come Quickly, Lord Jesus**  
*(Mark Schweizer)*

**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 #1, (*Located in pew racks*), *Sung by all***

*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,

*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 St. 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 #1, (*Located in pew racks*), *Sung by all***



## 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.*

**Communion Hymn #75**

**There's a voice in the wilderness crying**

**Communion Hymn A-171** (*Alleluia III Songbook*)

**The Servant Song**

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

BCP 365

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People* Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen

**The Blessing,** *all standing*

**Closing Hymn #59,** *Standing, sung by all*

**Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding**

**The Dismissal**

*Deacon* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People* Thanks be to God.

**Voluntary**

**Prelude on "Merton"**

(*C. S. Lang*)

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**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, Lynda Johnston, Bob & Eileen Bogard, Roger & Rhoda Kitchen, Brenda Kirkendall, Chris King, Eileen Lewis, Molly Killian, the Sloan Family, Trudie Gruman, Ray and Shirley White, George and Sandra Burgess, Norm Smith, Keith Ulrich, Tyron Newton, Clarissa Dozier, Darryl Carpenter, Carmen M. Colon, Robert Sampson, Deborah Harrison, Dennis Blanco, Scott Cechovic, Beau Womack, Joan East, Jeff Anderson.

**Also pray for our friends and family members, especially:**

Brenda Anderson, Diana Parks, Martha Bergmann, Chuck Sewell, Wes Patterson, Mike Rice, 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, John Freedman, Mark Anderson, Judy Tuck, Kathleen Glor, Ann Reid Cronin, Elizabeth Hodges, Jill Kanuchok, Mike Mumfrey, Joyce Lewis, Allan Scott, Christine Van Dyke, Christopher Taveras, Mike and Suzette Rice, Vaughn Cassell, Shannon Carpenter, Jarilyn Alleman, Jake Sowder, Cheryl Lavazza, Margaret McHugh, Shawn and Rachel Blanco.

## ***Week at a Glance***

<b>Sunday, Dec. 7</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>
8:15 AM	Advent Reflection/Holy Eucharist, Nave
9:00 AM	Adult Sunday School, CE 1
9:00 AM	Kid's Sunday School, CE 3
9:00 AM	Youth Sunday School, Amy West Building
10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Nave
12:00 PM – 9:30 PM	Lessons & Carols, Nave and Gruman Hall
4:00 PM	Scouting America Troop #628, Amy West
<b>Monday, Dec. 8</b>	
9:00 AM	Sewing Sisters, Gruman Hall
6:30 PM	Bells Angels rehearsal
6:30 PM	Gratitude Committee, CE 2
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 9</b>	
7:00 AM	Men's Breakfast, GH/Kitchen
9:30 AM	Reunion Group, Library
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 10</b>	
10:30 AM	ECW Meeting, Gruman Hall
11:00 AM	Reunion Group, Gruman Hall/Kitchen
12:00 PM	Noon Eucharist, Nave
6:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal, Nave
6:00 PM	Rector Search Committee, CE 2
<b>Thursday, Dec. 11</b>	
9:30 AM	Ladies Bible Study, Gruman Hall
4:00 PM	Madison Guild, Gruman Hall/Kitchen
6:00 PM	ECW Christmas Dinner, Luigi's Italian Grill
<b>Friday, Dec. 12</b>	<b>Church Office Closed</b>
8:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Cleaning Service
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM	EYC Xmas Village setup/ GH, CE
<b>Saturday, Dec. 13</b>	
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM	EYC Christmas Village Fundraiser

**SERVING TODAY (10:00 AM)**

**PREACHER/CELEBRANT:** The Rev. Susan Sloan

**DEACON:** The Rev. Deacon Taylor Johnson

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:** Tom Killian

**ORGANIST:** Susan Fletcher

**ALTAR GUILD:** Nancy Snell

**LEM:** Diane Loehr, Kathy Barr

**LECTOR:** Todd Clem

**EPISTOLER:** Jeff Anderson

**INTERCESSOR:** Terry Sampson

**ACOLYTES:** Carter Bagwell, Ben Watson, Nora Rasmussen, Miles Rasmussen

**USHERS:** Jeff Anderson, Nancy Snell

**COUNTERS:** Michael Harrison, Sherry Cox

**HOSPITALITY:** Joyce Turner

**NURSERY:** Mary Brown, Amber Anderson

**MEDIA MINISTRY:** Dane Rasmussen

**VESTRY OF THE DAY:** Jeff Anderson



*Financial offerings are not mandatory; they are an investment in our ministries. If you would like to give a one-time offering digitally or setup weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly offerings, you are welcome to use the QR code here.*