

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Madison, Alabama



THE FEAST OF SAINT MATTHEW, TRANSFERRED
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026
11:00 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

The Prelude

Adagio in G Minor

(Tomaso Albinoni)

Processional Hymn #232, Insert

By all your saints still striving

Opening Sentences, 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 for Purity

Bishop 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

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 Lesson, Proverbs 3:1-6

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 favor 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.

Lector 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 Epistle, 2 Timothy 3:14-17

A Reading from Paul's 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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn #234, *Standing, sung by all* **The eternal gifts of Christ the King**

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. Richard T. Lawson III

Holy Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation

All remain seated except for the Candidates and their Presenters.

The Presentation and Examination of Candidates for Baptism

Bishop The Candidates for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Parents and Godparents I present Audrey Lynn Hunter and Alexander Hunter to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Bishop Will you be responsible for seeing that the children you present are brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents I will, with God's help.

Then the Bishop asks the following questions of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the candidates.

Bishop Will you be responsible for seeing that these children you present are brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Sponsor I will, with God's help.

Bishop Will you by your prayers and witness help these children to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Sponsor I will, with God's help.

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer I do.

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer I do.

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer I do.

The Presentation and Examination of Candidates for Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation

Bishop The other Candidates will now be presented.

Presenter I present these persons for Confirmation.

or

I present these persons to be received into this Communion.

or

I present these persons who desire to reaffirm their baptismal vows.

Bishop Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidate I do.

Bishop Do you renew your commitments to Jesus Christ?

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

All rise as able when the Bishop addresses the People.

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 Jesus Christ?

***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 preserve 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.**

Prayers for the Candidates

Bishop Let us now pray for these persons who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth and for those 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.**

Bishop Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. ***Amen.***

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Bishop blesses the water, first saying

Bishop The Lord be with you.

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

Bishop Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Bishop

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Bishop touches the water.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Holy Baptism

The Priest pours water upon the candidate, saying

Audrey, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Alexander, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Then the Bishop places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross and saying to each one

Audrey, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. **Amen.**

Alexander, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. **Amen.**

The priest hands the person a lit candle, saying

Audrey, receive this candle as a symbol of the light of Christ that burns brightly within you. **Amen.**

Alexander, receive this candle as a symbol of the light of Christ that burns brightly within you. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

Bishop Let us welcome the newly baptized.

All We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation

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

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 the Spirit to perform the service you have set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

For Confirmation

The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says

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

For Reception

The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says

N., we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. ***Amen.***

For Reaffirmation

The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says

N., may the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his kingdom. ***Amen.***

The Bishop concludes with this prayer.

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, *Standing*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements

Offertory Anthem This My Church Shall Be *(arr. Carol Muehlig)*

Undesignated offerings today will go towards the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. Please use the QR Code below to give directly to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund.



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.

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. Please notify an usher if you would like clergy to bring communion to your pew.

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 #281

He sat to watch o'er customs paid

Communion Hymn #627

Lamp of our feet, whereby we trace

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 #530

Spread, O spread, thou mighty word

The Dismissal

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

People Thanks be to God.

The Postlude

A Joyous Organ Verse

(Edouard Batiste)

Candidates for Baptism

Audrey Lynne Hunter

Alexander Hunter

Candidates for Confirmation

Emma Anderson

Charlotte Brown

Lois Anne Laseter

Franklin Looney

Anna Maddox

Emily Maddox

James Maddox

Tammy McCreery

Emily Simoneau

Rebekah Simoneau

Luke Smith

Jonathan Tyler

Aaron Wales

Ben Watson

Jenna Watson

Patsy Wear

Aaron Wyatt

Candidates for Reception

Cindy Matthews

Paul Matthews

Candidates for Reaffirmation

Karen Price

Jennifer Watson

Remember in your prayers this week: Jeff Anderson, Bob and Eileen Bogard, Bill and Cindy Byrd, Daryl Carpenter, Gina Centanni, Carmen M. Colon, Barbara Combs, Joan East, Molly Killian, David Lawrence, Eileen Lewis, David Newton, Sam McClain, Jane Prince, Anne Sullivan, Mary Travers, Chuck, Lorna, and Roy Vickers, and Ray and Shirley White.

Also pray for our friends and family members, especially: Ginger Eich, Catherine Ott, Diana Parks, Mike Rice, Suzette Rice, Cathy Rasnick, Cathy Taveras, Christopher Taveras, Fran Woytowich, and Angela Loehr and family, Austin, Naomi, Jamie, and Gabriel, Lisa Murray.

For those who have died, especially: Frances Nicholson Byrd Currie

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.

SERVING TODAY (11:00 AM):

PREACHER: The Rt. Rev. Richard T. Lawson III

CELEBRANT: The Rt. Rev. Richard T. Lawson III

ASSISTING CLERGY: The Rev. Emily Rowell Brown, Rector; The Rev. Taylor Johnson, Associate Rector

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Tom Killian

ORGANIST: Susan Fletcher

ALTAR GUILD: Alinda Coiner, Donna Kleinjung

CHAPLAIN: Cormac Lapacek-Trout

LEMS: Sheila Weaver, Kathy Barr

LECTOR: Alinda Coiner

EPISTOLER: Beau Womack

INTERCESSOR: Michael Harrison

CRUCIFER: Carter Bagwell

GOSPELER: Ben Watson

TORCHBEARERS: Nora Rasmussen, Miles Rasmussen

USHERS: Nancy Snell, Joel Simoneau

MEDIA MINISTRY: Dane Rasmussen

HOSPITALITY: Pig Roast Crew

COUNTERS: Sherry Cox, Paul Lewis

NURSERY: Amber Anderson, Mary Brown

VESTRY OF THE DAY: Rebecca Franz

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.*