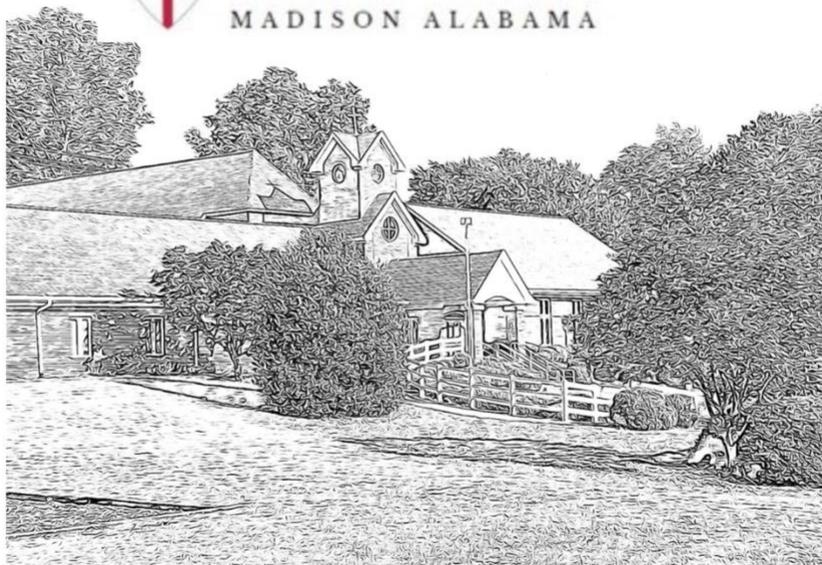




ST MATTHEW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
MADISON ALABAMA



**THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II**

MARCH 8, 2026

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

The Prelude

Now We Pray Thee

(Dietrich Buxtehude)

Processional Hymn #690, *Standing, sung by all* **Guide me, O thou great Jehovah**

The Penitential Order

The people standing

Celebrant Bless The Lord who forgives all our sins.

People ***His mercy endures for ever.***

The people kneeling

Celebrant Hear the commandments of God to his people: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods before me.

People ***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

Celebrant You shall not make for yourself any idol.

People ***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

Celebrant You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

People ***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

Celebrant Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

People ***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

Celebrant Honor your father and your mother.

People ***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

Celebrant You shall not commit murder.

People ***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

Celebrant You shall not commit adultery.

People ***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

Celebrant You shall not steal.

People ***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

Celebrant You shall not be a false witness.

People ***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

Celebrant You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

People ***Amen. Lord have mercy.***

Celebrant Jesus said, “The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Celebrant 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.***

Kyrie #S-91, *Sung by all, standing*

Lord have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lesson, Exodus 17: 1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 95, *Sung by all*

S 422

William Russell
(1777-1813)



1. Come let us sing | to the Lord; *
let us shout for joy to the | Rock of our sal-vation.
2. Let us come before his presence | with thanks-giving *
and raise a loud | shout to him with psalms.
3. For the Lord is a | **great** God, *
and a great | King above all gods.
4. In his hand are the caverns | of the earth, *
and the heights of the | hills are his also.
5. The sea is his, | for he made it, *
and his hands have | molded the dry land.
6. Come let us bow down, and | bend the knee, *
and kneel before the | Lord our **Ma** – ker.
7. For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,
and the | • sheep of • his hand. *
Oh that today you would | hearken to his voice!
8. Harden not your hearts as your forebears did,
in the | wilderness, *
at Meribah, and on that day at Massah, |
when they tempted me.
9. They put me | to the test, *
though | they had seen my works.
10. Forty years long I detested that generation | **and** said, *
“This people are wayward in their hearts;
they | do not know my ways.”
11. So I swore | in my wrath, *
“They shall not enter | **in** – to my rest.”

The Epistle, Romans 5:1-11

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person-- though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Lector **The Word of the Lord.**

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn #455, *Standing, sung by all* O love of God, how strong and true

The Holy Gospel

John 4:5-42

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

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

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those

who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.” Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.” Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.” Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more

believed because of his word. They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

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 – Form 1

BCP 383

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for Glenda, our Bishop; for Richard, our Bishop-Elect; for Susan, our Interim Rector; for Taylor, our Deacon; for Bob and Sam, our retired clergy; for Lauren, our missionary in Kenya; and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Donald, our President; for JD, our Vice President; for Kay, our Governor; for the Congress, State Legislature, and courts; for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this city, Madison; for Ranae, our Mayor; for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East; our Companion Diocese of Honduras and for their bishop, Lloyd; For all ministries to the hungry, especially: Holy Comforter in Montgomery, Grace Food Pantry in Birmingham, Deacon's Deli Food Ministry at Canterbury Chapel, and all other Parish Food Pantries; Parish Beans and Rice Ministries, Grace by Day in Birmingham, Community Kitchens in Birmingham, the Soup Bowl in Anniston, Bread for the World, and Rise Against Hunger; 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, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

The Peace *Standing*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Welcome

Commissioning of the Vestry

Offertory Anthem When I Survey the Wondrous Cross *(Mason/arr. Krug [ASCAP])*
Bells' Angels, *handbells*

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

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-124, Sung by all

Standing or kneeling

Celebrant 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, according to his command, O Father,

People **Christ has died.**

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant 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. All 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.

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

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: Lamb of God: *Agnus Dei*, *Sung by All*

Enriching Our Music, #38

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Setting: Susan Calvin Fletcher, © 2002 Susan Calvin Fletcher.
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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 Meditation:

How Beautiful (*Paris / arr. Larson [ASCAP]*)

Bells' Angels, *handbells*

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 you 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.**

Closing Hymn #655, *Standing, sung by all*

O Jesus, I have promised

The Dismissal

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude

Prelude in C

(J. S. Bach)

✠ ✠ ✠

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, 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, Daryl Carpenter, Carmen M. Colon, Robert Sampson, Deborah Harrison, Dennis and Beth Blanco, Scott Cechovic, Beau Womack, Joan East, Jeff Anderson, Barbara Combs, Robby Brueggeman, Laura Weatherbee, Jimmy Hubbard.

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 Rice, Suzette Rice, Vaughn Cassell, 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.

Week at a Glance

Sunday, March 8	The Third Sunday in Lent
8:15 AM	Contemplative Service/HE, Nave
9:00 AM	Inter-generational Lenten Studies, GH
10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Nave
11:15 AM	Outreach Committee Meeting, CE 2
Monday, March 9	
9:00 AM	Sewing Sisters, Gruman Hall
5:45 PM	Scouting America Troup #628, Amy West
6:30 PM	Bells Angels rehearsal
Tuesday, March 10	
7:00 AM	Men's Breakfast, GH/Kitchen
9:30 AM	Reunion Group, Kitchen
5:30 PM	Wing and a Prayer, Cricket's
Wednesday, March 11	
10:30 AM	ECW Meeting, Gruman Hall
11:00 AM	Reunion Group, Kitchen
12:00 PM	Noon Eucharist, Nave
6:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal, Nave
6:00 PM	Rector Search Committee Meeting, CE 2
Thursday, March 12	
9:30 AM	Ladies Bible Study, Gruman Hall
4:00 PM	Madison Station Quilt Guild, Gruman Hall
Friday, March 13	Church Office Closed
8:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Cleaning Service (Church Closed)
Saturday, March 14	
2:00 PM	DAR Meeting, Gruman Hall

Bulletin Announcements – March 8

The church office is unable to assist with 2025 contribution statements. For any inquiries concerning your 2025 contribution statements, please reach out to Chips Lanier at chipslanier@icloud.com.

Intergenerational Lenten Program continues this morning in Gruman Hall during Christian Education hour and runs through March 22. All other Sunday school classes will pause during Lent.

Ladies' Bible Study meets Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. in Gruman Hall to study Adam Hamilton's "The Walk" during Lent. All ladies are welcome.

Easter Lilies, \$20 each, are available for purchase in the narthex until March 22.

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, Jason Vaughn

LECTOR: Alinda Coiner

EPISTOLER: Michael Harrison

INTERCESSOR: Susan Fletcher

ACOLYTES: Carter Bagwell, Ben Watson

USHERS: Ray Cassell, James Weaver

COUNTERS: Melissa Barton, Alinda Coiner

HOSPITALITY: Melanie Pezzula

NURSERY: Amber Anderson, Mary Brown

VESTRY OF THE DAY: Natalie Lapacek-Trout