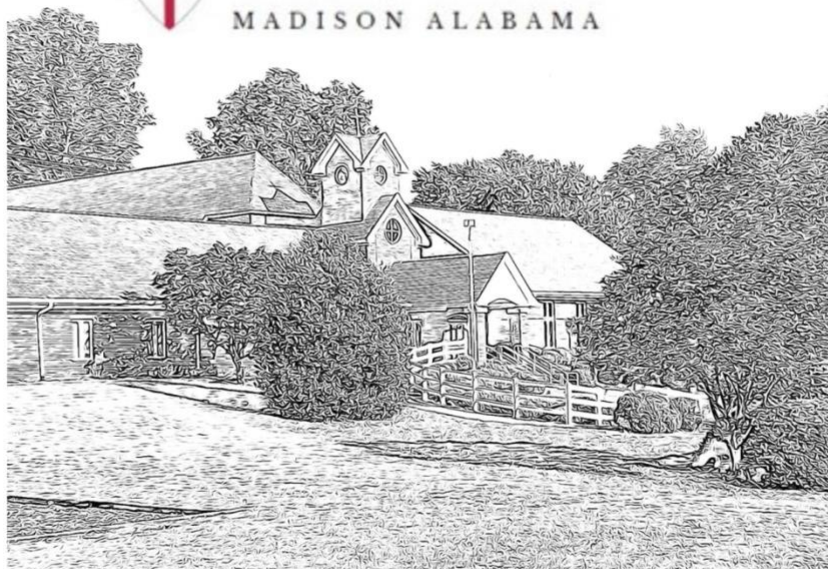




**ST MATTHEW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

MADISON ALABAMA



**THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II**

MAY 10, 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 **Prelude on “Brother James’ Air”** *(Raymond H. Haan)*

Processional Hymn #292 **O Jesus, crowned with all renown**

Opening Sentences, *Standing*

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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-278, Sung by all

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

The Lesson, Acts 17:22-31

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where

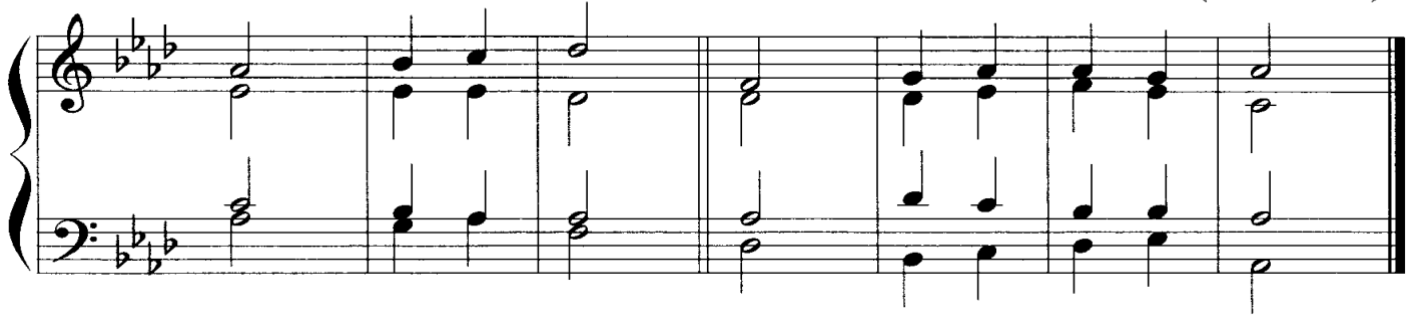
they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Lector **The Word of the Lord.**

People **Thanks be to God.**

S418

George A. MacFarren
(1813-1887)



7. Bless our | God you peoples; *
make the voice of his | **praise** to be heard;
8. Who holds our | souls in life, *
and will not al - | low our feet to slip.
9. For you O God, have | **proved** us; *
you have tried us just as | **sil** - ver is tried.
10. You brought us in - | to the snare; *
you laid heavy burdens up - | **on our** backs.
11. You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through | fire and water; *
but you brought us out into a | place • of re- • **fresh** - ment.
12. I will enter your house with burnt-offerings,
and will pay | you my vows, *
which I promised with my lips,
and spoke with my mouth | when I was in trouble.
13. I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the | smoke of rams; *
I will give you | **ox** - en and goats.
14. Come and listen, all you who | **fear** God, *
and I will tell you what | he has done for me.
15. I called out to him | with my mouth, *
and his | praise was on my tongue.
16. If I had found evil | in my heart, *
the Lord would | not have **heard** me;

17. But in truth, | God has heard me; *
he has attended to the | **voice** of my prayer.

18. Blessed be God, who has not rejected | **my** prayer, *
nor with - | held his love from me.

The Epistle, 1 Peter 3:13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn #705, *Standing, sung by all*

As those of old their first fruits brought

The Holy Gospel

John 14:15-21

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

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

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he

will be in you. "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Taylor Johnson

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; Glenda, our Bishop; for Richard, our Bishop-Elect, and our diocese during this time of transition; Taylor, our Priest-in-Charge; 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 The Church of Pakistan (United); for our Companion Diocese of Honduras and for their bishop, Lloyd; for Voices for Alabama's Children; for YouthServe in Birmingham; for GraceWorks in Birmingham; for Sawyerville Commission and Day Camps; for Foothills Day Camp; for Church of the Ascension in Birmingham and Montgomery; 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 those in 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; especially our military in the Middle East who are in harm's way.

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.

The Peace *Standing*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements

Recognition of our Sunday School Teachers

Offertory Anthem, *Sung by Choir*

Your Hands, O Lord, in Days of Old

(Carson P. Cooman)

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-125, 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,

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 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-155, *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 #323

Bread of heaven, on thee we feed

Communion Hymn #516

Come down, O Love divine

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 feed 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 #405, *Standing, sung by all*

All things bright and beautiful

The Dismissal

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

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

The Postlude

Allegro in D Major

(Cesar Franck)



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, 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, Scott Cechovic, Joan East, Jeff Anderson, Barbara Combs, Laura Weatherbee, David Lawrence.

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, 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, Elizabeth Lundey, Anthony Kanuchok, Cathy Rasnick.

Week at a Glance

Sunday, May 10	The Sixth Sunday of Easter
8:15 AM	Contemplative Service/HE, Nave
9:00 AM	Adult Sunday School, CE 1, 2
9:00 AM	Kid's Sunday School, CE 3
9:00 AM	Youth Sunday School, Amy West
10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Nave
10:00 AM	Sunday School Teacher's Recognition, Nave
Monday, May 11	
5:45 PM	Scouts America Troop #628, AW
6:30 PM	Bells Angels rehearsal
Tuesday, May 12	
7:00 AM	Men's Breakfast, Kitchen/GH
9:30 AM	Reunion Group, Kitchen
5:30 PM	Wing and a Prayer, Cricket's
Wednesday, May 13	
10:30 AM	ECW Meeting, Gruman Hall
11:00 AM	Reunion Group, Kitchen
12:00 PM	Holy Eucharist, Nave
5:30 PM	EYC Pizza Night, Sam & Greg's (Madison)
6:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal, Nave
Thursday, May 14	
9:30 AM	Ladies Bible Study, GH
4:00 PM	Madison Station Quilt Guild, Gruman Hall
Friday, May 15	
8:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Cleaning service (Church Closed)

Bulletin Announcements – May 10

Sunday Morning Nursery Care: Our nursery welcomes children from **birth through 4 years old** and is open **from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** during the regular season. Please note, our nursery area is specially designed for infants and toddlers, so we are unable to accommodate children older than four years old. We encourage older children to join their families for the main service. Thank you for helping us maintain a safe and enjoyable environment for our youngest guests! We are currently seeking volunteers to assist in our nursery. If you're interested, please reach out to Amber Anderson at amberbb2013@gmail.com for more details.

Our Sunday School teachers will be recognized at the 10:00 a.m. service this morning in the Nave.



SERVING TODAY (10:00 AM):

PREACHER/CELEBRANT: The Rev. Taylor Johnson

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Tom Killian

ORGANIST: Susan Fletcher

ALTAR GUILD: Alinda Coiner, Donna Kleinjung

LEM: Diane Loehr, Jason Vaughn

LECTOR: Alinda Coiner

EPISTOLER: Todd Clem

INTERCESSOR: Susan Fletcher

CRUCIFER: Anna Maddox

GOSPELER: Emily Maddox

TOURCHBEARER: Nora Ramussen, Miles Ramussen

USHERS: Ray Cassell, James Weaver

MEDIA MINISTRY: James Maddox

COUNTERS: Melissa Barton, Alinda Coiner

HOSPITALITY: Kathryn and Frank Odom

NURSERY: Amber Anderson, Mary Brown

VESTRY OF THE DAY: Natalie Lapacek-Trout