

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
May 21, 2023
The Seventh Sunday of Easter, Holy Eucharist Rite II

Prelude

"O God, Thou Holy God" (*Johannes Brahms*)

Organist

Hymn #219

"The Lord Ascendeth Up On High"

Choir & Congregation

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

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

Collect For Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thought 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.

Canticle 13 (*all standing*) ***Hymn#S-236***

**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. Glory to you!**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*
Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

THE LESSONS

The First Lesson - Acts 1:6-14

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36

1 Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; *let those who hate him flee before him.

2 Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; *as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; *let them also be merry and joyful.

4 Sing to God, sing praises to his Name; exalt him who rides upon the heavens;
*YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him!

5 Father of orphans, defender of widows, *God in his holy habitation!

6 God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom; *but the rebels shall live in dry places.

7 O God, when you went forth before your people, *when you marched through the wilderness,

8 The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, *at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

9 You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; *you refreshed the land when it was weary.

10 Your people found their home in it; *in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.

33 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; *sing praises to the Lord.

34 He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; *he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.

35 Ascribe power to God; *his majesty is over Israel; his strength is in the skies.

36 How wonderful is God in his holy places! *the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people!
Blessed be God!

The Second Lesson – 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. *Amen.*

Hymn #603

“When Christ Was Lifted From The Earth”

Choir & Congregation

The Gospel – John 17:1-11

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that

I had in your presence before the world existed.

“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

The Homily Lauren Eich, *Missioner to Kenya*

The Nicene Creed *(said in unison by all)*

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 *(see prayer list on last page)*

BCP Page 387 *The Leader and People pray responsively*

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 our presiding bishop, Michael, our bishops, Glenda and Brian, our rector, Chris, our associate rector, Dillion, our deacon, Lynn, our postulant for Holy Orders, Karen, for our retired clergy Steve, Sam and Bob, 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 all who govern, especially our president, Joe, our vice president, Kamala, our governor, Kay and our mayor, Paul, and for all who hold authority in the nations of the world; *That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

We pray for The Church in the Province of West Indies; our companion Diocese of Honduras and their bishop, Lloyd; Voices for Alabama's Children; YouthServe, Birmingham; GraceWorks, Birmingham; Sawyerville Commission and Day Camps; Foothills Day Camp. For Food Bank of North Alabama, Shellie's Kids. For the victims of all violence, hatred, prejudice, and oppression, and for those who advocate for their safety, dignity and respect; and for the people of Ukraine & Sudan. 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 those of others. *Silence*

The Peace - Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory
Choir

“O Lord Most High” *(Richard Shephard)*

Sandra & Jason Vaughn, Mike Harrison, *handbells*

Eucharistic Prayer A *The people remain standing.*

Celebrant	The Lord be with you.
People	<i>And also with you.</i>
Celebrant	Lift up your hearts.
People	<i>We lift them to the Lord.</i>
Celebrant	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People	<i>It is right to give him thanks and praise.</i>

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 & Benedictus Hymn #S-125

Celebrant and People

**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.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

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.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

***People and Celebrant:* 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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: [Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Celebrant and People: Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]

Fraction Anthem Hymn #S-154

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast.

Alleluia Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE COMMUNION

“All Things Bright And Beautiful” (arr. Cathy Moglebust [ASCAP])
Bells’ Angels, handbells

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and 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.*

Hymn #552

“Fight The Good Fight With All Thy Might”

Choir & Congregation

The Dismissal

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude

Prelude to a “Te Deum” (Antoine Charpentier)

Organist

Today is United Thank Offering Day. (UTO) is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church and is entrusted to receive the offerings, and to distribute the 100% of what is collected to support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion. Also, the Diocese of Alabama will submit one project to be considered for a UTO grant.

ALTAR GIFTS:

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Monica Wales in honor of her mother Ann Fulmer.

PRAYER NEEDS: *Please pray for St. Matthew's members who are distressed in body, mind or spirit:* Bill Byrd, Chuck Vickers, Dottie Aldredge, Gina Centanni, Terry Schuster, George & Sandra Burgess, Ray & Shirley White, Canellia Patterson, David Osmond, Colleen Turner, Barb Pendleton, Turner Owen, Anna Post, Bev Ryberg, David Newton, Jane Prince, Bart Wisseh, the King family, Mary Travers, Eric & Mel Seemann, Marie Lutz, Josie Cooper, Anne Sullivan, Judy Elkins, Lynda Johnston, John Anderson, Margaret Hill, Mike Harrison, Roger & Rhoda Kitchen, Cathy Rasnick, Alinda Coiner, Gail Blair, Donna Klienjung, David Lawrence, Rebecca Franz, Maurice Hale, Jack Brown, Bob & Eileen Bogard, Diane Loehr, Avery Behr, Daryl Carpenter. *And also pray for our friends and family members, especially:* Nancy Laws, Brenda Anderson, Diana Parks, Martha Bergmann, Steve Sands, Chuck Sewell, Cindy Williams, Claire Williams, Wes Patterson, Mike Rice, Samantha Rice, Richard Hattoway, Jenny Williams, Rosie Brown, Jack Cooper, Michael & Nancy Laws, Jewell Newton, Ginger Eich, Catherine S. Williams, Joe Allen, Caroline Thomas, Elyssa Nelson, Darlene Davis; Johanna and Tommy; the Wheelock family; the Moon & Quillen families; the McGough family, especially Amy; Margo, Hannah(Petty)Mann, Vaughn Cassell, Bill Fischer, Sally Flanigan, Theresa Richerson, family of Madison Gilbert, Scott Marbut, Todd Newman, Kathy Heim, Jessica Goodwin, Cathy Taveras, Lois Anne Laseter, Taylor Christopher, Allan Repetto, Megan Edrington, Fran Woytowich, Charles Naumann, Bridget Posey, Anthony Hardin & family, James & Joan Cornelison, BB McCalpin, Bob & Peggy Wagner, Nancy Ford, Stephen Byrd, Bronwen Murray, Katie Ray, Sherry Sampson, Will Scott, Kate Winkler, Jason & Kristie Vickers, Angela Loehr, Meghan Loehr.

Servers 5/21/23:

VOD – B Combs

Altar Guild – C Glasgow/P Lane

Hospitality – 8:30am S Smith

11:00am C Hastings

Nursery – 8:30am Anderson/Brown

11:00am Anderson/Brown

Ushers – 8:30am Driesbach/Owen

11:00am Anderson/Weaver

Readers – 8:30am M Harrison/W Christopher/L Mack

11:00am A Coiner/P Marques/L Weatherbee

LEMs – 8:30am B Carpenter

11:00am K Barr

Counters – 8:30am Tidwell/Driesbach

11:00am Bishop/Barton

Acolytes – 8:30am L Hartley/F Williams/E Anderson/A Wales

11:00am J Boyd/V Mullins/B Mullins/N Rasmussen