

**St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
Madison, Alabama**



**THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II**

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2026
8:30 & 11:00 AM**

The Rev. Emily Rowell Brown, Rector
The Rev. Taylor Johnson, Associate Rector
Tom Killian, Music Director
Susan Fletcher, Organist

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.

*Elements marked with * are included in the 11:00 am worship service.*

The Liturgy of the Word

The Prelude

Schmücke dich

(Johannes Brahms)

Processional Hymn #483

The head that once was crowned with thorns

Opening Sentences, *Standing*

BCP 355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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-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

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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

A Reading from the Book of Exodus.

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 78:1-4, 12-16

- 1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
 incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
 I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
- 3 That which we have heard and known,
 and what our forefathers have told us, *
 we will not hide from their children.

- 4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
and the wonderful works he has done.
- 12 He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
- 13 He split open the sea and let them pass through; *
he made the waters stand up like walls.
- 14 He led them with a cloud by day, *
and all the night through with a glow of fire.
- 15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.
- 16 He brought streams out of the cliff, *
and the waters gushed out like rivers.

The Epistle, Philippians 2:1-13

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death--
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,

so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn #439, *Standing, sung by all*

What wondrous love is this

The Holy Gospel, Matthew 21:23-32

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

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

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God

ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

Deacon 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; for Richard, our Bishop; for Emily and Taylor, our clergy; for 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 our Companion Diocese of Honduras and for their bishop, Lloyd; 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. Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

We pray for those who are in areas of conflict and disaster who are in harm's way. 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, especially Frances Nicholson Byrd Currie;

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

BCP 360

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.*

***Children's Homily**

The Peace, *Standing*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements

The Offertory

Instrumental Offertory (8:30)

Simple Gifts

(setting by Wilbur Held)

Choral Offertory (11:00)

Holy Spirit, Truth Divine

(arr. Susan Calvin Fletcher)



Financial offerings are not mandatory; they are expressions of our thanksgiving towards God and an investment in St. Matthew's ministries. If you would like to give a one-time offering digitally, you may use the QR code here. Many who give choose to set up a recurring gift (a "pledge"). To pledge, email our office at office@stmatthewsmadison.org.

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.

8:30 only

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

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

You are invited to receive 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. If you would like clergy to bring communion to you, please notify an usher.

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 #339

Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness

Communion Hymn #477

All praise to thee, for thou, O King 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 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 #574

Before thy throne, O God, we kneel

The Dismissal

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude

Toccata in E Minor

(Johann Pachelbel)



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, Sam McClain, David Newton, 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, Anthony Hardin, Catherine Ott, Diana Parks, Mike Rice, Suzette Rice, Cathy Rasnick, Cathy Taveras, Christopher Taveras, Fran Woytowich, Angela Loehr and family, Austin, Naomi, Jamie, and Gabriel, Anthony Hardin.

For the departed, 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 (8:30 AM)

PREACHER: The Rev. Taylor Johnson
CELEBRANT: The Rev. Emily Rowell Brown
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Tom Killian
ORGANIST: Susan Fletcher
ALTAR GUILD: Barbara Carpenter
LEM: Sande Smith, Lorna Vickers
LECTOR: Barbara Carpenter
CRUCIFER: Anna Maddox
USHERS: Vicki Dawes, Brian Buzby
MEDIA MINISTRY: Dane Rasmussen
HOSPITALITY: Dee Buzby
COUNTERS: Harry Tidwell, Rick Driesbach
NURSERY: Amber Anderson, Mary Brown
VESTRY OF THE DAY: Beau Womack

SERVING TODAY (11:00 AM):

PREACHER: The Rev. Taylor Johnson
CELEBRANT: The Rev. Emily Rowell Brown
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Tom Killian
ORGANIST: Susan Fletcher
ALTAR GUILD: Grace Lo
LEM: Kathy Barr, Jeff Anderson, Alinda Coiner
LECTOR: Lynn Lanier
EPISTOLER: Susan Peterson
INTERCESSOR: Susan Fletcher
CRUCIFER: Austin Utt
GOSPELER: Samantha Jones
USHERS: Michael Barton, Dennis Utt
MEDIA MINISTRY: Larry Stanberry
HOSPITALITY: Donna Kleinjung
COUNTERS: Kathy Modrall, Scott Cechovic
NURSERY: Amber Anderson, Mary Brown
VESTRY OF THE DAY: Beau Womack

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.*