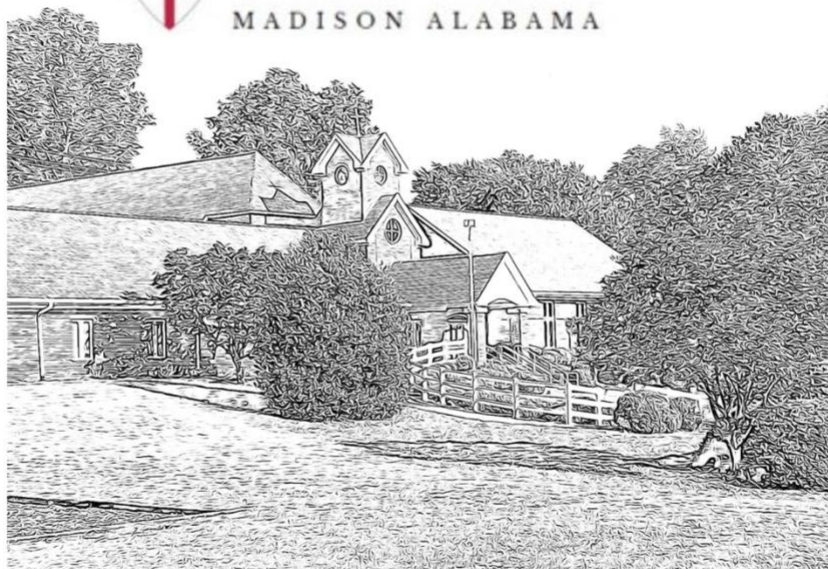




ST MATTHEW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
MADISON ALABAMA



THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
SEPTEMBER 7, 2025
10:00 AM

CHARACTER COUNTS

In a chapter called, “Taking the Long View” Gregory Jones states, character can only be formed over time. Character identifies that which we most value in life, and reflects the long-term formation of our emotional, moral and intellectual life. As Aristotle rightly insisted, character is formed through shaping habits of life through disciplined practice and the cultivation of morally significant friendships.

We in the Church are in the habit of taking the long view. Our story is an old and venerated one which bears truth. God created all that is and handed it over to the most promising of all God’s creatures- human beings. It was given freely in love for the purpose of joy. We chose in return to be not givers but takers. We even took the life of God’s Son. We were given the freedom to do just that!

But the only true freedom comes with giving, not taking. Over time we must develop habits of grace and generosity. We do this through giving our time, talent and treasure in service of God in a community of friendship called the Church. The ability of the Church to take a long view requires the renewal of that commitment each and every year at this time. Every ministry, each program, the overall mission of St. Matthew’s Church depends entirely on the habit of grace and generosity of this community. No one is exempt from the decision to choose “what we value most and how our character will be formed.” God will stir up God’s people, God has given the example, but YOU decide.

Please pray this prayer for the month of September and allow God to guide you in your choice.

God of blessing and abundance, you have given us all that we have.

You do not tell us how to use it, but you have shown us how to live.

Help us give more than we think we can afford and love more than we do now so that over time we may be formed in your likeness.

These things we pray for our sake and in your Name. Amen.

Stewardship is a season of choice. It begins this Sunday in this faith community. Please prayerfully consider “what you value most” and give generously. You may return your pledge card to the church and all will be blessed for God’s use.

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

Opening Voluntary

Now We Pray Thee

(Dietrich Buxtehude)

Entrance Hymn 437, *Standing, sung by all* Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord

Opening Sentences *Standing*

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

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. 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.**

Canticle 13, #S-236 *Sung by all*

**1. Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers;
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.**

**2. Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name;
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

**3. Glory to you in the splendor of your temple;
on the throne of you majesty, glory to you.**

**4. Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim;
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

**5. Glory to you, beholding the depths;
in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.**

**6. 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.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lesson, Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Moses said to all Israel the words which the LORD commanded him, "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 1

S 422

William Russell
(1777-1813)



1. Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the | seats • of the • **scorn**-ful!
2. Their delight is in the | law • of the • Lord, *
and they meditate on his law | **day and** night.

3. They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that | do not wither; *
everything they | do shall **pros**-per.
4. It is not so | with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the | **wind** blows away.
5. Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes; *
nor the sinner in the | council of the righteous.
6. For the Lord knows the | way • of the • righteous, *
but the way of the | **wick**-ed is doomed.

The Epistle, Philemon 1-21

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love-- and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother-- especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your

own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 626 *Standing, sung by all*

Lord, be thy word my rule

The Holy Gospel

Luke 14:25-33

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

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

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

Celebrant 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

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 and Brian, our Bishops; Susan, our Interim Rector; Taylor, our seminarian; Bob and Sam, our retired clergy; Lauren, our missionary in Kenya; 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, Paul; our mayor-elect, 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 Anglican Church of Southern Africa; our companion Diocese of Honduras and their Bishop, Lloyd; Trustees of the Diocesan Trust Funds; Board and Staff of Church Fund; Bridge Ministries in Birmingham; St. Anne's Home in Birmingham; For all who suffer from addiction or effects of addiction; for the Food Bank of North Alabama, First Stop, Episcopal Relief and Development; Sawyerville; Huntsville Assistance Program; 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.

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 for those of others.

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

Confession of Sin

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.***

The Peace *Standing*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Welcome

Offertory Anthem *Sung by Choir*

His Moste Holy Lyfe

(Carlton T. Russell)

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, 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,

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 St. 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.

Communion Hymn 9 (*vs. 4 - 6*)

Not here for high and holy things

Communion Hymn A-76 (*Alleluia III Songbook*)

I Love to Tell the Story

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.**

The Blessing, *all standing*

Closing Hymn 675 *Standing, sung by all*

Take up your cross, the Savior said

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary

Toccata in C Minor

(*Johann Pachelbel*)



ALTAR GIFTS:

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by **Alfred and Kathy Modrall** in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.



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, Roger & 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, Andy Williams, Darryl Carpenter, Carmen M. Colon, Robert Sampson, Dennis Blanco, Scott Cechovic.

Also pray for our friends and family members, especially:

Brenda Anderson, Diana Parks, Martha Bergmann, Chuck Sewell, Wes Patterson, Mike Rice, 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, Kim East, John Freedman, Mark Anderson, Judy Tuck, Kathleen Glor, Ann Reid Cronin, Elizabeth Hodges, Jill Kanuchok, Mike Mumfrey, Joyce Lewis, Allan Scott, Jim Bob Cox, Christine Van Dyke, Christopher Taveras, Mike and Suzette Rice, Vaughn Cassell, Shannon Carpenter, Jarilyn Alleman, Jake Sowder, Cheryl Lavazza, Margaret McHugh.

Week at a Glance

Sunday, Sept. 7	The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00 AM	Adult Christian Formation, CE 1, 2
9:00 AM	Children's Christian Formation, CE 3, 4
9:00 AM	Youth Christian Formation, Amy West Bldg.
10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Nave
Monday, Sept. 8	
9:00 AM	Sewing Sisters, GH
5:00 PM	Scouts BSA #62, Amy West House
5:30 PM	Vestry/Staff Listening Sessions, CE 1 & 2
6:30 PM	Bells Angels rehearsal
Tuesday, Sept. 9	
7:00 AM	Men's Breakfast, GH/Kitchen
9:30 AM	Reunion Group, Library
5:30 PM	Vestry Training, CE 1
Wednesday, Sept. 10	
10:30 AM	ECW Meeting, GH
11:00 AM	Reunion Group, Kitchen
12:00 PM	Noon Eucharist, Nave
6:30 PM	Adult Choir Rehearsal, Nave
Thursday, Sept. 11	
9:00 AM	Heart and Soil
9:30 AM	Ladies Bible Study, GH
4:00 PM	Madison Guild, GH
6:30 PM	"Closer to God and Each Other", CE 2
Friday, Sept. 12	Church Office Closed
8:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Cleaning Service
Saturday, Sept. 13	
9:00 AM	Madison Guild, CE 1, 2
2:00 PM	DAR meeting, GH
6:25 PM	EYC at Top Golf

Weekly Announcements

The "Tell Out My Soul" Stewardship Campaign begins today and will conclude on October 10th. We encourage you to review the weekly stewardship emails that will be distributed throughout the campaign. Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting the ministries of St. Matthew's.

Out of the Office - Our Parish Administrator, Cynde Tannehill, will be on vacation from September 8-11, 2025. During this period, Lee Ann Mack and Jann Eich will be available in the office during regular business hours (Monday – Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.) to assist with any needs.

EYC Mission Belize Trip - Registration remains open for the 2026 trip. The sign-up deadline is now November 10th, 2025. Those who have registered are required to submit a deposit of \$50 per person **by September 30th**. For additional information, please contact Jann Eich at youthdir@stmatthewsmadison.org.

The EYC will meet at Topgolf (6100 Top Golf Dr. NW) on Saturday, September 13th at 6:25 p.m. Join us for an evening of games and good company. We hope you can make it.

The Sewing Sisters will meet on Monday, September 8th in Gruman Hall.

Madison Guild will meet on Thursday, September 11th at 4:00 p.m. in Gruman Hall. They will meet again on Saturday, September 12 at 9:00 a.m. in Christian Education building rooms 1 & 2.

“Seeing God in Others and Ourselves” program begins on Thursday, September 11th at 6:30 pm in the Christian Education Building, room 2.

The Daughters of the American Revolution will meet on Saturday, September 13th at 2:00 p.m. in Gruman Hall.



Financial offerings are not mandatory; they are an investment in our ministries. If you would like to give a one-time offering digitally or setup weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly offerings, you are welcome to use the QR code here.

Upcoming Events

Kairos Prison Ministry Weekend - The next Kairos Prison Ministry meeting will be Tuesday, September 16 at 4:00 p.m. Please join us! 40 dozen cookies are needed by 6 pm Wednesday, October 15.

St. Matthew's Annual Pig Roast – Join in good food and good fun on September 21st for our annual Pig Roast! Lots of meat and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish. Volunteers are needed for various positions. Please sign up in the narthex. POC: Jeff Anderson.

ECW “Senior” Ladies Lunch – September 23rd, 11:30 at Jonathan's Grille in Clift Farms. Please sign up in the narthex, by Sept. 16th, if you are interested in joining other St. Matthew's ladies to connect with old friends and make new ones!

SERVING TODAY

CELEBRANT/PREACHER: The Rev. Susan Sloan

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Tom Killian

ORGANIST: Susan Fletcher

ALTAR GUILD: Kathy Barr, Dee Buzby, Karen Price

LEM: Kathy Barr, Jason Vaughn

LECTOR: Susan Peterson

EPISTOLER: Walt Christopher

INTERCESSOR: Jim Salmon

ACOLYTES: C. Bagwell, B. Watson, M. Pezzula, S. Pezzula

USHERS: Brian Buzby, Ray Cassell

COUNTERS: H. Tidwell, R. Driesbach

HOSPITALITY: Terry Sampson

NURSERY: Mary Brown, Amber Anderson

MEDIA MINISTRY: Dane Rasmussen

VESTRY OF THE DAY: TBD