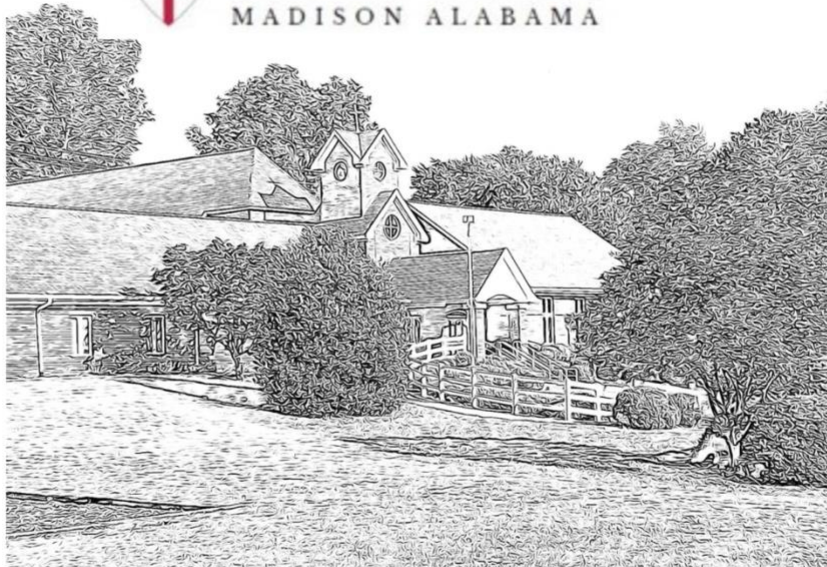




ST MATTHEW'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
MADISON ALABAMA



**SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II**

**JULY 5, 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**

**His Truth is Marching On**

*(setting by Raymond H. Haan)*

**Processional Hymn #404**

**We will extol you, ever-blessed Lord**

**Opening Sentences, *Standing***

*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***

**Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**The Lesson, Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67**

The servant said to Laban, "I am Abraham's servant. The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.' "I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to

draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also" —let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.' "Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left." And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes." Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 45:11-18**

11 "Hear, O daughter; consider and listen closely; \*  
forget your people and your father's house.

12 The king will have pleasure in your beauty; \*  
he is your master; therefore do him honor.

- 13 The people of Tyre are here with a gift; \*  
the rich among the people seek your favor."
- 14 All glorious is the princess as she enters; \*  
her gown is cloth-of-gold.
- 15 In embroidered apparel she is brought to the king; \*  
after her the bridesmaids follow in procession.
- 16 With joy and gladness they are brought, \*  
and enter into the palace of the king.
- 17 "In place of fathers, O king, you shall have sons; \*  
you shall make them princes over all the earth.
- 18 I will make your name to be remembered  
from one generation to another; \*  
therefore nations will praise you for ever and ever."

### **The Epistle, Romans 7:15-25a**

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn #607, *Standing, sung by all***

**O God of every nation**

### **The Holy Gospel, Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

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

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

Jesus said to the crowd, “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.” At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

*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.**

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, our Rector-Elect, and our church during this time of transition; for Taylor, our Priest-in-Charge; 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.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; especially those 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.*

### **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 and Announcements**

**Offertory Anthem, *Sung by choir* I Got Me Flowers**

*(Daniel Burton)*

**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**

*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.**

**Fraction Anthem #S-164**, *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 #302**

**Father, we thank thee who hast planted**

**Communion Hymn #414**

**God, my King, thy might confessing**

**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 #717**, *Standing, sung by all*

**My country, 'tis of thee**

**The Dismissal**

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

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**The Postlude**

**Improvisation on Patriotic Hymns**

*(Susan Calvin Fletcher)*



**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, Bob & Eileen Bogard, 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, Rev. Emily Rowell Brown and family.

**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, Johanna Nicole Bratcher, and Catherine Ott.

## *Week at a Glance*

<b>Sunday, July 5</b>	<b>Sixth Sunday after Pentecost</b>
8:15 AM	Contemplative Service/HE, Nave
10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Nave
<b>Monday, July 6</b>	<b>Church Office Closed</b>
5:45 PM	Scouts America Troop #628, AW
6:00 PM	The Writer's Nook, CE2
<b>Tuesday, July 7</b>	
7:00 AM	Men's Breakfast, Kitchen/GH
9:30 AM	Reunion Group, Kitchen
<b>Wednesday, July 8</b>	
10:30 AM	ECW, GH
11:00 AM	Reunion Group, Kitchen
12:00 PM	Morning Prayer, Nave
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal, Nave
<b>Thursday, July 9</b>	
4:00 PM	Madison Station Quilt Guild, GH
<b>Friday, June 26</b>	
8:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Cleaning service ( <b>Church Closed</b> )

### **Bulletin Announcements – July 5**

**The church office will be closed** on Monday, July 6 in observance of the Independence day holiday.

**Parishioners are invited** to support ShowerUp during the month of July. ShowerUp provides showers and hygiene supplies to the homeless. Provide your support with cash donations, by purchasing hygiene supplies, or by volunteering at one of their sites. A flyer is posted in the foyer with QR codes for these options. Please reach out to James Maddox with any questions.

**SERVING TODAY (10:00 AM):**

**PREACHER/CELEBRANT:** The Rev. Taylor Johnson

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:** Tom Killian

**ORGANIST:** Susan Fletcher

**ALTAR GUILD:** Stacey Bagwell

**LEM:** Karen Price, Natalie Lapecek-Trout

**LECTOR:** Susan Fletcher

**EPISTOLER:** Natalie Lapecek-Trout

**INTERCESSOR:** Alinda Coiner

**CRUCIFER:** Anna Maddox

**GOSPELER:** Emily Maddox

**USHERS:** Ray Cassell, Dennis Utt

**MEDIA MINISTRY:** James Thompson

**COUNTERS:** Michael Harrison, Sherry Cox

**HOSPITALITY:** Melanie Pezulla

**NURSERY:** Mary Brown, Amber Anderson

**VESTRY OF THE DAY:** Jeff Anderson