

# Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church

*Growing in Love to Become One with God's Purpose*



**The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 27, 2020**  
**9:30 a.m.**

**Prelude:** *“We Have Seen Your Glory”*

by Twila Paris

*Priest: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

*People: And blessed be God's kingdom for ever and for ever. Amen*

## **Collect**

*Celebrant: The Lord be with you.*

*People: And also with you.*

*Celebrant: Let us pray.*

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.*

## **Kyrie**

*Celebrant: Lord have mercy.*

*People: Christ have mercy.*

*Celebrant: Lord have mercy.*

*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.*

## Psalm 25:1-8

### *Ad te, Domine, levavi*

- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;  
my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
let me not be humiliated,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, \*  
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, \*  
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*  
remember me according to your love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; \*  
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right \*  
and teaches his way to the lowly.

### **A reading from Philippians 2:1-13**

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.

**Meditation: “*You Are My All in All*”**

by Dennis Jernigan

Verse 1

You are my strength  
When I am weak  
You are the treasure  
That I seek  
You are my all in all  
Seeking You as a precious jew'l  
Lord to give up I'd be a fool  
You are my all in all

Chorus

Jesus Lamb of God  
Worthy is Your name  
Jesus Lamb of God  
Worthy is Your name

Verse 2

Taking my sin  
My cross my shame  
Rising again I bless Your name  
You are my all in all  
When I fall down You pick me up  
When I am dry You fill my cup  
You are my all in all

## Reading from the Gospel

**Matthew 21:23-32**

*Clergy:* 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.

*Clergy:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## The Sermon

**Lorraine Harris**

## The Creed

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**

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
*That we may all 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 all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
*That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

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 Terry, Carol, Phil, Mary Lou, Edward, Dick, Karen, Lou, June, Margaret, Constance, Glenn, Pat Oram and Dorothea;  
*That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Give to the departed eternal rest, especially Ann Sibson for whom the altar flowers are given;  
*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.

O Lord, you have blessed Saint Matthew's with wonderful priests who have led our congregation to share your love and serve you unselfishly. You promise to be with us, to help us, and to guide us always. We ask that you guide our discernment as we consider candidates for our next Rector. We know that you will provide a Rector who will assist us in fulfilling your purposes in the world. We ask for spiritual discernment and ask that you bless those who we meet during the search process. Thank you for listening to us and blessing us always. *Amen.*

**Celebrant: Let us confess our sins to God.**

### **Leader and People**

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Absolution** *Almighty God, have mercy upon 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.*

### **Peace**

## **The Holy Communion**

### **Great Thanksgiving**

### **Eucharistic Prayer A**

*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 our thanks and praise.

We exalt you, Lord God, for the holy extravagance of your salvation.

Worthy are you to whom we bow,

for in your Son you have knelt before us in humility.

You have looked with favor upon your servant Israel;

you have scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts

and have lifted up the lowly.

Your Son, though of the same love and same mind as you,

did not regard equality with you as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave.

Being born in human likeness, he humbled himself

even unto death on the cross.

You lifted him up in resurrection glory,

and exalted him to your right hand on high.

And so, on bended knee, we confess him as Lord,

with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,

joining the unending hymn.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Communing God, make your joy complete  
by uniting those who share this meal  
with the same mind that was in Jesus Christ.  
As we remember his saving mercies,  
make us to be of the same love, the same heart,  
sharing in the same spirit;  
and sanctify this bread and cup that they may be for us  
the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ;  
who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks,  
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,  
“Take, eat: this is my body which is given to you;  
do this in remembrance of me.”

Great is the mystery of faith.  
**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

God of every consolation, bring your kingdom among your children  
who are bowed low under the weight of oppression.  
Send your Spirit of truth into places  
where servanthood has turned to exploitation,  
service has turned to slavery,  
or humility has turned to bonded labor.  
Empty your church of all that obscures its witness to the cross of Christ.  
Make us ready for that one eternal day  
when we shall kneel around your throne,  
together with prophets, apostles, and martyrs,  
in the company of Jesus our Lord,  
giving all praise and glory to you,  
God our Father, forever and ever. Amen.

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

### ***The Lord's Prayer***

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 Celebrant breaks the bread.*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*Therefore let us keep the Feast. Alleluia.*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

**Communion will now be served in the back of the church. Please wear your mask until you are back in your pew at which time it can be removed to consume the host.**

**Communion Song: “You Say”**

by Jason Ingram, Lauren Daigle, Paul Mabury

Verse 1

I keep fighting voices in my mind  
That say I'm not enough  
Ev'ry single lie that tells me  
I will never measure up

Verse 2

Am I more than just the sum of  
Ev'ry high and ev'ry low  
Remind me once again just who I am  
Because I need to know oo oh

Chorus

You say I am loved when I can't feel a thing  
You say I am strong when I think I am weak  
You say I am held when I am falling short  
And when I don't belong oh You say I am Yours  
And I believe oh I believe  
What You say of me I believe

Verse 3

The only thing that matters now

Is ev'rything You think of me  
In You I find my worth  
In You I find my identity

Bridge

Taking all I have and now I'm laying it at Your feet  
You'll have ev'ry failure God  
You'll have ev'ry victory

Ending

Oh I believe yes I believe

What You say of me I believe

### **Closing Prayer**

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. 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.

### **Blessing**

### **Parish Announcements**

**Song of Service: “*No Sweeter Name*”**

by Kari Jobe

Verse

No sweeter name than the Name of Jesus

No sweeter name have I ever known

No sweeter name than the Name of Jesus

No sweeter name than the Name of Jesus

No sweeter name have I ever known

No sweeter name than the Name of Jesus

Chorus

You are the life to my heart and my soul

You are the light to the darkness around me

You are the hope to the hopeless and broken

You are the only truth and the way

Bridge

Jesus Jesus

Jesus Jesus

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## The Lifelong Learning Ministry

### What is Lifelong Learning?

*Lifelong Learning* is a new way to frame *Christian Education* at Saint Matthew's. It is a ministry geared to serve each of us — children, youth, and adults alike. It is a space where non-believers, young seekers, new inquirers, and the stalwart alike come together to dwell in the presence and message of Christ. It is a space where we teach and admonish one another to seek out God's call to us and live by Jesus' Way of Love proclaimed by the Gospel. It is a mature and relevant space for wrestling with ideas, and an accessible, safe space for families to learn together. Our diverse team of beloved catechesis professionals, experienced lay leaders, and compassionate clergy are prepared to provide you and your family with consistent programs amid the pandemic. And most importantly, to support your unique Christian call through learning at all stages of life.

### What are the offerings of the Lifelong Learning Ministry?

#### Children (K - 5)

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd: *students and parents are invited to a live monthly Zoom session on Zoom, and participate in an activity. For those who cannot attend, a recording of the session will be made available on our social media channels for use at home. Zoom links will be posted on the Saint Matt's website, and a reminder e-mail will be sent the evening prior to all families.*

*September: The LORD'S PRAYER: Zoom on 9/13 at 8:45 am.*

*October: THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER: Zoom on 10/11 at 8:45 am.*

#### Youth (Grade 6 - 12)

Here's why you'll want to join us this year:

#### **TWO PARTS...**

**We've got two youth groups now, a Middle *and* a High School group.**

#### **... OF ONE WHOLE.**

You'll be invited to *two* youth group meetings per month: one specifically for kids of your own age group (MS/HS), and another where all of us meet together.

#### **RESPECT YOUR TIME.**

The sessions are only forty minutes long, and they're fun. All of us will be sharing conversations, working through the same bible study (a book and materials are provided to you free of cost), and have fun playing games.

**FEED YOUR CURIOSITY. EXPLORE NEW PERSPECTIVES. SERVE. HAVE FUN.**

We'll explore topics and concepts that are interesting and actually relevant to what's going on in the world right now. We'll explore fresh theological perspectives from contemporary voices, including those of black, latinx, female, LGBT, and gender queer scholars. And we'll have fun doing it on Zoom and in person when it is safe. We have opportunities for performing outreach as well, and we will discuss these in-person at our first session.

**HELP US DISCERN MISSION TRIP 2021**

Who knows if we'll be able to go on Mission Trip in 2021. It *could* be possible, and because mission trips take planning, and planning takes time, we will need your help and input week after week to discern how we might serve next summer. How we might make a community decision to embark on a trip, or to plan an alternative activity? How would we make others comfortable to travel amid COVID-19? What extra considerations do we need to take? How will creatively raise money for the trip? We need your help figuring all of this, and much more, out.

The world can feel like a hard place right now. But there are many of us going through the same things. If you need a safe spot to express your feelings and find some support, come join us. Seriously. We're trying to impart a *spread the love* vibe here. All are welcome. No matter who you are. Connection information will be sent via postcard to your homes, and email/text reminders will be sent out as well.

Join us on Wednesdays at 5:00 - 5:40 PM through the end of December.

Log in to youth group week after week: <https://zoom.us/j/91363746529>

To register for your free materials please visit:

<https://forms.gle/hKKJrqUwSyKzU4Xo7>

Signup for text communications by visiting:

<https://www.remind.com/join/acarrella>

	September	October	November	December
High School	9.16	10.14	11.11	12.9
Middle School	9.23	10.21	11.18	12.16
All Youth	9.30	10.28	11.25	12.23

## **Adults**

New comers and regulars alike gather in the Saint Matthew's virtual ministry space each week to pray, provide pastoral counsel, and to teach each through Jesus' Way of Love. Lay leaders and clergy support this work by offering a ministry of presence, and by providing opportunities for lifelong scriptural and theological education for adults.

## **ADULT LIFELONG LEARNING FORUM**

- Held on Sundays after services at 11:00 AM over Zoom.
- We will begin on September 13 at 11:00 am.
- You can join us on Zoom here week after week: <https://zoom.us/j/98791689123>
- You can access the materials here: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cEb77sPLdg012jTiQGc9RPEzGdc38XDF?usp=sharing>

This is a unique season in ministry. We are prepared to offer the adults of Saint Matthew's a stimulating, Christ-centered education that empowers them to seek out their Christian call and discern their Christian identity. Throughout this Fall and winter, we will be reading and reflecting on important texts, listening to and discussing on podcasts, and sharing our own thoughts and experiences as we journey together. We will utilize several wonderful resources developed by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry to guide our feet. One of these tools is called *The Way of Love*, and the other is called *Becoming Beloved Community*. These two programs will beckon God's people to consider the ways we commune with the Spirit and how we live according to Christ's message of radical love and compassion through acts of mercy and humility. If *you* have ideas about what *you* want to talk about or discuss, or to lead a session, please reach out to Jon Clark, Karen Randall, or Fr. Peter.

## **PRAYER GROUPS**

The people of Saint Matthew's gather weekly for prayer and conversational gatherings.

**Mondays** at 7:30 PM (every other week): is Bible Study, currently studying the Gospel of Matthew, Zoom Login: <https://zoom.us/j/94688281383>

**Tuesdays** at 7:30 PM: is the Prayer and Share group.

Zoom Login: <https://zoom.us/j/91358309441>  
*pwd=ZE9TekhITINsNTFkTjBOVEFhaU84QT09*

**Wednesdays** at 12:00 PM: is Noon Day Prayer

Zoom Login: <https://zoom.us/j/94299702146>

**Thursdays** at 9:00 AM: is Morning Prayer

Zoom Login: <https://zoom.us/j/93689641213>