

Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church
Growing in Love to Become One with God's Purpose



The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 11, 2020
9:30 a.m.

Prelude: *“Let the Peace of God Reign”*

by Darlene Zschech

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

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Psalm 23

Dominus regit me

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

A reading from Philippians 4:1-9

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Meditation: “What a Savior”

by Jeremiah Jones

Verse 1

Atoning sacrifice
Keeper of this life
Hallelujah You are Savior
Beginning and the end
Forgiver of my sin
By Your mercy You have saved us

Chorus

Jesus You are stronger
More than any other
Hallelujah what a Savior
Jesus You are higher
My soul's deepest desire
Hallelujah You are Savior

Verse 2

You are the shepherd King
You lead us by still waters
Hallelujah You are Savior
You are my only hope
Your kindness is my friend
In Your presence You restore us

Chorus

Reading from the Gospel

Matthew 22:1-14

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Clergy: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Peter Stube

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 and Dorothea;
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.

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.

It is our duty and our joy to thank and praise you, Father of mercies,
because when the gift of your grace was rejected by your creation people
you offered it to your chosen people,
and when it was rejected by your chosen people
you offered it once more in your Son.

When your Son was rejected and crucified you came not in wrath
but in the power of your Holy Spirit
to spread the good news
of restoration, reconciliation, and resurrection,
beginning in Jerusalem and on to the ends of the earth.

And so we stand before you
not in fear of your judgement but rejoicing in your abundant mercy,
joining with the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,
to sing the hymn of your unending praise.

**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.**

You give us so much, gracious God,
but everything we have is loss
compared to the wondrous love we see in your Son Jesus Christ.

On the night before your Son died
we took away everything you gave us in him,
and yet you gave us a meal.

Now in this wonderful sacrament
we give you everything we know how to give you,
praying that you will give us Christ in the form of this meal.

Send down your Holy Spirit upon us now,
that we might become the body of Christ that you give us to eat.

Give us your very self in these gifts of bread and wine
and make them 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.”

After supper he took the cup.

Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
“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.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

God the Alpha and Omega,
you are the wisdom from which we come,
and you are the destiny to which we are going.
You abide among us, between us, and within us.
Where your servants are rejected, sustain them.
Where your messengers are beaten, renew them.
Where your children are cast out, give them hope of justice and vindication.
Where your vineyard is in the hands of headstrong tenants,
bring your liberation, bring your transformation,
bring your righteousness, until the day comes
when we and your suffering people see you face to face,
ever one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. 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: "Wonderful Merciful Savior"

by Selah

Verse 1

Wonderful merciful Savior
Precious Redeemer and Friend
Who would have thought that a Lamb
Could rescue the souls of men
Oh You rescue the souls of men

Chorus

You are the One that we praise
You are the One we adore
You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for
Oh our hearts always hunger for

Verse 2

Counselor Comforter Keeper
Spirit we long to embrace
You offer hope when our hearts
Have hopelessly lost the way
Oh we hopelessly lost the way

Verse 3

Almighty infinite Father
Faithfully loving Your own
Here in our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne
Oh we're falling before Your throne

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 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.

Blessing

Parish Announcements

Song of Service: “*Your Name is Holy*”

by Brian Doerkson

Verse 1

You are the sovereign I Am
Your name is holy
You are the pure spotless Lamb
Your name is holy

Verse 2

You are the Almighty One
Your name is holy
You are the Christ God's own Son
Your name is holy

Chorus

In Your name
There is mercy for sin
There is safety within
In Your holy name
In Your name
There is strength to remain
To stand in spite of pain
In Your holy name

Adult Lifelong Learning Forum: Please join us this morning at **11:00 AM** for the *Adult Lifelong Learning Forum*. Led by a group of rotating leaders, the forum aims to focus on understanding the root causes of systemic racism, and how Christians are called to respond. Join the forum every Sunday at 11:00 AM on Zoom here:

<https://zoom.us/j/98376656289?pwd=QmFGa1AxRmpYc1NuLzNKbjNRaFtQT09>



Excerpted from the Letter to the Congregation from the Stewardship Committee:

In planning for 2021, we continue to seek to be good stewards of our resources, while funding those things that will allow our dreams as a parish to come to fruition. In this season of stewardship, we would like to share with you our plans and challenges...

We will soon be bringing in a new Rector, and we need to offer a competitive compensation package that allows us to call an experienced member of the clergy. We are looking forward to

having new leadership to continue in our mission to preach the Gospel, care for the sick, visit the bereaved, represent our church in the community, develop a vision for the future, and provide administrative support to the whole congregation...we would need **pledges for 2021 of \$357,000**... *our level of pledging exceeded the \$357,000 amount just two years ago...*

We ask that you give prayerful consideration to pledging as much as you can to support the mission of St. Matthew's Church.

To make your pledge online, go here: <https://forms.gle/EjdE1CLy7PJokPEM6>, or you can detach the form included in the October Oracle and mail it to the church, or you can email our Parish Manager directly (parishmanager@saintmattsec.org). We would ask that you complete your pledge by **November 1st**, so that we can properly budget for next year. Thank you for your consideration and faithfulness.

Lifelong Learning Ministry

a new, exciting path for Christian Education at Saint Matthew's

Anthony Carrella, Lifelong Learning Committee Chair & Youth Ministry Coordinator

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our first meeting for Sunday School was a joy! We had one student eager to learn with us live on Sunday Morning, and several others participating as they could throughout the month. Our Sunday School resource is designed to mimic a live atrium experience, and to provide resources for your child's Christian education that works on *your* schedule.

Our next session will be held on Sunday, October 11th at 8:45 AM when our teachers present *The Parable of the Sower*. On the Friday before the session, you are welcome to pick-up materials at Saint Matt's that will help you facilitate this lesson on your own at home. Contact Linda Baier with additional questions. You can join Sunday School here:

<https://zoom.us/j/98376656289?pwd=QmFGa1AxRmpYc1NuLzNKbjNRalFtQT09>

MS and HS YOUTH GROUPS | Wednesdays at 5:00 PM

Please join us for a Youth Group session! We've got great plans lined-up for you, and we'd love to have you participate. There's a group for everyone — High School students, Middle Schoolers, and even an opportunity to come together at the end of each month. These sessions are being held over Zoom until it is safe for us to gather live and in-person.

Join Youth Group here: **<https://zoom.us/j/91363746529>**

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation plans were put on hold when the coronavirus pandemic began getting serious. We are planning a path forward for this group to be confirmed in early 2021, and to invite the next class of confirmands into a period of discernment and learning. Stay tuned for additional details.

ADULT EDUCATION

We have been blessed to gather together week after week for the *Adult Lifelong Learning Forum*, which is held on Sundays at 11:00 AM. Led by a group of rotating leaders, the forum aims to focus on understanding the root causes of systemic racism, and how Christians are called to respond. Join the forum every Sunday at 11:00 AM on *Zoom* here:

<https://zoom.us/j/98376656289?pwd=QmFGa1AxRmpYc1NuLzNKbjNRalFtQT09>

Election Season at Saint Matthew's

The vote is a solemn act where we encounter our identities as both citizens of the United States and as the people of God. Our Christian witness calls us to make our voices heard at the ballot box. Each election, Saint Matthew's offers its campus as a community polling location. This is because we are steadfast in our belief that everyone be given a safe space to cast their vote — without any barriers. This election, we will also host and invite all to *Prayer at the Polls*. Details below:



Prayer at the Polls | 11.3.20

We invite you to join us live **and** online for *Prayer at the Polls*, being held at Saint Matt's on election day.

All-Day Sacred Space

Beginning at 6:00 AM, our sanctuary will be open for quiet reflection, meditation, and prayer. Come light a candle, place it in the sand, walk a labyrinth, and sit in the stillness before or after casting your vote. This space will be open from start to close on election day. This space is outfitted to comply with the current COVID-19 guidelines.

Services for Justice, Peace, and Unity

Additionally, we will offer 20 minute prayer services for justice, peace, and unity at three-hour intervals. These services can accommodate up to 25 masked worshippers in-person. Hesitant to attend live? We will offer a Zoom link for your participation. These services will be held at **9:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 3:30 PM, and 6:30 PM**. Let us commit ourselves to God by offering our fears and frustrations, but also our hopes and dreams.

Join at any time on election day:

<https://zoom.us/j/93698730318?pwd=ejVMVWJWeE1OWmZuTmZvMncxSE10UT09>

Want to lend your help? Have questions? Contact Anthony: anthony@saintmattsec.org

SAINT MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



FALL FESTIVAL



**FUN &
SAFE**

ACTIVITIES
FOR KIDS



LIVE MUSIC!
WITH
BARRY'S BASEMENT
FEATURING MARTHA REYNOLDS,
DAVE ROBINSON, GREG DARNLEY
& BARRY COULTON

**PETTING
ZOO!**



**KID'S
COSTUME
CONTEST
WITH PRIZES!**



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH NOON-2PM

**BRING A PICNIC LUNCH
BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR
BRING A FRIEND (OR TWO)!**

FREE!
BE SAFE • MASKS REQUIRED