

Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church

Growing in Love to Become One with God's Purpose



The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
October 25, 2020
9:30 a.m.

Prelude: *“Fill This Place”*

by Jake Epsy, Jerrica Matrone

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

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Psalm 1

Beatus vir qui non abiit

- 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 scornful!
- 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 prosper.
- 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 wicked is doomed.

A reading from 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

Meditation: *“Thy Word”*

by Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith

Chorus

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path

Verse 1

When I feel afraid
And I think I've lost my way
Still You're there right beside me
Nothing will I fear
As long as You are near
Please be near me to the end

Verse 2

I will not forget
Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide
And hold me to Your side
I will love You to the end

Reading from the Gospel

Matthew 22:34-46

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

'The Lord said to my Lord,
'Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet'?"

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Clergy: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Stewardship

Chris Suhy, Karen Randall, Karen Sawyer

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.

On this, the 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, Almighty God, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen*

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, Ellen, Priscilla and Dorothea;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest, especially remembering Franklin Robinson 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.

God, our Gracious Shepherd, we offer you our deepest worship and honor for your faithfulness to the people of St. Matthew's through the years. You have blessed us with faithful clergy and leaders who have led us to you, nurtured us in your care, and encouraged us in our work for you. Today, we are particularly grateful that you have led us to our new rector who will walk with us in the next chapter of our common life and ministry. Be with him and his family as they say farewell to their current parish and community and as they prepare to come to us. Provide everything necessary for their life and salvation as they travel and begin to settle in our midst.

Prepare our hearts to receive them into our parish family with patience and joy. Provide from your bounty all that we need to follow the mission you have set before us all in the years to come as priest and people. In your most Holy Name we pray. *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: “Garments of Praise”

by Robin Mark

Put on the garments of praise
For the spirit of heaviness
Let the oil of gladness flow down
From Your throne

Put on the garments of praise
For the spirit of heaviness
Your joy is my strength alone
My strength alone

Verse

Make these broken weary bones
Rise to dance again
Wet this dry and thirsty land
With a river
Lord our eyes are fixed on You
And we are waiting
For Your garland of grace
As we praise Your name

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: “*I Will Walk*”

by Robin Mark

Chorus

And I will walk with You
And I will find a way to show Your Word is truth
And none shall fear but all will know
The measure of our Father's endless love

Verse 1

Consider all the works Your hands have made
The great and small from sea to mountain range
The passion of our great Creator King
Whose glory shines in all created things

Verse 3

Give me the faith that makes a mountain move
And to believe the Gospel's power to save
To run the race to run and not grow faint
And some to save in Jesus' mighty 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=QmFGa1AxRmpYc1NuLzNKbjNRa1FtQT09>



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

Sunday School now meets via Zoom once a month. Participants can attend live on the designated Sunday, or on their own time later in 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.

The November and December sessions are currently being planned. Information will be published when we have all the details. Remember that starting 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=QmFGa1AxRmpYc1NuLzNKbjNRaFtQT09>

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=QmFGa1AxRmpYc1NuLzNKbjNRaFtQT09>

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