



ST. MATTHEW'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Holy Eucharist

10a

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, July 20, 2025

It is the tradition of the Episcopal Church to maintain silence in the worship area so that people may pray. Please help us preserve an atmosphere of quiet reverence before worship. Remember to turn off or silence all phones. Thank you.

The Word of God

Prelude: Variations on Nettleton

Gerre Hancock

People stand as able

Opening Hymn: The Lord will come and not be slow

Hymnal 462
St. Anne

Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be God's reign, now and for ever. Amen.

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.

Song of Praise

S-236
John Rutter

Collect of the Day

Presider God be with you.
People And also with you.
Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Reading

Amos 8:1-12

The People are seated

This is what the Lord GOD showed me-- a basket of summer fruit. He said, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A basket of summer fruit." Then the LORD said to me,
"The end has come upon my people Israel;
I will never again pass them by.
The songs of the temple shall become wailings in that day,"
says the Lord GOD;
"the dead bodies shall be many,
cast out in every place. Be silent!"
Hear this, you that trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
saying, "When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain;
and the sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale?"

We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,
and practice deceit with false balances,
buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."
The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.
Shall not the land tremble on this account,
and everyone mourn who lives in it,
and all of it rise like the Nile,
and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt?

On that day, says the Lord GOD,
I will make the sun go down at noon,
and darken the earth in broad daylight.

I will turn your feasts into mourning,
and all your songs into lamentation;

I will bring sackcloth on all loins,
and baldness on every head;

I will make it like the mourning for an only son,
and the end of it like a bitter day.

The time is surely coming, says the Lord GOD,
when I will send a famine on the land;

not a famine of bread, or a thirst for water,
but of hearing the words of the LORD.

They shall wander from sea to sea,
and from north to east;

they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD,
but they shall not find it.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm

52



- 1 You tyrant, why do you boast of wickedness *
against the godly all day long?
- 2 You plot ruin;
your tongue is like a sharpened razor, *
O worker of deception.
- 3 You love evil more than good *
and lying more than speaking the truth.
- 4 You love all words that hurt, *
O you deceitful tongue.
- 5 Oh, that God would demolish you utterly, *
topple you, and snatch you from your dwelling,
and root you out of the land of the living!
- 6 The righteous shall see and tremble, *
and they shall laugh at the tyrant, saying.
- 7 "This is the one who did not take God for a refuge, *
but trusted in great wealth
and relied upon wickedness."
- 8 But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; *
I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever.
- 9 I will give you thanks for what you have done *
and declare the goodness of your Name
in the presence of the godly.

The Saint Helena Psalter Translation

Second Reading

Colossians 1:15-28

Christ Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or

dominions or rulers or powers-- all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him-- provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

The People stand as able.

Gospel Hymn: Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart

Hymnal 488
Slane

Holy Gospel

Luke 10:38-42

Remain Standing

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

As Jesus and his disciples went on their way, Jesus entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Kelly Kirby

Nicene Creed

BCP p. 358

The People stand as able

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;



ST. MATTHEW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

July 20, 2025

A letter from Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe on the crisis in Gaza

Dear people of God in The Episcopal Church:

Yesterday, Archbishop Hosam Naoum of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East gave a powerful address to the Church of England's annual Synod in York about the situation in Gaza and the Holy Land. He spoke of the horrifying humanitarian conditions that the war in Gaza has created, including the continued bombing of hospitals, a desperate lack of medical supplies, and a food distribution system that he likened to the dystopian novel "The Hunger Games."

In his address, Archbishop Hosam asked for our help, saying, "Where the church is wounded and constrained, we need the wider body of Christ to help us, to be the church in brutal and damaging times."

Here are some ways that we in The Episcopal Church can respond to his call for help:

As Christians committed to peace and reconciliation, we can stand with our siblings in Christ in the Holy Land as they continue their ministry of presence and resilience in the midst of inhumane conditions. We join Archbishop Hosam in his call for the Israeli military to end the bombing of hospitals and the siege of Gaza; for the restoration of humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza under United Nations supervision; and for Israel and Hamas to release all unjustly detained people and hostages.

We can also call for Israel to end its targeting of civilians in Gaza. I particularly grieve the death of Dr. Ahmad Attallah Qandil, a surgeon at the Diocese of Jerusalem's Al Ahli Hospital, who was killed by a drone strike as he left the hospital after his shift last Friday. He is one of hundreds of medical workers who have been arrested, detained, or killed in Gaza during this war.

Conditions in the West Bank are also deteriorating, and we join the Council of Patriarchs and Heads of Churches of Jerusalem in expressing grief and outrage at the recent attack on Taybeh, the last all-Christian village in the West Bank. Extremist Israeli settlers destroyed crops and olive groves, damaged historic buildings and water systems, and attempted to burn its ancient Byzantine cemetery and fifth-century Church of St. George.

Archbishop Hosam and the Diocese of Jerusalem are committed not only to providing Christian hope in the midst of the current hopelessness, but also to creating conditions that will bring about a lasting peace between the Israeli and Palestinian people. Because U.S. policy plays an outsized role in this conflict, we Episcopalians in the United States have a particular responsibility to support this work by advocating to our government to support a permanent ceasefire and a solution that provides a just and enduring peace. Most of all, we must decry in the strongest possible terms any U.S. or Israeli proposal for ethnic cleansing or the removal of Palestinians from Gaza or the West Bank.

Our Office of Government Relations helps us make our voices heard in Washington, D.C., ensuring that we can speak as Christians guided not by any political party, but by the redemptive love of the Risen Christ. You can find more information and tools for advocacy on the church's website.

As we pray for the peace of Jerusalem, we can also support the Diocese of Jerusalem as it continues its ministry of peacebuilding and reconciliation and

prepares for the rebuilding of its ministries after the war. As I have done several times, I invite you to join me in making a generous donation to the Good Friday Offering or the American Friends of the Diocese of Jerusalem, both of which provide urgently needed funds for the ministries of the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

In his address, Archbishop Hosam, who is from the Israeli city of Nazareth, called us to join his church in fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah that Jesus proclaimed in the synagogue there:

The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. (Luke 4:18-19)

May we answer this call through our support for God's people in the Holy Land.

The Most Rev. Sean Rowe
Presiding Bishop
The Episcopal Church

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

Tree Sculpture in progress. A tree sculpture is taking shape at St. Matthew's. Master chainsaw artist Harley Dougherty is turning a massive, old stump at the corner of Massie Avenue and Hubbards Lane into a sculpture depicting Kentucky wildlife. The sculpture will take about ten days to complete. Check it out over the next few days as it progresses.

Library is ready to lend. In addition to the book collection in the parish library, there are many media items. For example, the library has a copy of the movie *Conclave*. *Conclave* was nominated for many awards. If you have access to a media player such as a DVD or CD player, there are interesting selections to choose from. Check out the collection between 9:15a and noon on Sundays.

Gardening and weeding with Chris Newton. Please consider joining Chris in caring for the grounds and gardens at St. Matthew's. The work will be light, and most of the efforts will center on picking up small branches after wind storms, weeding around the Stewards' trees, watering when needed, and cutting back invasive Wintercreeper climbing up trees. Contact Chris Newton at christinenewton127@gmail.com or 502-424-4104.

The Episcopal Relief & Development Flood Relief Fund. Episcopal Relief & Development is working with the Diocese of West Texas to provide support in the coming days and weeks. The fund is a responsible and trustworthy organization for distributing monies to local partners and communities in need during a crisis. As the scope of the disaster continues to unfold, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to support Episcopal Relief & Development efforts in West Texas. <https://bit.ly/episcopaltx2025>

St. Matt's Newcomers Classes continue today. This will be the fourth of four Newcomers Classes. (These classes are offered periodically throughout the year, so you can catch any one, or all, again when they return.) The classes are for anyone new to the parish or anyone who wants to learn more about the Episcopal Church and how to get involved in mission and/or ministry here at St. Matthew's. For Sunday's class, we will look at the Outreach Ministries at St. Matthew's, and how you can become a member at St. Matthew's. We'll meet in Myll Chapel after the 10a service. If you have any questions or are interested in the class, please contact Suzanne Barrow, sbarrow@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org.

Please wear your name tag. We are making an intentional effort to be as welcoming as possible to people who are new at St. Matthew's. Wearing your name tag goes a long way toward making our community a comfortable place to

have conversations and not being embarrassed about forgetting each other's names. If you don't have a name tag yet, or you can't find yours, you can write your name on the clipboard on the nametag cart and we'll make you a new one!

GROW

Parents with rising 6th graders, we want to make sure you're included on youth event invitations this coming year! Please email Kayli Jones at kjones@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org to confirm that we have you and your 6th graders' information. The youth calendar of events will be coming soon!

Virtual Adult Education: The crisis of American Christianity. The crisis of American Christianity has become a crisis for democracy, the award-winning journalist Jonathan Rauch asserts in his new book *Cross Purposes: Christianity's Broken Bargain with Democracy*. The waning of the church in this country, Rauch says, is directly tied to the waning of our democracy.

What happens to American democracy if Christianity is no longer able, or no longer willing, to perform the functions on which our constitutional order depends? In his book, Rauch reckons candidly with both the shortcomings of secularism and the corrosion of Christianity. He postulates that the mainline church – which he calls "thin Christianity" – seems unable to inspire and retain believers. Worse, he says, a "Church of Fear" has distorted white Christian evangelicism in ways that violate the tenets of both Jesus and James Madison.

Rauch addresses secular Americans who think Christianity can be abandoned, and Christian Americans who blame secular culture for their grievances. The two must work together, he argues, to confront our present crisis. He calls on Christians to recommit to the teachings of their faith that align with Madison, not MAGA, and to understand that liberal democracy, far from being oppressive, is uniquely protective of religious freedom. At the same time, he calls on secular liberals to understand that healthy religious institutions are crucial to the survival of the liberal state.

And here's a twist: Rauch considers himself an atheist, albeit a friendly atheist who looks to America's church for solutions. The editors at *Christianity Today* magazine have praised "Rauch's affection and humility in speaking about Christianity ... This book is exemplary precisely because Rauch doesn't try to claim cultural Christianity for himself. He knows he is observing from across a gap that's not to be minimized for political expedience."

Join us in Virtual Adult Education via Zoom Monday, July 14, from 6-7:15 p.m., as we begin a two-part series focused on Rauch's February 2025 talk at Commonwealth Club World Affairs in San Francisco.

If you participate in Virtual Adult Education regularly, you are already registered for Monday's session and will receive an email invitation weekly on Mondays with Zoom information. If you aren't on the list, please contact Robin Garr by email at robingarr@gmail.com to receive your Zoom invitation by email or text.

Women in Conversation. The group will meet on Tuesday, July 22, from noon to 1:30p at the church. We'll discuss Chapter 5 of *The Circle of Hope*, by Eliza Griswold. All women are welcome. For more information, contact Anne Shelby: annekshelby@gmail.com

Godly Play and Intergenerational Programming break for the summer. Below is a list of ways to stay plugged in and use our facilities until programming resumes in August:

- Use the Maker Space! It is open every Sunday before and after services and on weekdays by request.
- Visit the St. Matthew's Library! Did you know that our parish library houses over 3,000 books and reference materials ready to be checked out by parishioners of all ages?!
- Check out the Tool Library! St. Matthew's has a stocked tool library with everything from saws to electric drills ready to be checked out during weekday business hours.

- Serve at the monthly Dare to Care Food Pantry! Come on the 3rd Saturday of the month between 8-11am and serve those in need in our community.

Reach out to Julie Mushkin anytime with questions or for more ideas, and we will look forward to resuming programming in August.

Clingman Forum on Summer Break. We'll return to our regular after-church conversations toward the end of August.

Monday Bible Study. We are on summer break until Monday, August 4.

SERVE

Food Pantry, Saturday, July 19. Our monthly drive-through Food Pantry will be Saturday, July 19, with distribution beginning around 8:30a. in the parking lot and driveway behind the church at 330 N. Hubbards Lane. We recommend that guests coming for food arrive and line up in their cars by that time.

Please tell any friends, relatives, and neighbors who may be in financial difficulty that all are welcome: Anyone who is short on money for food is welcome to come and get a load of groceries in your trunk or back seat. All are welcome, no questions are asked, and there's no need for ID. "If you are hungry, we will give you something to eat."

If you'd like to participate in this important ministry, now is the time to get involved, and you don't need to be a St. Matthew's member to take part. Contact Lynn Miller at millris426@gmail.com or Robin Garr at robingarr@gmail.com for more information, or just show up outside Saints Hall on Saturday morning!

Finally, to help us reach as many people as possible, please share information about this pantry among friends and family who may need help with grocery expenses.

WORSHIP

Illuminations

What does hospitality look like? How should it be practiced? In the Gospel story of Mary and Martha, which sister gets hospitality right? In subtle ways, Sunday's Lectionary readings build toward this Gospel. In our first reading, the prophet Amos builds on the theme of last week's passage: He recites a horrifying litany of curses that will come to the land whose rulers "trample the needy and bring to ruin the poor." If they continue to treat their subjects inhospitably, he says, their sun will go dark and their crops will fail. The nation will hunger and thirst for God's words as it will for food and water.

To read this week's Illuminations for all of Sunday's lessons, please visit this link: <https://www.stmatthewsepicopallouisville.org/sermons-and-illuminations>

Consecrated Communion is available to be picked up during office hours. Consecrated wafers are in sealed bags in Myll Chapel if you would like to come to pick up a package for yourself and your family. If you are interested in receiving communion, but are unable to drive to the church, contact Kelly at kkirby@stmatthewsepicopallouisville.org

10a Wednesday Healing Eucharist. The service is held in Myll Chapel. The service is also streamed on our Facebook page.

Daughters of the King prayer box. Please email your prayers regarding a loved one or person of concern to Sarah Johansen, dsjohansen99@gmail.com. Requests remain on the confidential prayer list for one month unless otherwise requested.

Listening-assist technology in the nave. If you have a hearing aid that is t-coil compatible, our listening-assist system feeds audio into your hearing aid. To learn more, visit the Accessibility/Inclusivity page on our website: [stmatthewsepicopallouisville.org/accessibility-inclusivity](https://www.stmatthewsepicopallouisville.org/accessibility-inclusivity).

Weekly Prayer List. John and Margaret Krantz, Greg Kuhns and Barbara Sandford, Diane Kyle, Barbara and David Lee, Robert Lee, the Levering family, the Lewis family, Cortney Lewis, Peter Niehaus, Emerson Niehaus, Holden Niehaus, Delilah Niehaus, Corey Logsdon, Jan and Rick Lotz.

Prayers for Pastoral Care. Janelle, Kevin Wardell, Candis Crocker, Vicki, Sarah, Karl, Melinda Clark, Len Pacitti.

We pray for those serving in our Armed Forces.

LAY SUNDAY MINISTERS SERVING THIS WEEK

Altar Guild	Ann Hines Jennifer Shumaker
Flower Guild	Linda Collins
8a Librarian	Lee Fletcher
10am Eucharist	
Holden Niehaus	Acolyte
Emerson Niehaus	Acolyte
John Shelby	Lector
Loise Kimama	Lector
Robin Garr	Intercessor
Jody Fletcher	Eucharistic Minister
Lynn Miller	Eucharistic Minister
Jane O'Roark	Eucharistic Minister
Jan Scholtz	Eucharistic Minister
Lowry Adams	Usher
Rob Peck	Usher
Emily Pruett	Greeter Welcome Desk
Chris Newton	Greeter Narthex
Lavonne Fingerson	Greeter Entrance
Barbara Lee	Eucharistic Visitor to Mary Louise Gorman
Lee Fletcher	Librarian 10a
5pm Eucharist	
Phillip Poore	Lector
Mark Ash	Intercessor
William Brown	Usher
Marilyn Keith	Eucharistic Minister

GENERAL NOTICES

Parish office hours. The parish office hours are Monday through Thursday, 9a – 3p; and 10a until noon on Friday.

Weekly 12-step and other meetings at St. Matthew's. Al-Anon meetings Tuesdays at 6:30p in the Lounge; AA meetings Tuesdays at 6:30p in Clingman Chapel; Ladies AA meetings Fridays at 11:30a in Meeting Room A; evening AA meetings Fridays at 6:30p in Clingman Chapel; Newcomers' AA meetings Fridays at 6:45p in the Lounge.

Survivors of Suicide (SOS). The group meets every Thursday at 7:30p in the lounge. There is no meeting on the fifth Thursday of a five-week month.

Library hours. The library is open for self-checkout each Sunday from 8:45 until noon. A librarian is available for assistance from 9:15 until 9:45 and from 11:15

until noon. The library is open weekdays by appointment only. Call 895-3485 or email library@stmatthewsepicopallouisville.org to schedule an appointment.

When the church building is open, books on the cart in the Narthex may be borrowed by filling out a card as instructed. Thanks!

Church archives. The parish archives have a large collection of historical images and materials that document the history of St. Matthew's. Ask the archivist for assistance, when they are present, or arrange an appointment by emailing archives@stmatthewsepicopallouisville.org

Are you a subscriber to the eSpirit? To receive a digital version of the announcements, follow this link: [stmatthewsepicopallouisville.org/espirit/](https://www.stmatthewsepicopallouisville.org/espirit/)

Bulletin and eSpirit announcements. The deadline for submissions is Tuesdays at noon. Please send your submissions to [Charles Frank](mailto:Charles.Frank).

Joanne Coleman is a Notary Public. As a service to our parishioners, Joanne is available to notarize documents. If you have need of these services, please make an appointment with Joanne during her office hours.

Service bulletins are available online to download. Go to our website homepage: [stmatthewsepicopallouisville.org](https://www.stmatthewsepicopallouisville.org).

The parish directory is online. You can access the entire parish directory online, through our app (St. Matthew's Episcopal – found on Android Play Store and Apple Store). If you have never accessed the directory online before, or you experience any issues, contact [Joanne Coleman](mailto:Joanne.Coleman).

Visioning videos: Sharing Our Story. Where we have been helps determine where we are headed. If you would like to learn more about St. Matthew's past, please click here: [stmatthewsepicopallouisville.org/church-history-archives](https://www.stmatthewsepicopallouisville.org/church-history-archives)

The St. Matthew's App is available for free at Google Play and the Apple App Store.

	June		YTD		Annual Budget
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
TOTAL INCOME	86,047	40,327	410,773	367,892	765,730
TOTAL EXPENSE	64,542	70,871	435,471	447,013	897,017
Released from Restricted Funds	(1,893)	(10,842)	(41,973)	(60,423)	(131,450)
NET INCOME/(EXPENSE)	23,398	(19,702)	17,275	(18,698)	163