



ST. MATTHEW’S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Holy Eucharist10a

First Sunday in the Season of Creation Sunday Augus, 31, 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.

Ocean Sunday

We worship with the vast waters of Earth

The Word of God

Prelude: Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness Johannes Brahms

Opening Hymn: I sing the almighty power of God Hymnal 398  
Forest Green

People stand as able.

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.

Children in kindergarten through the fifth grade may choose to follow the cross to Godly Play during the Song of Praise.

Song of Praise S-278  
William Mathias

Collect of the Day

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

God, our Creator, as we reflect on the mysteries of the ocean depths, we celebrate the wondrous design of the seas that surround us. Help us to discern how we have polluted our oceans and to empathize with the groaning of creation. Teach us to know the presence of God in the tides and currents of the seven seas. Teach us to care for the oceans and all our waterways. In the name of the Wisdom of God, the creative force that designs and governs all creation. Amen.

First Reading Job 38:1-18

The People are seated

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up your loins like a man; I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk,

or who laid its cornerstone  
when the morning stars sang together  
and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?  
“Or who shut in the sea with doors  
when it burst out from the womb,  
when I made the clouds its garment  
and thick darkness its swaddling band,  
and prescribed bounds for it,  
and set bars and doors,  
and said, ‘Thus far shall you come and no farther,  
and here shall your proud waves be stopped’?  
“Have you commanded the morning since your days began  
and caused the dawn to know its place,  
so that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth,  
and the wicked be shaken out of it?  
It is changed like clay under the seal,  
and it is dyed like a garment.  
Light is withheld from the wicked,  
and their uplifted arm is broken.  
“Have you entered into the springs of the sea  
or walked in the recesses of the deep?  
Have the gates of death been revealed to you,  
or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?  
Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?  
Declare, if you know all this.

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

Psalmsalm104:25-27



25 O Holy One, how manifold are your works!  
in wisdom you have made them all; \*  
the earth is full of your creatures.  
26 Yonder is the great and wide sea  
with its living things too many to number, \*  
creatures both small and great.  
27 There move the ships,  
and there is that Leviathan, \*  
which you have made for the sport of it.

The Saint Helena Psalter Translation

Second Reading Ephesians 1:3-10

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn: New songs of celebration render Hymnal 413  
Rendez a Dieu

The People stand as able

Holy Gospel Luke 5:1-11

Remain standing

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

Once while Jesus was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.” When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’s knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!” For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.” When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Priest The Gospel of our Savior.  
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon The Rev. Suzanne Barrow

Nicene Creed

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;  
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  
Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.  
Who has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.







August 31, 2025

## NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

**This week begins the Season of Creation.** It will be observed Sunday, August 31 through Sunday, October 4, and is celebrated by Christians around the world as a time for renewing, repairing and restoring our relationship to God, one another, and all of creation. St. Matthew's, along with the Episcopal Church, joins this international effort for prayer and action for climate justice and an end to environmental racism and ecological destruction. In celebrating the Season, we are invited to consider anew our ecological, economic, and political ways of living. Why is it important to mark the Season of Creation?

- Because of the urgency of climate and ecological crisis and the need for a bold, prophetic response.
- Because of our Gospel work to grow in faith as we affirm that God in Christ loves, redeems, and sustains the whole of Creation, not only human beings. What is the urgency of climate and ecological crisis? "We've changed the planet, changed it in large and fundamental ways. Our old familiar globe is suddenly melting, drying, acidifying, flooding, and burning in ways that no human has ever seen." — Bill McKibben
- Because of the relentless burning of fossil fuels and deforestation, the world's climate has become disrupted and unstable. The web of life is unraveling before our eyes. Human society is at risk of collapse within decades along with mass extinctions of species and forced migrations.
- Over the last fifty years, 60% of the planet's mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and fish have been wiped out by human land development and habitat destruction.
- More than 40,000 species are on the way to extinction.
- Oceans are acidifying and warming, and living fish are being displaced with dead plastic. Sea levels are rising, coral reefs dying, and ecosystems collapsing.
- Record-breaking and intensifying weather patterns are increasing deadly droughts, floods, storms, and heat.
- Food supply disruption due to weather events, water shortages, and unpredictable seasons will increase, leading to mass starvation events. What is our Gospel call to grow in faith?

**Newcomers Classes. The first Newcomers Class is today, and then on September 7 and September 14.** These 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. The first class is August 31, and we will tour the church campus, on subsequent Sunday's we review church polity, outreach programs and ministries. Each class is completely independent, so you can attend all or only one. We'll meet in Myll Chapel after the 10a service. If you have any questions or are interested in the class, please contact The Rev. Suzanne Barrow, [sbarrow@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org](mailto:sbarrow@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org)

**Home and Garden Sale Volunteers Needed!** The first SMEC Home and Garden Sale is coming up in less than a month, and we need *everyone* to get involved to help make it a success. In order to execute this sale, however, we *must* have great volunteer turnout, and it would be helpful to get these slots filled soon so we can plan accordingly! There are a variety of ways to be involved, so please click on the link below and sign up for a few spots each! Reach out to Julie Mushkin or Sara Bailey with any questions.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0F45ABAC2EA02-57535304-2025>

**Did you miss the Ministry Fair?** Sign up for ministries now! If you were unable to attend the Ministry Fair but are interested in signing up to learn more about our ministries, please visit the page below. You will be contacted immediately and added to the interest list. Email Julie with any questions.

<https://stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org/ministry-sign-up>

**Select Home and Garden Sale donations now being accepted.** The Home and Garden Sale is fast approaching, and in preparation for the sale in late September, we are now accepting select donations *by appointment only*. If you have furniture or larger household items to donate, please email [\*photos of your items\*](mailto:sara.bailey@ministryarchitects.com) to Joanne Coleman, Julie Mushkin, or Sara Bailey ([sara.bailey@ministryarchitects.com](mailto:sara.bailey@ministryarchitects.com)). We will then arrange for a time to meet you at church or, in some cases, can arrange for a pick up. We will be accepting the following: dining and coffee tables, wooden chairs, occasional chairs, bookcases, office furniture, nightstands, stools, and select cabinets. We will not be taking couches, large entertainment centers, or dining hutches. We are looking forward to an amazing sale!

**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!

**The funeral for Kevin Clark will be Saturday, September 6 at 10a.**

## GROW

**Skill Sharing: The Constitution and us, September 18, 7-9p.** Drastic cuts to health and hunger aid programs. Cuts to NPR and PBS. Frightening raids by masked men targeting immigrants, and scenes of horrifying detention centers holding masses of people for deportation. All this and more hits the headlines daily. Shockingly, many government policy decisions and actions these days feel difficult to reconcile with our country's rule of law, the Constitution of the United States.

What, if anything, can we do about all this? A group of St. Matthew's parishioners has formed a Constitution Project to research constitutional issues and open a civil, nonpartisan discussion about them within our church community.

To that end, first, we hope to provide information about the Constitution as the law of the land, and to open a civil and compassionate discourse among ourselves, seeking to discern how we may use the power of the people responsibly through advocacy and action, within the call of our Baptismal Covenant as Episcopalians, with God's help, to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves; and to strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being?

We will gather as a St. Matthew's Skill Sharing program on Thursday, September 18, from 7 to 9p, and you are invited. Admission to this program is \$5. All Skill Sharing proceeds beyond the cost of materials are donated to Simmons College of Kentucky, Louisville's historically Black college.

**The Friends and Family of Dementia Support Group meets the third Wednesday of the month.** The next meeting will be September 17 at 11a in Clingman Chapel.

**Memories of Katrina.** To mark the anniversary of the landfall of Hurricane Katrina, there is an exhibit in the Archives that includes photographs and memoirs of some of our parishioners who made one or more mission trips to New Orleans between 2006 and 2009.

There is also a narrative describing some of the activities that they experienced and places they visited during their stay. Additionally, in the library, there are

photos of the 2005 mission trip on the library's public computer.

**Labor Day break for Virtual Adult Education.** Virtual Adult Education will take a break for Labor Day weekend this Monday, Sept. 1. Mark your calendars to join us when we resume our weekly conversations via Zoom from 6-7:15 p.m. the following Monday, Sept. 8.

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](mailto:robingarr@gmail.com) to receive your Zoom invitation by email or text.

**Street Protest as Part of Creating Change, Thursday, September 11, 6:30 - 8:30p.** Join Stand Up for Racial Justice Co-founder Carla Wallace and Justice Center Director Rus Funk in this workshop that explores the place of street protest in working for change, while also discussing ways to engage in protests that keep us and our neighbors safe. 4934 Brownsboro Road (All Peoples Congregation,) in the "Hearth Room". Please register here, as it is required: <http://bit.ly/45DJcak>

**Women in Conversation.** The group will meet on Tuesday, September 2, from noon to 1:30p at the church. We'll discuss Chapters 13 and 14 of *The Circle of Hope*, by Eliza Griswold. All women are welcome. For more information, contact [judith.fischer@louisville.edu](mailto:judith.fischer@louisville.edu)

**No Bible Study on Monday, September 1, Labor Day.** We will resume study on September 8.

## SERVE

**Food collection ends Sunday for August.** During August, we are collecting foods for the St. George's and Calvary Food Pantries, which will help alleviate hunger in the Louisville area. Donations are collected and delivered quarterly. All non-perishable staples such as canned (with flip-top lid cans), jarred, and dried foods are requested. Calorically dense foods such as canned meats and peanut butter, and ready-to-eat side dishes are preferred. This month both pantries have specifically requested additional donations of cereal and peanut butter. Donations of paper products, toiletries, and laundry supplies are also always welcomed and will be allocated to low-income senior citizens. Please do not donate clothing.

## WORSHIP

### Illuminations

We worship with the surging seas this Sunday.  
"Let the sea roar and all that fills it!" —Psalm 96:11

In this portrait of God creating the universe, Earth is constructed like a grand edifice, the ocean is born like a baby and restrained with boundaries, while down below lie domains called the deep and the realm of the dead. Earth with its oceans is a complex of profound mysteries designed by the Creator. To read this week's Illuminations for all of Sunday's lessons, please visit this link: <https://www.stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.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@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org](mailto:kkirby@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.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](mailto: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: [stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org/accessibility-inclusivity](http://stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org/accessibility-inclusivity)

**Weekly Prayer List.** Gibbs and Lynn Reese, Todd Reibel, Sara and Tom Reinking, Russell and Suzanne Rice, Karen and Mark Robinson, Dottie Rohrer, the Roufus family, Vicky Rouse, Charles and Carol Rusciano, the Savells family.

**Prayers for Pastoral Care.** Janelle, Kevin Wardell, Candis Crocker, Vicki, Karl, Melinda Clark, Peggy, Len Pacitti, Kinsey Woodson, the Laniers, Granville, Al Nimocks, John Shelby, Berverly Nichols.

**Flowers given in memory of:** Mickey Peck.

**We pray for those serving in our Armed Forces.**

LAY SUNDAY MINISTERS SERVING THIS WEEK

Altar Guild	Gibbs Reese Lynn Reese
Flower Guild	Jessica Roufus
8a Librarian	Lee Fletcher
10am Eucharist	
Emerson Niehaus	Acolyte
Delilah Niehaus	Acolyte
Jackson Hager	Acolyte
Robin Garr	Lector
Loise Kimama	Lector
Rick Lotz	Intercessor
James Horsley	Eucharistic Minister
John Krantz	Eucharistic Minister
Jane O'Roark	Eucharistic Minister
Jan Scholtz	Eucharistic Minister
Phil Eschels	Usher
Rob Peck	Usher
Emily Pruett	Greeter Welcome Desk
Sally Macdonald	Greeter Narthex
Barbara Lee	Greeter Entrance
Julia Ceresa	Godly Play Storyteller
Kayli Jones	Godly Play
Lee Fletcher	Libarian

5pm Eucharist	
Phillip Poore	Lector
Amy Currie	Intercessor
Russ Weis	Usher
Bev Weis	Eucharistic Minister

GENERAL NOTICES

**Parish office hours.** On Monday, September 1, the parish office will be closed for Labor Day. For the rest of the week, hours are: Tuesday 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@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org](mailto:library@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.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@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org](mailto:archives@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org)  
**Are you a subscriber to the eSpirit?** To receive a digital version of the announcements, follow this link: [stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org/espirit/](http://stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.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: [stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org](http://stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.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: [stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org/church-history-archives](http://stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org/church-history-archives)

**Episcopal New Service newsletter.** This newsletter provides the latest news on the Episcopal Church’s mission and ministries in the U.S. and abroad. Current advocacy efforts on immigration, the crisis in Gaza and other immediate human rights issues are covered. Sign-up at: <https://episcopalnewsservice.org/email-signup/>

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

	July		YTD		Annual Budget
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
TOTAL INCOME	43,967	83,082	456,130	450,974	765,730
TOTAL EXPENSE	79,975	71,026	517,945	515,120	897,017
Released from Restricted Funds	(7,576)	(8,679)	(49,549)	(69,105)	(131,450)
NET INCOME/(EXPENSE)	(28,432)	20,735	(12,266)	4,959	163