



Saint Matthew's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Holy Eucharist - Rite II
The Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 17, 2026
10:00 am

Welcome to St. Matthew's! We are glad you are here.

Welcome to St. Matthew's! Whether you join us in person or online, we welcome you to this Episcopal Church, one of many in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, throughout the United States and around the world. As part of the Anglican Communion, our ministry stretches over the face of the earth. Our worship, found in the Book of Common Prayer, was established in the middle of the 16th century, modified to accommodate contemporary tastes and times.

We invite families with young children to sit close to the Communion Table that you see and hear clearly. A play space for young children is provided on the east side of the church towards the rear. All children are absolutely welcome in worship as their wonder and curiosity inspires us all.

Rubrics, the *italicized* words of the bulletin give guidance for worship—when to sit, stand or kneel. At St. Matthew's, we also embrace silence at various times, occasions when we speak to and listen for God.

+ THE WORD OF GOD +

Prelude

by Felix Mendelssohn

Andante

The hymns can be found in the blue hymnals. Please stand as you are able.

Processional Hymn 182

TRURO

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing

Celebrant

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Collect for Purity

The Celebrant and People say together

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.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

The scripture readings this seventh Sunday of Easter is a translation done by Rev. Dr. Eugene Peterson, a Presbyterian pastor, preacher, seminary professor and translator. The Message is his effort in translating the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament in contemporary English easily understood by congregations throughout the United States.

The First Reading

Acts 1:6-14

When they were together for the last time they asked, “Master, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now? Is this the time?”

He told them, “You don’t get to know the time. Timing is the Father’s business. What you’ll get is the Holy Spirit. And when the Holy Spirit comes on you, you will be able to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, all over Judea and Samaria, even to the ends of the world.”

These were his last words. As they watched, he was taken up and disappeared in a cloud. They stood there, staring into the empty sky. Suddenly two men appeared—in white robes! They said, “You Galileans!—why do you just stand here looking up at an empty sky? This very Jesus who was taken up from among you to heaven will come as certainly—and mysteriously—as he left.”

So they left the mountain called Olives and returned to Jerusalem. It was a little over half a mile. They went to the upper room they had been using as a meeting place: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James, son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, Judas, son of James.

They agreed they were in this for good, completely together in prayer, the women included. Also Jesus' mother, Mary, and his brothers.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 68:1-5, 33-36

chanted by all



- 1 Let God arise, and let his ^{enemies} be ^{scattered}; *
let those who ^{hate} him ^{flee} be ^{fore} him.
- 2 Let them vanish like smoke when the wind ^{drives} it a ^{way}; *
as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked ^{perish} at the ^{presence} of ^{God}.
- 3 But let the righteous be glad and re^{joice} before ^{God}; *
let them ^{also} be ^{merry} and ^{joyful}.
- 4 Sing to God, sing praises to his Name;
exalt him who ^{rides} upon the ^{heavens}; *
YAHWEH is his ^{Name}, re^{joice} be ^{fore} him!
- 5 Father of orphans, de^{fender} of ^{widows}, *
God in his ^{holy} ^{habitation}!
- 33 Sing to God, O ^{kingdoms} of the ^{earth}; *
sing ^{praises} to the ^{Lord}.
- 34 He rides in the heavens, the ^{ancient} ^{heavens}; *
he sends forth his ^{voice}, his ^{mighty} ^{voice}.
- 35 Ascribe ^{power} to ^{God}; *
his majesty is over Israel;
his ^{strength} is ⁱⁿ the ^{skies}.
- 36 How wonderful is God in his ^{holy} ^{places}! *
the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people!
^{Blessèd} ^{bè} ^{God}!

The Second Reading

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Friends, when life gets really difficult, don't jump to the conclusion that God isn't on the job. Instead, be glad that you are in the very thick of what Christ experienced. This is a spiritual refining process, with glory just around the corner.

If you're abused because of Christ, count yourself fortunate. It's the Spirit of God and his glory in you that brought you to the notice of others. If they're on you because you broke the law or disturbed the peace, that's a different matter. But if it's because you're a Christian, don't give it a second thought. Be proud of the distinguished status reflected in that name!

So be content with who you are, and don't put on airs. God's strong hand is on you; he'll promote you at the right time. Live carefree before God; he is most careful with you.

Keep a cool head. Stay alert. The Devil is poised to pounce, and would like nothing better than to catch you napping. Keep your guard up. You're not the only ones plunged into these hard times. It's the same with Christians all over the world. So keep a firm grip on the faith. The suffering won't last forever. It won't be long before this generous God who has great plans for us in Christ—eternal and glorious plans they are!—will have you put together and on your feet for good. He gets the last word; yes, he does.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

Sequence Hymn 635

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

If thou but trust in God to guide thee

The Holy Gospel

John 17:1-13

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said these things. Then, raising his eyes in prayer, he said: Father, it's time. Display the bright splendor of your Son so the Son in turn may show your bright splendor. You put him in charge of everything human so he might give real and eternal life to all in his care. And this is the real and eternal life:

That they know you, the one and only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you sent. I glorified you on earth by completing down to the last detail what you assigned me to do. And now, Father, glorify me with your very own splendor, the very splendor I had in your presence before there was a world.

I spelled out your character in detail to the men and women you gave me. They were yours in the first place; then you gave them to me, and they have now done what you said. They know now, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that everything you gave me is firsthand from you, for the message you gave me, I gave them; and they took it, and were convinced that I came from you.

They believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I'm not praying for the God-rejecting world but for those you gave me, for they are yours by right. Everything mine is yours, and yours mine, and my life is on display in them. For I'm no longer going to be visible in the world; they'll continue in the world while I return to you.

Holy Father, guard them as they pursue this life that you conferred as a gift through me, so they can be one heart and mind as we are one heart and mind. As long as I was with them, I guarded them in the pursuit of the life you gave through me; I even posted a lookout. And not one of them got away, except for the rebel bent on destruction (the exception that proved the rule of Scripture).

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Nicene 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.

Prayers of the People

Form VI

Intercessor In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

Intercessor For all people in their daily life and work;

People **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

Intercessor For this community, the nation, and the world;

People **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

Intercessor For the just and proper use of your creation;

People **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

Intercessor For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

People **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

Intercessor For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

People **For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

Intercessor For Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean our Presiding Bishop, Jeff and Laura our Bishops, for the clergy and lay leaders of St. Matthew's; for the search and call of the next rector of St. Matthew's. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Luke's, New Haven; St. Paul & St. James, New Haven; St. Thomas's, New Haven. Regional Deans, Clergy peer groups & the Clergy Family Assistance Program.

People **For all who serve God in his Church.**

Intercessor For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. We pray for John, Helen, Herb, Rhoades, Milton, Christine, Gus, Shelby, David, Nancy, Bernie, Aaron, Liz, Scott, Vanessa, Melinda Kathy, Shelly, Patty, Ty, Joan, Ann, Winter, Susan, Kristen, Vinny, and Antonio. We also pray for Mark, Zoe, and Michael as they prepare for Confirmation.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions, silently or out loud

Intercessor Hear us, Lord;
People **For your mercy is great.**

Intercessor We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings, silently or out loud

Intercessor We will exalt you, O God our King;
People **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

Intercessor We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Intercessor Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
People **Who put their trust in you.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Please stand as you are able.

The Peace

Celebrant

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People

And also with you.

+ THE HOLY COMMUNION +

The Offertory

Celebrant

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Offertory Anthem

by John Rutter

A Clare Benediction

May the Lord show his mercy upon you;
may the light of his presence be your guide:
May he guard you and uphold you;
may his spirit be ever by your side.

When you sleep may his angels watch over you;
when you wake may he fill you with his grace:
May you love him and serve him all your days
Then in heaven may you see his face.

Whether you've joined us today from near or far, in person or online, we invite you to make a gift of thanksgiving to support God's work St. Matthew's. Visit www.stmatthewswilton.org/offering. Designate it as a gift or as part of your pledge.




Please stand as you are able.

Doxology at the Presentation *sung by all* LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below, Alleluia, Alleluia.
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

The Great Thanksgiving *chanted by all*

Celebrant *People*




The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*




Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus *sung by all* setting by Robert Powell (1932-2025)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. _____

The People remain standing or kneel. The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

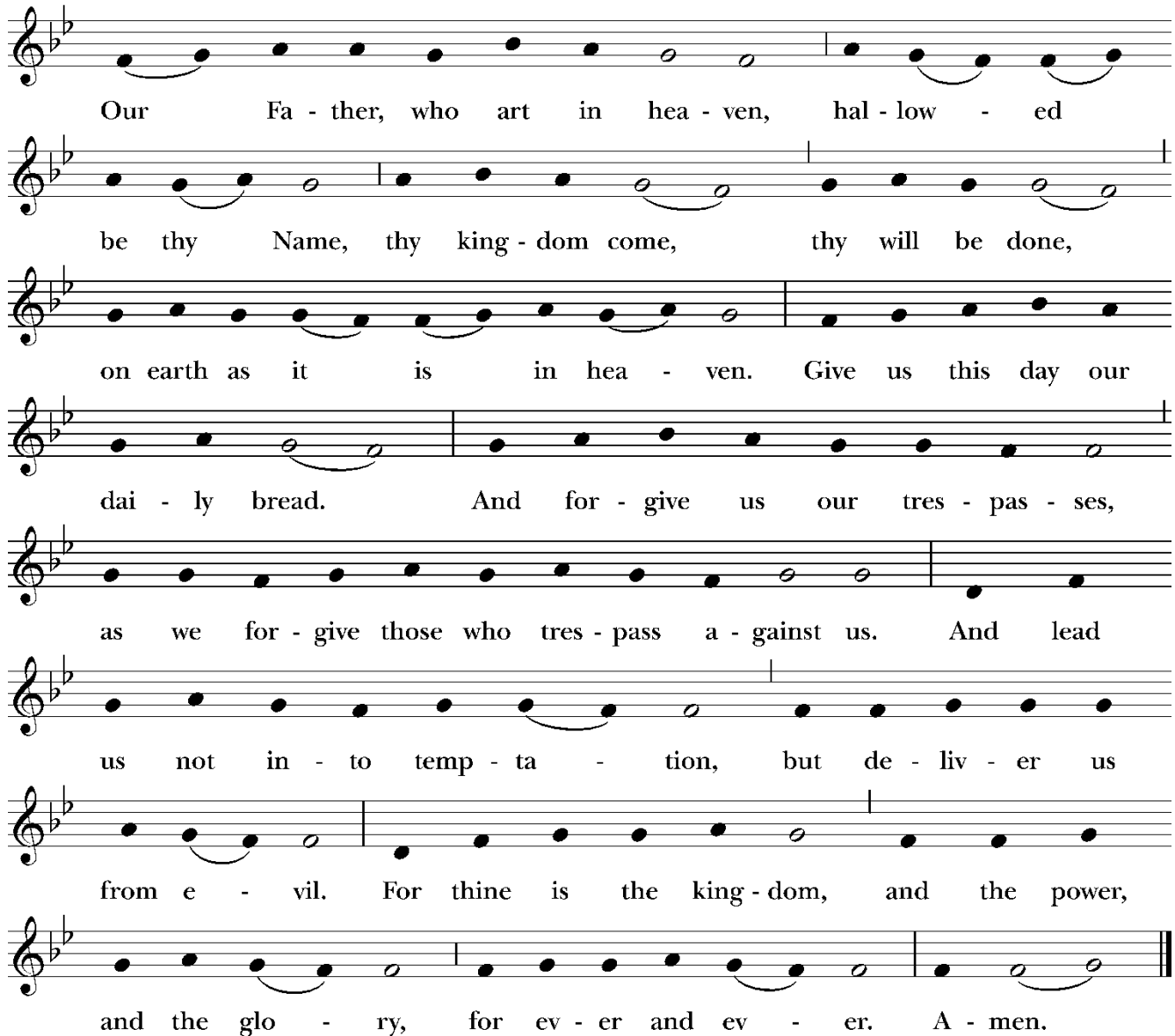
We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

chanted by all

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



Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem – Wonder Love and Praise 877 *sung by all*

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are: "The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing of the bread. The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing of the bread. The bread which we break, al - le - lu - ia, is the com - mun - ion of the bod - y of Chrsit. The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing of the bread. One bo - dy are we, al - le - lu - ia, though ma - ny we share one bread. The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing of the bread." The score includes performance directions: "Cantor or Choir" at the beginning and end, and "All" for the main body of the anthem. Measure numbers 6, 11, 17, and 21 are indicated at the start of their respective staves.

Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.

We receive communion at the altar rails of St. Matthew's. Please follow the ushers guiding you forward down the center aisle to the communion rails, filling in from the outside wall. You may stand or kneel to receive. Gluten-free bread is available. Those desiring gluten-free shall present their hands, palms down. The chalices contain consecrated wine. With guidance from the chalice bearer, those who choose, drink from the common cup. The same cup offered to those choosing to intinct--dipping the bread oneself lightly in the wine and consuming.

Communion Hymn 307

BRYN CALFARIA

Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendor

The Postcommunion Prayer

The People stand or kneel.

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **Almighty and everliving God,**
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious **Body and Blood**
of your Son our Savior **Jesus Christ;**
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the **Body of your Son,**
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of **Christ our Lord.**
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Parish Announcements

The Easter Blessing

Recessional Hymn 460

HYFRYDOL

Alleluia! sing to Jesus

The Dismissal

Celebrant Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Postlude

by John Marsh

Fanfare

Worship Leaders

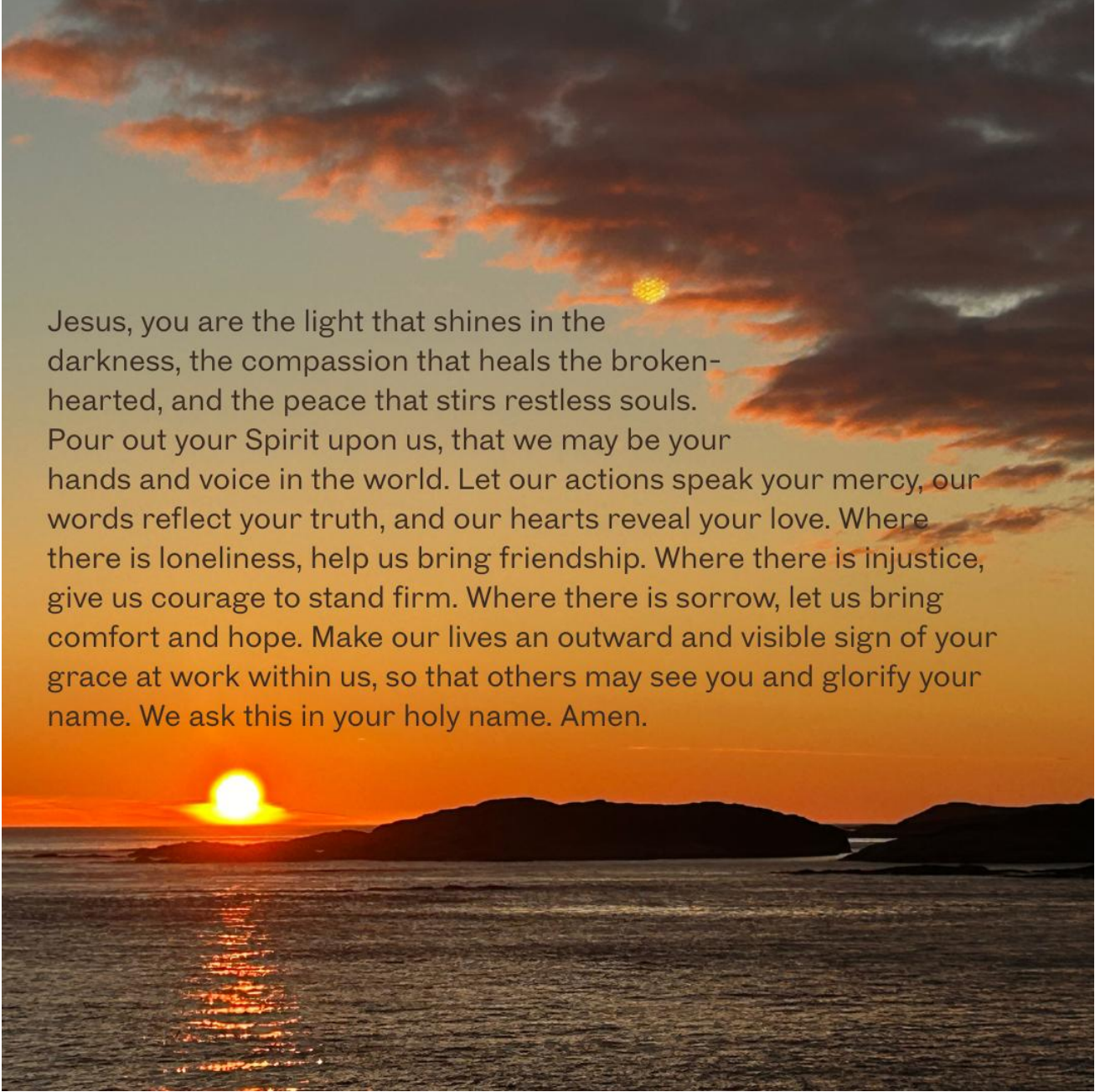
<i>Celebrant</i>	The Rev. Dr. Tommy Watson
<i>Preacher</i>	The Rev. John H. Branson
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Bob Giolitto, Anne Newton
<i>Lectors</i>	Janet Nobles, Brian Angerame
<i>Intercessor</i>	Sharon Pearson
<i>Music Director</i>	Irina Georgieva
<i>Choir</i>	St. Matthew's Church Choir
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Debbie Fuller, Joy Ruterma
<i>Coffee Host</i>	Kim Olson
<i>Offering Counters</i>	Keith DeAngelis, David Gortz

Prayer Requests *Specific prayer requests will be kept on the prayer list for six weeks. Please call or email the office if you have additions or deletions to the prayer list.* You are encouraged to offer your own prayers silently or aloud as indicated in the Prayers of the People.

Today and throughout the week, we remember all those who have been commended to our prayers. For those who are sick or in need: John, Helen, Herb, Rhoades, Milton, Christine, Gus, Shelby, David, Nancy, Bernie, Aaron, Liz, Scott, Vanessa, Melinda Kathy, Shelly, Patty, Ty, Joan, Ann, Winter, Susan, Kristen, Vinny, and Antonio. For those serving in the military, Matthew Comeau.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Luke's, New Haven; St. Paul & St. James, New Haven; St. Thomas's, New Haven. Regional Deans, Clergy peer groups & the Clergy Family Assistance Program.

This Week's Prayer from Our Social Justice Group



Jesus, you are the light that shines in the darkness, the compassion that heals the broken-hearted, and the peace that stirs restless souls. Pour out your Spirit upon us, that we may be your hands and voice in the world. Let our actions speak your mercy, our words reflect your truth, and our hearts reveal your love. Where there is loneliness, help us bring friendship. Where there is injustice, give us courage to stand firm. Where there is sorrow, let us bring comfort and hope. Make our lives an outward and visible sign of your grace at work within us, so that others may see you and glorify your name. We ask this in your holy name. Amen.

Weekly Calendar – May 17-May 24

Sunday, May 17

10:00am
10:00am
11:15am
11:30am
11:30am

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Holy Eucharist – Rite 2
Church School
Coffee Hour
Confirmation Class
Parish Update meeting

Monday, May 18

7:00-9:30pm

Education for Ministry (Zoom)

Tuesday, May 19

11:00am
7:00pm

Staff Meeting
Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, May 20

6:00pm

Pub Theology @ Cactus Rose

Thursday, May 21

7:30pm

St. Matthew's Church Choir rehearsal

Sunday, May 24

10:00am
10:00am
11:15am

The Day of Pentecost

Holy Eucharist – Rite 2
Church School
Coffee Hour

Parish Update Meeting – After Worship Today

Please join the Officers and Vestry for a parish gathering, in the sanctuary following worship. Grab a cup of coffee and come back to the sanctuary. This will offer a time for any questions, thoughts, ideas or concepts to be brought forward and discussed. We hope you will join us and look forward to this time together.

Members of the What's Next Committee

*Elizabeth Baker · Brian Angerame · Jennifer Angerame · Vytas Kisielius
Bob Giolitto · John Pearson · Pam Ely, Warden · Keith DeAngelis, Warden*

Explore Education for Ministry

Seeking to study the Bible and how to apply it to your daily life?

Education for Ministry (EfM) helps us understand how we are called into relationship with God, neighbor, and creation wherever we are – at home, at work, in all the places we spend time. Sharon Pearson, a certified EfM mentor facilitates the seminar that meets weekly, on Mondays from 7:00-9:15pm via Zoom). A new group will hopefully form at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church on Thursday mornings (9:00-11:30am) on-site beginning mid-September. Alongside reading the Bible, learn how to do theological reflection to understand how Scripture, our Christian tradition, our society/culture, and our stories can inform how we view God and live out our lives as people of faith.



To learn more about the program: <http://efm.sewanee.edu> Contact Sharon for more info at sharonepearson@gmail.com.



Pub
THEOLOGY

Wednesday
May 20th @ 6PM
Cactus Rose



Celebrate

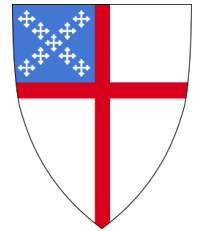
2026
WILTON WARRIORS

SUNDAY MAY 31

Join us as we celebrate our
graduating seniors in worship
and a festive coffee hour!

Worship Schedule at St. Matthew's

Holy Eucharist on Sundays at 10am



Please keep an eye on our website and social media as well as our e-news. You will find information to connect with friends and members of all ages.

Staff

Interim Rector	The Rev. John H. Branson, john@stmatthewswilton.org
Formation & Engagement	The Rev. Dr. Tommy Watson, tommy@stmatthewswilton.org
Director of Music Ministries	Irina Georgieva, irina@stmatthewswilton.org
Parish Administrator	Nancy Johnson, office@stmatthewswilton.org
Director of WEPCO	Donna Savage, wepco@optonline.net
Bookkeeper	Louann Miska, louann.miska@gmail.com
Technology Coordinator	Matthew Henshaw
Nursery Staff	Lucia Sato
Sextons	Alix Williams, Jairo Mejia

Wardens and Officers

Warden	Pam Ely	Clerk	Jennifer DeAngelis
Warden	Keith DeAngelis	Asst. Treasurer	Brian Angerame
Treasurer	Rob Kyle		

The Vestry

Eleanor Arnold	Bob Giolitto	Endy Perry	Kimberly Olson
Brian Angerame	Becky Hudspeth	John Pearson	

36 New Canaan Road, Wilton, CT 06897

Phone: (203) 762-7400

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