

Holy Eucharist - Rite II
The Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 21, 2023
10:00 am

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

The People are invited to read the words in **bold**. If you're joining us from home, please stand, kneel, sing, and pray with us as you're able. No matter where you are, joining in this worship service is a form of prayer that connects you to God and to each other. Whenever two or three are gathered, even virtually, Scripture reminds us that Jesus is present among us.

Children are most welcome and are encouraged to participate in worship.

To the parents of children: Relax! God put the wiggle in children. Sit toward the front so your little ones can see and hear. Go ahead and quietly answer their questions. If you don't know the answer, the priest would love to talk to your little one. When you sing the hymns and join in the prayers, you teach little hearts how to be faithful; you are their best model. If you need to leave the service, that's okay. Don't be shy about coming back. It was Jesus who said, "Let the little children come to me."

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you at St. Matt's.

+ THE WORD OF GOD +

Prelude

Johann Pachelbel (1653–1706) Toccata in D major, P 460

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

Processional Hymn 494

DIADEMATA

"Crown him with many crowns"

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Collect for Purity (said by all)

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 First Reading

Acts 1:6-14

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36

sung by the Choir

- ¹Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; * let those who hate him flee before him.
- ² Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; * 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 rejoice 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, rejoice before him!
- ⁵ Father of orphans, defender of widows, * God in his holy habitation!
- ⁶ God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom; * but the rebels shall live in dry places.
- ⁷ O God, when you went forth before your people, * when you marched through the wilderness,
- ⁸ The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, * at the presence of God, the God of Israel.
- ⁹ You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; * you refreshed the land when it was weary.
- ¹⁰ Your people found their home in it; * in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.
- 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.
- 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!
 Blessed be God!

The Second Reading

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

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Sequence Hymn 182

Truro

"Christ is alive! Let Christians sing"

The Holy Gospel

John 17:1-11

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Marissa Rohrbach

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

The People respond with the words in bold.

Intercessor To our God be the power forever and ever. Amen. Let us appeal

to the Lord, saying, "We are yours; be glorified in us."

Intercessor Holy Father, protect your Church for your name's sake, so that

we may be one with your Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Restore, support, strengthen and establish us and always for

your glory. We are yours;

People Be glorified in us.

Intercessor Loving God, raise up witnesses to your love in all the world,

even to the ends of the earth. Be a parent to orphans, a defender

of widows and a provider to the poor. We are yours;

People Be glorified in us.

Intercessor Great God of heaven and earth, you graciously send rain to dry

places. Give to the people of the earth enough to meet their needs; and yet protect us from dangerous excess. May we

acknowledge that all good gifts come from your hand.

(The People are invited to add their own thanksgivings). We are yours;

People Be glorified in us.

Intercessor Mighty God, in our own community, exalt the humble in due

time. May those who have known suffering and struggle have their dignity renewed. Bless them with gladness. Make their

voices heard in shouts of joy. We are yours;

People Be glorified in us.

Intercessor God of all grace, we pray for the lonely and for prisoners, for

the sick and the suffering. As they cast their anxieties upon you, may they experience your freedom and care. We pray especially for Barbara, Beth, Becky, Mike, Susan, Jack, Chuck, Ioan David Nancy Ioy Peter Liz Ann Jack Pat Kathy

Joan, David, Nancy, Joy, Peter, Liz, Ann, Jack, Pat, Kathy,

Dick, Brooks, Scott, Martin, Ann, Melinda, Aaron, Dann, and

for those we now name [______]. We are yours;

People Be glorified in us.

Intercessor Heavenly Father, we have been granted eternal life in knowing

you through your Son Jesus. Prepare a home for all of the dying and the dead, that they may continue forever in your goodness.

We are yours;

People Be glorified in us.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The People may add their own petitions and thanksgivings either silently or aloud. Silence may be kept.

The Celebrant says the following prayer

For the sake of the names we have held in prayer. For the sake of the names we will never hear. For the sake of the lives of the people who were known by these names. For the sake of all our children and all of us, whose futures are inextricably linked. For the sake of the necessary work to be done for all your children. For the sake of the one whose sacrificial love redefines our understanding of divinity and discloses the meaning of our humanity. We pray, we act, we live. **Amen.**—Second Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis

Then the Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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 +

After the Celebrant says an Offertory sentence, the congregation may be seated. Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Offertory Anthem

John Stainer (1840-1901)

O saving victim

O saving Victim, slain for us.
The gates of heaven to us unfold!
Fierce foes are nigh and woes assail;
Grant succour, give us victory!
O saving Victim, slain for us!
Amen.

Whether you've joined us today from near or far, in person or online, please consider making a gift of thanksgiving to support the work of God at St. Matthew's. Be part of God's mission with us as we make our way out of the COVID season and into the new life God promises.

Visit <u>www.stmatthewswilton.org/offering</u>. Designate it as a gift or as part of your pledge. No gift is too small. All gifts honor the God who honors us with life, breath, love, and salvation.



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, Alleluia.

The Great Thanksgiving

CelebrantYou. PeopleCelebrantThe Lord be withAnd also with you.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 God thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise. Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

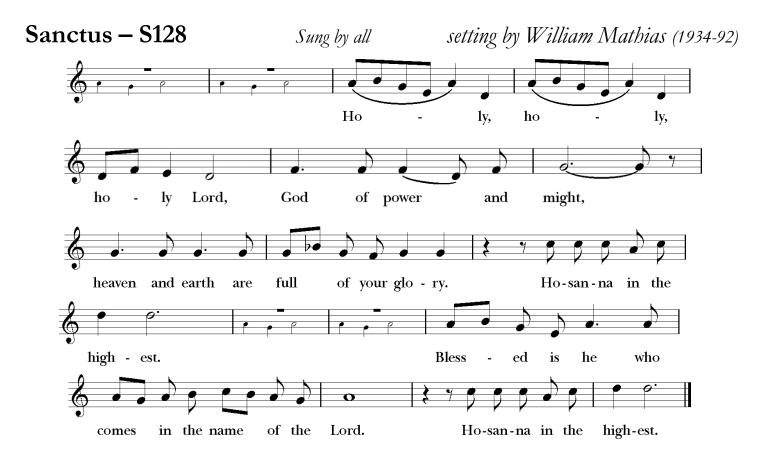
From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another. Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:



The people remain standing or kneel. The Celebrant continues

And so, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

The Celebrant continues

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of our Mothers; Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN**.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say, *Celebrant and People*

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 Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. Celebrant Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; People Therefore let us keep the feast, alleluia.



The Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All are welcome to come forward, as directed by ushers, to receive communion or a blessing.

The Ushers will direct you, please follow their instructions when you come forward. When you reach the center of the space, please open your hands and lay them flat to receive the bread or cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing.

You may then choose to drink from the silver chalice to your left or intinct (dip the wafer in the wine) in the clay chalice to your right.

If you do not wish to receive wine, simply pass the cup, and make your way back to your seat.

We believe Jesus is fully present in both the bread and the wine,
so if you receive the bread, you have participated fully in communion.

Let the Priest know if you need a gluten free wafer by first extending your palms down. If you would like to have communion brought to your pew, please let an usher know.

Eternal Ruler of the ceaseless round

Eternal Ruler of the ceaseless round of circling planets singing on their way, guide of the nations from the night profound into the glory of the perfect day; rule in our hearts, that we may ever be guided and strengthened and upheld by thee.

We would be one in hatred of all wrong, one in the love of all things sweet and fair, one with the joy that breaketh into song, one with the grief that trembleth into prayer; one in the power that makes thy children free to follow truth, and thus to follow thee.

Oh, clothe us with thy heavenly armor, Lord, thy trusty shield, thy word of love divine; our inspiration be thy constant word, we ask no victories that are not thine; give or withhold, let pain or pleasure be; enough to know that we are serving thee.

Please kneel or sit to sing.

Communion Hymn 529

McKee

"In Christ there is no East or West"

The Act of Reception

Saint Augustine's Prayer Book (2nd ed)

The Celebrant and the People say together

In union, Blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace.

Come Lord Jesus, and dwell in my heart in the fullness of your strength; be my wisdom and guide me in right pathways; conform my life and actions to the image of your holiness; and, in the power of your gracious might, rule over every hostile power that threatens or disturbs the growth of your kingdom, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

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 Blessing

The Celebrant blesses the People

Beloved, life is short. And we do not have enough time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be quick to love and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of our God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier be with you to strengthen and guard you this day and always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn 481

GOPSAL

"Rejoice, the Lord is King"

The Celebrant offers the dismissal to which the people respond,

Celebrant Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

Fanny Hensel (1805-47)

Postlude in G major

Worship Leaders

Celebrant & Preacher The Rev. Marissa Rohrbach Eucharistic Ministers Beth Baker, Sharon Pearson

Acolyte Mikey Gubner

LectorsAmy Gubner, John PearsonIntercessorLorena Aparacio MoralesMusic DirectorAndrew Leslie Cooper

Choir St. Matthew's Church Choir

Altar Guild Nancy Brautigam, Jen DeAngelis, Lorena Morales Aparicio

Counters Dave Gortz, Bill Brautigam

<u>Prayer Requests</u> Specific prayer requests will be kept on the prayer list for <u>six weeks</u>. 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 through the week, we remember all those who have been commended to our prayers. For those who are sick or in need: Barbara, Beth, Becky, Mike, Susan, Jack, Chuck, David Nancy, Joan, Joy, Peter, Liz, Ann, Jack, Pat, Kathy, Dick, Brooks, Scott, Martin, Ann, Melinda, Aaron, Dann. For those serving in the military, Matthew Comeau.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. John's, New Milford; Grace Church, Newington; Trinity, Newtown; Environmental ministry networks, eco-justice work; community gardens.

Weekly Calendar – May 21 – May 28

Sunday, May 21 The Seventh Sunday of Easter

10:00am Holy Eucharist – Rite 2 (In person & Livestream)

10:15am Church School 11:15am Coffee Hour

5:00-8:00pm Wepco Community Movie Night

Monday, May 22

7:00pm Education for Ministry

Tuesday, May 23

11:00am Staff Meeting

7:00pm Finance Committee meeting

Thursday, May 25

7:30pm St. Matthew's Church Choir rehearsal

Sunday, May 28 Day of Pentecost

10:00am Holy Eucharist – Rite 2 (In person & Livestream)

10:15am Church School 11:15am Coffee Hour

Join us later today!

From 5:00-8:00 pm in the Parish Hall - Samantha and Julie (WPC) are hosting a community screening of the Netflix film and true story, *The Swimmers*. The movie follows two Syrian sisters who flee their war-torn home in Damascus and swim for hours in choppy Mediterranean seas to reach Greece as asylum seekers before going on to compete at the Rio Olympic Games.

St. Matt's and WPC will be providing a potluck meal for the community and the screening will be followed by a short discussion. This screening is open to the community, ages 13 and up (the film is PG-13) and childcare will be provided for infants to 12 years old.

SAVE THE DATES

Sunday, June 11th

Plan to join us for worship with Bishop James Curry (retired, ECCT) as he shares his message around the ministry he is engaged in, Swords to Plowshares. This ministry utilizes firearms that have been acquired via buy-back programs and repurposed as gardening tools. Jim will bring the Swords to Plowshares forge and do some demonstrations of how the firearms are reshaped into garden tools. More details to come soon.

Children, Youth and Family Ministries

- Sunday, June 4th, 10am Worship: Senior Sunday
- Sunday, June 11th, 10am Worship: Lily Cristini's Confirmation and Swords to Plowshares sermon and demonstration by retired Bishop Jim Curry.

For additional information, please email Samantha at <u>samantha@stmatthewswilton.org</u>.

Join Education for Ministry (EfM) to...

Deepen your Christian faith. Learn how to articulate that faith. Let that faith inspire you into action!

Through study, prayer, and reflection, trained mentors facilitate small group discussions and guide participants to examine life through an increasingly informed and inspired theological lens. More than Bible



study, EfM participants read and discuss the Old Testament (Year 1), the New Testament (Year 2), Church history (Year 3), and theology (Year 4). You do not have to commit to all four program years nor complete the program in four years. Learn more about EfM at https://efm.sewanee.edu

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Wilton offers EfM and is seeking new participants to start Year 1, joining others who will be starting Year 2 and 4. This seminar group meets virtually over Zoom from 7:00-9:15pm every Monday from September thru May. Current participants come from a variety of congregations in the western area of Connecticut. Please contact Sharon Ely Pearson for more information at 203.984.1228 or sharonepearson@gmail.com



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Saturday, June 10 ~ 4:00-5:00pm Wilton Historical Society 224 Danbury Road in Wilton, Connecticut

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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. There you'll find information and opportunities to connect for friends and members of all ages.



Staff

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