



Holy Eucharist - Rite II
The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
November 5, 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

Processional Hymn

"Children of the Heavenly Father"



Celebrant

Blessed be the One who creates all things.

People

The Holy One's love is new every morning.

Celebrant

This is the day the Creator has made.

People

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.



The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Creator be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray. Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift that your faithful people offer you true and laudable service: Grant that we may run without stumbling to obtain your heavenly promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

The First Reading

Micah 3:5-12

Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who lead my people astray,

who cry "Peace"

when they have something to eat,

but declare war against those who put nothing into their mouths.

Therefore it shall be night to you, without vision, and darkness to you, without revelation.

The sun shall go down upon the prophets, and the day shall be black over them;

the seers shall be disgraced, and the diviners put to shame;

they shall all cover their lips, for there is no answer from God.

But as for me, I am filled with power, with the spirit of the LORD, and with justice and might,

to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin.

Hear this, you rulers of the house of Jacob and chiefs of the house of Israel, who abhor justice and pervert all equity, who build Zion with blood and Jerusalem with wrong!

Its rulers give judgment for a bribe, its priests teach for a price, its prophets give oracles for money; yet they lean upon the LORD and say, "Surely the LORD is with us! No harm shall come upon us."

Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed as a field;

Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins,

and the mountain of the house a wooded height.

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

Responsorial Psalm 43

Refrain, sung first by the Choir, then again by all:



Choir alone:

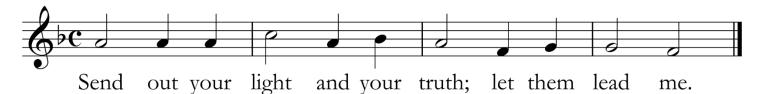
- ¹ Give judgment for me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people; * deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked.
- ² For you are the God of my strength; why have you put me from you? * and why do I go so heavily while the enemy oppresses me?
- ³ Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, * and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling;
- ⁴ That I may go to the altar of God, to the God of my joy and gladness; * and on the harp I will give thanks to you, O God my God.

All sing the refrain



- ⁵ Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? * and why are you so disquieted within me?
- ⁶ Put your trust in God; *
 for I will yet give thanks to him,
 who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

All sing the refrain



The Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

You remember our labor and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was toward you believers. As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, urging and encouraging you and pleading that you lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Children in Pre-Kindergarten –5th Grade may proceed to the narthex for Godly Play at the beginning of the hymn.

Please stand as you are able.

Sequence Hymn 632

MUNICH

"O Christ, the Word Incarnate"

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 23:1-12

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes

long. They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father-- the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted."

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Canon Ranjit K. Mathews

Profession of Faith

We believe in God, who creates all things, who embraces all things, who celebrates all things, who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.

We believe in God as the source of all life, who baptizes this planet with living water.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one, the malnourished one, the climate refugee, who loves and cares for this world and who suffers with it.

And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life, who came to reconcile and renew this world and everything in it.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God, who moves with God and who moves among and with us today.

We believe in everlasting life in God.

And we believe in the hope that one day God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.

Prayers of the People

The People respond with the words in bold.

Intercessor Beloved of God, all who humble themselves will be exalted. So let us appeal to God, praying, "We call to you, O Lord; good Lord, deliver us."

Intercessor Humbly we adore you, good Lord. Give to your Church humility. May our lives be pure, upright and blameless. We pray especially for our Bishops, Jeffrey and Laura, for Canon Ranjit, visiting today, for Marissa, our Rector and for all the people of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut; may we, in word and deed, proclaim your gospel. We call to you, O Lord;

People Good Lord, deliver us.

Intercessor Humbly we adore you, good Lord. Give to this nation humility. May we find our greatness not in status or self-exaltation, but in service to others. We call to you, O Lord;

People Good Lord, deliver us.

Intercessor Humbly we adore you, good Lord. Teach us to handle your creation with humility. Bless the soil to bring forth a fruitful harvest for the hungry. Bless the springs to give drink for the thirsty. Help us to use the resources you've given us wisely to enrich the lives of our neighbors. We call to you, O Lord;

People Good Lord, deliver us.

Intercessor Humbly we adore you, good Lord. Give to our community humility. You have blessed us with a good place in which to dwell. Renew the spirits of our languishing. Put songs of thanksgiving in our mouths. We call to you, O Lord;

People Good Lord, deliver us.

Intercessor Humbly we adore you, good Lord. Give healing and strength to those who call to you from humble hearts. Lift the burdens of those who are heavy laden. Encourage the sick and sorrowful with your love. We pray especially for Michael, Callen, Thomas, James,

Diana, James, Carol, Susan, Lee, Arlene, Barbara, Mike, Jack, Chuck, Joan, David, Peter, Liz, Ann, Jack, Pat, Kathy, Dick, Scott, Martin, Ann, Melinda, Aaron, Dann and Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. We also remember those we name now either silently or aloud. We call to you, O Lord;

People Good Lord, deliver us.

Intercessor Humbly we adore you, good Lord. Your mercy endures forever. Bring those who have walked through the waters of baptism into that place of eternal life and promise. We call to you, O Lord;

People Good Lord, deliver us.

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

The People may add their own intercessions either silently or aloud. Silence may be kept.

The Celebrant says the following prayer

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**—Book of Common Prayer, p. 268

Then the Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

Hasten, O God, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate.

Amen.

The Confession

Then the Celebrant says Let us confess our sins against God and God's creation.

Silence may be kept. The people may stand or kneel.

Celebrant and People say together

Merciful and sustaining God, we have sinned against you.

We confess our lack of gratitude

for the beauty and bounty of your creation:

teach us to see that your earth sustains us and all that lives.

We confess that we have misused your earth: grant us amendment of life.

We confess that we have been intemperate in our appetites: strengthen us in self-control.

We confess that we have taken the abundance of your world for granted: make us urgent now for its protection.

Forgive and renew us now through our Savior Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, with whom you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The God of heaven has made a home on earth.People Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

+THE HOLY COMMUNION+

Celebrant says an Offertory sentence, the congregation may be seated.

O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.

Revelation 4:11

Offertory Anthem

Alice Parker (b. 1925)

O Happy Souls

- 1. O happy souls, how fast you go, And leave me far behind; Don't stay for me, for now I see, The Lord is good and kind.
- 2. Go on, go on, my soul says go, And I'll come after you; Though I'm behind, I feel inclined To sing Hosanna too.
- 3. God give you strength your race to run And keep your footsteps right; Though fast you go, and I so slow, You are not out of sight.

- 4. When you get to that world above, And all God's glory see, On that bright shore, your journey o'er, Then look you out for me.
- 5. I'm coming on as fast I can, No toil or danger fear. God give me strength! May I at length Be one among you there.
- 6. Then all together we shall meet, Together we will sing. Together we will praise our God And everlasting King!

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 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.



Doxology at the Presentation Sung by all THE OLD HUNDREDTH

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

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.People And also with you.Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

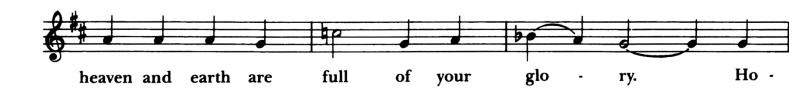
People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Praise and thanks are yours, our Creating God. From the dust of the earth you shaped human beings in your own image, and you filled the earth and seas and skies with a myriad of wonders. Yet we consistently turn your generosity into our scarcity, your elegance into our meanness, and your simplicity into our corruption. Though we poison and destroy your good Creation, you continue to offer us your abundance. In your mercy, you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus, transforming death into life.

Through the Spirit you continue to call us into covenant with you—for the restoration of Creation and the reconciliation of all people.

And so we give you thanks, rejoicing with all of Creation, as we join the saints and angels in their unending hymn:









On the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks to God. He broke the bread, gave it to his friends and said: "Take and eat, for this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

He took the wine, and gave thanks to God, Creator. He gave it to his friends saying: "This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all creation for the forgiveness of sins. Every time you drink of the wine, do this in remembrance of me."

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People say together

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

Merciful God, we come to this table seeking reconciliation: with you, with one another, and with all creation. Through these mysteries reconcile us to our world and empower us to restore your Creation and fulfill your will. Send your life-giving Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine. Stir in us the creative and redeem the destructive.

Heal your stricken world, that the soil, the skies, and the seas may be filled with your life anew.

Fill every heart with the sure and certain hope that we shall enter into the fullness of your joy, when your whole Creation is justified by faith and sanctified by love, and you are all in all. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, everlasting God, now and forever. **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.

Fraction Anthem – S155 Sung by all setting by Gerald R. Near (b. 1942) Al le lu ia, al le Christ lu ia, - ia. al le lu Pass · o · ver our sac - ri - ficed for us; there-fore let us keep the feast.

The Celebrant says the following Invitation

lu · ia.

Al -

le

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.

- le

lu - ia,

al

le

lu - ia.

al

All are welcome to come forward, as directed by ushers, to receive communion or a blessing. Please wait for the Ushers and follow their instructions. 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.

Communion Anthem

Henry Walford Davies (1869–1941)

Blessed are the pure in heart

Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see our God: the secret of the Lord is theirs, their soul is Christ's abode.

Still to the lowly soul he doth himself impart, and for his cradle and his throne chooseth the pure in heart.

All sing the following hymn, either sitting or kneeling.

Communion Hymn 325

LET US BREAK BREAD

"Let us break bread together on our knees"

If you are joining from home or have not received communion, you may offer this prayer to the Lord.

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 People stand or kneel.

Celebrant Let us pray.
People Faithful God

in the wonder of your wisdom and love

you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of

angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life.

We thank you for feeding us with this bread.

May it strengthen us

that by the power of the Holy Spirit

we may embody your desire

and be renewed for your service

through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Parish Announcements

The Blessing

The Celebrant blesses the People

May God light in us a holy fire: Light a fire that is worthy of our ancestors. Light a fire that is worthy of our fathers. Light a fire that is worthy of our mothers. Light a fire that is worthy of God. Now let us go in peace, lighting a holy fire wherever we go. And the blessing of God who creates, redeems, and sanctifies be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn 438

WOODLANDS

"Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!"

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve God's Creation.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Worship Leaders

Celebrant The Rev. Marissa Rohrbach

Guest Preacher The Rev. Canon Ranjit K. Mathews

Eucharistic Ministers Pam Ely, Beth Baker Lectors Adair Garis, Paul Reis

Intercessor Amy Gubner

Music Director Andrew Leslie Cooper

Choir St. Matthew's Church Choir

Altar Guild Betsy Pettit, Debbie Fuller, Kim Olson

Counters Adair Garis, Keith DeAngelis

<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: Michael, Callen, Thomas, James, Diana, James, Carol, Susan, Lee, Arlene, Barbara, Mike, Jack, Chuck, David, Joan, Peter, Liz, Ann, Jack, Pat, Kathy, Dick, Scott, Martin, Ann, Melinda, Aaron, Dann and Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. For those serving in the military, Matthew Comeau.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Trinity, Wethersfield; St. Paul's, Willimantic; St. Matthew's, Wilton; All deacons and the Deacons' Council, and the Province I School for Deacons.

Weekly Calendar – November 5 – November 12

Sunday, November 5 The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

10:00am Holy Eucharist – Rite II

11:30 A Conversation with The Rev. Canon Ranjit Mathews,

Canon to the Ordinary

12:00pm Confirmation Class to Chapel on the Green

Monday, November 6

7:00pm EFM – Caring for Creation Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, November 7

11:00am Staff meeting

Wednesday, November 8

7:30pm St. Matt's Spirited Sisters group

Sunday, November 12 The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00am Holy Eucharist – Rite II

11:30am Vestry meeting



Spend some time with Canan Ranjit after worship today.

The Rev. Canon Ranjit Mathews, our new Canon to the Ordinary, will lead a forum at 11:30am. Come and hear about his work in this new role, share with him the work we do here at St. Matthew's, and learn about his deep commitment to justice and reconcilation.

Join us in the lounge.



UPCOMING CONCERTS

Friday, Jan 19, 2024, 7:30 PM: Michelle Pauker | American Songbook

Friday, Feb 02, 2024, 7:30 PM: Westminster Choir

Friday, Mar 22, 2024, 7:30 PM: Hildegard, Bach, and Pärt (free)

Friday, Apr 05, 2024, 7:30 PM: Chhandayan | Holi Festival of Colors

Saturday, May 18, 2024, 7:30 PM: La Fiocco

Saturday, Jun 08, 2024, 7:30 PM: Grand Finale — The Bach Family

Tickets and subscriptions available at www.stmatthewswilton.org/aasm-tickets



Caring for Creation Holy Eucharist - Monday, Nov. 6th at 7:00pm



Have you enjoyed the creation-themed prayers we've been using during this Season of Creation at St. Matthew's? Have they challenged you? Questions? Join us for a service that is totally based (in the Episcopal tradition) of caring for creation. Sponsored by St. Matthew's & Beyond EfM group, after worship we will discuss the liturgy and delve into what it means to care for creation from a faithful perspective. All are welcome!

St. Matt's Spirited Sisters Fall Events

Please join us for our next meeting on Wednesday, November 8 at 7:30. St. Matt's Spirited Sisters is a community of faith for the women of St Matthew's that explores and strengthens our Christian ideals and knowledge, fostering friendship, offering prayer and support for each other, and building a deeper relationship with Christ. We generally meet the second Wednesday of every month to discuss topics of faith by listening to podcasts, reading articles, taking field trips, doing hands-on activities, and learning from each other. We welcome all the women of St. Matthew's and their friends. Discussion materials will be available prior to the meeting but advanced prep work is not required.

Please Contact Pam Carlson <u>pamelacarlson@gmail.com</u> or Stacey Savas <u>staceysavas70@gmail.com</u> with any questions.

Holiday Gift Drive for Circle of Care

As the St. Matt's community has done in the past, we will be collecting holiday gifts for our Mission Partner, Circle of Care's Holiday Gift Drive throughout the month of November. A collection box will be in the narthex.



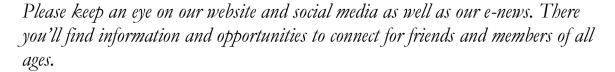
For details, please see the e-news or the flyer in the narthex for details. Parishioners can donate easily through the Amazon wish list, please use this link:

https://a.co/5SJVBSQ

Feel free to contact Lisa Williams at Circle of Care with any questions (Lisa.williams@thecircleofcare.org). Thank you for your support.

Worship Schedule at St. Matthew's

Holy Eucharist on Sundays at 10am





Staff

Rector The Rev. Marissa S. Rohrbach, marissa@stmatthewswilton.org

Music Ministries & Organist Andrew Leslie Cooper, andrew@stmatthewswilton.org

Parish Administrator Nancy Johnson, office@stmatthewswilton.org

Director of WEPCO Donna Savage, wepco@optonline.net

Bookkeeper Louann Miska, louann.miska@gmail.com

Media Technician Matthew Henshaw

Nursery Staff Lucia Sato

Sexton Alix Williams, Jairo Medina

Wardens and Officers

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

The Vestry

Eleanor Arnold Amy Gubner Endy Perry
Beth Baker Vytas Kisielius Paul Reis
Pam Carlson

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