

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

The 18th Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2026 – 9:00 AM

Holy Eucharist – Contemporary Service



Jesus Asked by What Authority He Acts by William Brassey Hole

919 Tennis Ave
Maple Glen, PA 19002
215-646-4092

saintmattsec.org

Rev. Rodney Roehner

Prelude *Lord I Lift Your Name on High* (instrumental) **by Rick Founds**

Gather *Lord I Lift Your Name on High* **by Rick Founds**

Verse 1

Lord I lift Your name on high
Lord I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us

Chorus

You came from heaven to earth
To show the way
From the earth to the cross
My debt to pay
From the cross to the grave
From the grave to the sky
Lord I lift Your name on high

Celebrant ✠ Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Celebrant continues with the Collect of Purity

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.**

Praise *King of Kings* **by Brooke & Scott Ligertwood, Jason Ingram**

Praise the Father, Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit, three in One
God of Glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation *We Humble Ourselves* by **Malcome Duplessis, Rita & Paul Baloche**

Verse 1

You O Lord are a holy God
Your ways are perfect and just
Slow to anger and abounding in love
You have shown us Your Father's heart

Verse 2

But we Your people
have turned from You
Resisted Your power and grace
Taking our lives into our hands
We have stumbled and lost our way

Chorus

So we humble ourselves before You
And confess our unfaithfulness toward You
Forgive our sin remove our shame
Restore the Church that bears Your name
That revival may come to this land
Once again

Gospel (*standing*)

Matthew 21:23-32

✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon (*seated*)

Deacon Bob Smith

We believe in God the Father
We believe in Jesus Christ
We believe in the Holy Spirit
And He's given us new life
We believe in the crucifixion
We believe that He conquered death
We believe in the resurrection
And He's coming back again
(We believe)

The Prayers of the People - Form IV

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We ask your guidance for Bp. Daniel, Fr. Rodney, Fr. Dave, and Dcn Bob. Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation; especially Betsy, Millie, Jane, Kathleen, Anthony, Steve, Patti, Roger, Erin, Giuliano, Dave, Mary Kate, Mark, Paul, Chris, Barbara, Charlie, Barbara, Richard, Patricia, Lucie, Mary Jane, Rich, Betty,

Pat, Allison, Lincoln, Pam, Joonsu, Lydia, Youngwok, Tim, Terry, Jocelyn, Marla, Bill, David, Eileen, Ethan, Christy, Constance, Jeryl, Pat, Noelle, Lucy, Paul, Pat, and Richard. Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Give your grace to this holy gathering and for all the people of God; for our church family and preschool; for all first responders and law enforcement, especially Jamie and Justin; for those who serve our nation in the armed forces, especially Steven, Jonathan, Kyle, Justin, Zack, and their families; for those celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries. We also pray for the protection of persecuted Christians throughout the world, and that all may come to the knowledge and love of Christ. Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died ☩, especially Joan Motze, in whose memory the altar flowers are given by Dianne Versak, and Taiwo Mabogunje who died this past week, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Let us also pray for the forgiveness of our sins.

All **Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant 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 (*all stand*)

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Announcements

Offertory

Child of God

by Crowder, Cash & Olds

Verse 1

This dirt I came from
This dirt I came from
This dirt I came from
It's my dirt but it ain't my home

Verse 2

This dirt ain't my home
This dirt ain't my home
This dirt ain't my home
From the breath of God I was born

Pre-Chorus

Clap them hands stomp them feet
Devil ain't got no hold on me
Dance all day dance all night
Good God I'm on fire

Eucharistic Prayer A

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 him thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Chorus

I may be flesh and bone
But in my haunted soul
I got the Holy Ghost
I know where I came from
Can't keep me from my home
I am a child of God

Verse 3

This dirt couldn't hold Him in
This dirt couldn't hold Him in
This dirt couldn't hold Him in
He's resurrected I'm born again

Verse 4

This dirt gone someday
This dirt gone someday
This dirt gone someday
He's coming again and we're flying away

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

Holy

by Josh Blakely

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts
Heaven and earth, are full of Your Glory
Hosanna in the highest
Blessed is He who comes
In the Name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest

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.**

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

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.**

Anthem

Glory to the Lord Our God

by Steve Merkel

Lift up your heads O ye gates
Let the King of Glory come in
Be lifted up O ancient doors
Let the King of Glory come in

The Celebrant then faces the People while elevating the Sacrament and says

✠ The Gifts of God for the people of God.

Communion

*You Prepare a Table
To the Only God*

**by Rita Baloché
by Chris Tomlin**

Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Celebrant says the following blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Service Hymn

Forever

by Chris Tomlin

Verse 1

Give thanks to the Lord
Our God and King
His love endures forever
For He is good He is above all things
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise

Chorus

Forever God is faithful
Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us
Forever forever

Verse 2

With a mighty hand
And an outstretched arm
His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise
Sing praise sing praise

Verse 3

From the rising to the
setting sun
His love endures forever
And by the grace of God
We will carry on
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise

Dismissal

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

THE PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Diocesan Convention Delegates Needed! | This year's Diocesan Convention will be held at the Sheraton in Valley Forge on October 10th, starting at 9:00 a.m. We are looking for one more volunteer to attend as a delegate for St. Matthew's. Please contact Father Rodney if you have questions about the role or would like to volunteer.

EVENTS

Blessing of the Animals | In celebration of the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, animal lovers are invited to bring their pets to be blessed by Fr. Rodney on **Sunday, October 4th at 4 PM** in the upper parking lot. Rain or shine!

ECW Fundraiser | The ECW Group of Saint Matthew's (Episcopal Church Women) is holding a fundraiser over the next few weeks. We will be selling Little Dippers Mixes. They sell for \$6.00 a packet. Just add sour cream and mayo for the vegetable mixes, and cream cheese for the fruit dips. Samples will be on display between services, and purchases can be made at that time with cash or a check.

OUTREACH

Little Pantry | Thank you so much for your continued support through donations. In addition to groceries, **Giant gift cards** are extremely helpful. Our current needs are: **paper towels, tissues, laundry detergent, Q-Tip's, shampoo, dish soap, bar soap, toothpaste, plastic jars of applesauce.** Please do not donate pasta, mac and cheese or cereal at this time. We have plenty. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Parish Calendar *for the week of September 27th, 2026*

Monday, September 28th		Office Closed
Tuesday, September 29th	11:00 AM	Handchime Rehearsal <i>in the Sanctuary</i>
Wednesday, September 30th	12:00 PM	Holy Eucharist <i>in the Sanctuary</i>
Thursday, October 1st	9:00 AM	Morning Prayer <i>on Zoom*</i>
Saturday, October 3rd	10:00 AM	ECW <i>in the Parish Hall</i>
Sunday, October 4th <i>All services are held in the Sanctuary. The 90 AM service is also accessible via Livestream.</i>	7:45 AM	Rite I Holy Eucharist
	9:00 AM	Rite II Holy Eucharist with Contemporary Music
	9:00 AM	CGS Sunday School <i>in the Atriums</i>
	9:00 AM	Decision Point <i>in the Rector's Office</i>
	10:00 AM	Coffee Hour <i>in the Parish Hall</i>
	10:30 AM	Rite II Choral Eucharist
	4:00 PM	Blessing of the Animals <i>in the Upper Parking Lot</i>

*Access Zoom meeting links by going to bit.ly/SMEC-Zoom-Gathering