

To Know and Share God's Love

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Fifth Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 26, 2023

EASTER

at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Sterling, VA

SUNDAY, APRIL 9
6, 9:30 & 11 AM

CELEBRATE EASTER!
SUNDAY, APRIL 9
[STMSTS.ORG/EASTER](https://stmmts.org/easter)

Watch the sun rise on Easter morning during the beautiful Easter Vigil. Begin outdoors at 6:00am, celebrate Easter, and then enjoy Easter brunch together. We'll also have vibrant services at 9:30am (band) and 11:00am (choir). Celebrate the joy of Easter in worship and then children are invited to hunt for eggs following the later services. Help prepare for Easter: stmmts.org/EasterHelp

CHANGEJARS

SUPPORTING

YOUTH MISSION 2023

CHANGE JARS FOR MISSION

Our students are excited about this summer's mission trip to Erie, PA. They will spend a week repairing homes, deepening their faith, and building relationships. Will you take home a change jar and add coins over the next three months? As you add coins, pray for our student's lives, and those they meet, to be touched and changed for good. Coins collected in June will be used to defer costs for transportation and supplies. Learn more at stmmts.org/youthmission

WELCOME

We know that going to church or to a new church for the first time can be nerve-racking. We want to help make your first experience at St. Matthew's a great one!

If this is your first visit to Saint Matthew's, we welcome you. Please join us between services for coffee, tea and refreshments in the Parish Hall. For more information about our community, visit our website www.stmtts.org. We are so glad you are here!



COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All baptized Christians are welcome to participate in communion. If you would like to receive, simply place one hand on top of the other, palms up, and the priest will place bread in your hand. You may then consume the wafer. If for any reason you prefer to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms across your chest and the priest will give you a blessing. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.

Would you like to learn more about baptism? Please contact our office via email at Office@stmtts.org or phone at 703-430-2121.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER LIST

The Saint Matthew's intercessory prayer list is for those in or related to our community who are in need of prayer. It is designed so that all members of our community can pray for each other on an ongoing basis. In order to pray for those on the list, simply ask God to be with them and help them in any way needed - God knows what is going on, so we don't need to.

Please pray for the following:

Pete, Skip, Desmond, Jeannie, Michael, Tim, Emma, Susan, James, Sean, Joe, Deb, Beltrane family, Teresa, victims of violence, Amber, Yimam family, Fredericks family, E, Laura, Will, William, Frank, Florence, Jerry, Warren, Eddie, Janice, Charlie, Dillon family, Zach, Amy, Julia, Langenkamp family, Nicholas, Crystal, Paulo, Mary W., Jon, Joyce, John S., Panita, McKeown family, Deepak, Flood victims, Vicki, Greg, Mary Ann, Sharp family, Anthony, Josh, Reatha, Athena, Kathleen, Heriberto, Rosaura, Matthew, Denise, Bellamy family, Jose, Pete, Annie, MaryLea, Alan, Nishah, Marty, John G, Damar, Jeremy, Kyeron, Abigail, Verdun, John, Candace, Lea, Bonnie, Arthur, Mel, Eric, Ginny, Andrew, Bob, Robby, Ron, Corinne, AJ, earthquake victims, train crash victims, Kassidi, Jordan, Amelia, Michael, Steve, Raven, Kenya, Josiah, Joy, and Elizabeth.

If you or someone you care about are in need of Pastoral Care, please call 703-430-2121.

8 AM SERVICE

Silent Entrance (Congregation Stands)	
Acclamation and Opening Sentences	351
Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.	
God's mercy endures for ever.	
Confession of Sin and Absolution	352
Collect of the Day (Contemporary)	Insert
Lessons	
First Reading • Ezekiel 37:1-14	
Psalm • 130	
Second Reading • Romans 8:6-11	
Gospel • John 11:1-45	
Sermon	The Reverend C. Robert Merola, Jr.
Nicene Creed	358
Prayers of the People	
Peace	360
Announcements & Welcome	
The Holy Communion	
Offertory	
Great Thanksgiving • Eucharistic Prayer B	367
Proper Preface	379
Sanctus	362
The Lord's Prayer	364
Breaking of the Bread	364
Angus Dei	407
Invitation to Communion	
Communion of the People	
Post-Communion Prayer	365
Blessing	
Dismissal	366

9:30 AM SERVICE

The Word of God

Opening Song • Made for This

Opening Sentences

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

God's mercy endures forever.

Opening Prayer (stand through the Gospel)

Song • Strong Tower

Song • These Thousand Hills

Gospel • John 11:1-45

Sermon

The Reverend C. Robert Merola, Jr.

Prayers of the People

Peace

Announcements & Welcome

The Holy Communion

Offertory

(An offertory plate is not passed at this service. If you wish to make a donation, the collection plate can be found at the back of the church, or donations are accepted online at www.stmmts.org/give)

Great Thanksgiving (stand through Communion)

Eucharistic Prayer

Sanctus • Kyrie

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Song • Good to Me

Closing Prayer

Blessing

Closing Song • Your Love Never Fails

Dismissal

11 AM SERVICE

Silent Entrance (Congregation Stands)	
Acclamation and Opening Sentences	351
Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.	
God's mercy endures for ever.	
Confession of Sin and Absolution	352
Collect of the Day (Contemporary)	Insert
Lessons	
First Reading • Ezekiel 37:1-14	
Psalm • 130	
Second Reading • Romans 8:6-11	
Gospel • John 11:1-45	
Sermon	The Reverend C. Robert Merola, Jr.
Nicene Creed	358
Prayers of the People	
Peace	360
Announcements & Welcome	
The Holy Communion	
Offertory Anthem • The Lord is My Shepherd	A. Pote
Doxology • Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow	
Great Thanksgiving • Eucharistic Prayer B	367
Proper Preface	379
Sanctus •	
The Lord's Prayer	364
Breaking of the Bread	364
Angus Dei	
Invitation to Communion	
Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn • 593 v. 1, 2, 3 Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace	
Post-Communion Prayer	365
Blessing	
Procession into the World • 558 v. 1, 2, 3 Faith of our Fathers	
Dismissal	366



FLOWER DEDICATION

DEDICATE EASTER FLOWERS STMTTS.ORG/FLOWERS

You're invited to help us fill the church with flowers as we celebrate Easter. Dedications for Easter flowers are welcome to remember loved ones, give thanks for blessings, or any special occasion. Dedications are due by Sunday, April 2. Submit donations at stmtts.org/flowers or use the cards provided in the pews. Donations may be made by cash, check, or online at stmtts.org/give.



BACKPACK BUDDIES GROUP PACKING

BACKPACK BUDDIES

Pack for Backpack Buddies, our weekend food program on Sunday, April 2 at 10:30am in the parish hall. Contact Hilary for more info. HLLLearning@gmail.com



ST. MATTHEW'S GAME NIGHT

GAME NIGHT
FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 6PM-9PM



WEDNESDAYS AT CHURCH

This Lent, we invite you to spend time with God by joining us on Wednesdays from 7 to 8PM. This week we'll discuss: What is Salvation?



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 24-29, 2023, 5:30-8:30PM
STMTTS.ORG/VBS



SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 6-8PM

What do YOU think of the ending of The Last of Us? Join us at Rob and Linda's (34 Bedford Dr) as we discuss this deeply emotional turn of events which has generated such deep feelings for so many. Starting with a cookout (a side dish or dessert is welcome, but not necessary), we'll then gather around a fire as darkness falls to discuss. (Note: the show contains disturbing themes, graphic violence. It is not kid friendly.)



PARISH WORK DAY
SAT., APRIL 1, 9AM-12PM

Join us as we help prepare the grounds and church for a glorious Easter celebration. Stop by for an hour or two. Coffee provided!



PALM SUNDAY AT 8, 9:30, 11AM
SUNDAY, APRIL 2

Join us on Palm Sunday for a special worship service which begins outside, remembering Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem in the last days of his life with waving palms, singing, and processing.



WALK THROUGH HOLY WEEK
Maundy Thursday April 6, 7:30pm
Good Friday
April 7, 12pm and 7:30pm
Holy Saturday
April 8, 10am



EASTER VOLUNTEERS
STMTTS.ORG/EASTERHELP

Do you have a favorite Easter memory? Running to find eggs, or the smell of the fragrant flowers in the sanctuary? Being nervous walking into church for the first time in a long time? What do all of these have in common?

Someone made those experiences possible!

You're invited to help make Easter fantastic, and create those memories and new ones for yourself and others. We need you to make Easter possible! Visit the link above and ask God how you might help share joy with others this Easter.



JOIN THE CHOIR!

The choir is preparing for Palm Sunday and Easter, and we'd love to have you join us. All voices are invited to participate. The rehearsal/schedule is: March 30, 7:30-9:00pm, April 2 at 10am, and Easter Sunday, April 9 at 9:45am. For more information, contact Kevin at kevin@stmtts.org.



STUDENT MISSION TRIP JULY 9-15, 2023

This summer, rising 6th graders and up will partner with Group Mission in Erie, PA to repair and transform homes while deepening their faith & building relationships with peers and youth leaders.

Find more information or register today at stmmts.org/youthmission.

A \$50 deposit is due to reserve your spot. Friends are always welcome! Scholarships and payment plans are available. Contact Office@stmmts.org



PEEPS DIORAMA CONTEST SUNDAY, APRIL 2

All students are invited to make a PEEP diorama of their favorite Bible story and display in the parish hall on Palm Sunday. Prizes for best Old Testament, New Testament, Overall, and best incorporation of a donut in honor of Donuts & Discovery class!



TALENT SHOW & AUCTION SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 6PM-8PM STMMTS.ORG/TALENTSHOW

Join us for a night of fun and great talent while supporting the student summer mission trip to Erie, PA.

Can you sing? Dance? Tell jokes? Play an instrument? If so, the Mission Trip Talent Show is the place for you! Students are invited to register to participate in the talent show using the link above.

If you have items or personal services to donate toward the silent auction, please contact Jae through the church office at office@stmmts.org.



DONUTS & DISCOVERY

Middle and high school students are invited to meet in classroom four at 10:30AM for a lively discussion.

This week's topic is Youth Sunday. Please join Ron as we begin to layout plans for a spring worship experience designed by our students. We can't wait to see you there!

Email Ron at Journey@stmmts.org for more information.



5 LENT

Fifth Sunday in Lent



Revised Common Lectionary

COLLECT

Sunday, March 26, 2023

Traditional

O ALMIGHTY GOD, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men: Grant unto thy people that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Contemporary

ALMIGHTY GOD, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14

THE HAND OF THE LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal,

and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act,” says the Lord.

Refrain

With the Lord there is mercy and plenteous redemption.

Psalm 130 *from the Book of Common Prayer*

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Out of the depths have
I called to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice; * let
your ears consider well the
voice of my supplication. | 5 My soul waits for the
LORD, more than watchmen
for the morning, * more
than watchmen for the
morning. |
| 2 If you, LORD, were to note
what is done amiss, * O
Lord, who could stand? | 6 O Israel, wait for the
LORD, * for with the
LORD there is mercy; |
| 3 For there is forgiveness with
you; * therefore you shall be
feared. | 7 With him there is plen-
teous redemption, * and
he shall redeem Israel from
all their sins. |
| 4 I wait for the LORD; my soul
waits for him; * in his word
is my hope. | |

SECOND READING: Romans 8:6-11

TO SET THE MIND on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and

those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

GOSPEL: John 11:1-45

NOW A CERTAIN MAN was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that

he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.” When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?” Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.” Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MATT'S

Sunday, March 26th

8:00 am - Rite I Worship Service
9:30 am - Festival Worship Service
10:30 am - That's in There?!? Youth Grp
11:00 am - Classic Worship Service
12:30 pm - Young Professionals
2:00 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
6:30 pm - Girl Scout Troop 2274
8:15 pm - Narcotics Anonymous

Monday, March 27th

12:00 pm - Social Time with Candace
7:00 pm - Bread of Life
7:30 pm - Free to Live
8:00 pm - Compline
8:20 pm - Social Time with Kevin

Tuesday, March 28th

9:00 am - All Ages Read Together
9:00 am - Classroom of Discovery
10:00 am - Staff Meeting
12:00 pm - Backpack Buddies Packing
6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
7:00 pm - Education for Ministry
7:00 pm - Vestry
8:00 pm - Compline

Wednesday, March 29th

9:00 am - Classroom of Discovery
12:00 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
7:00 pm - Wednesdays at Church
7:00 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
8:00 pm - Compline

Thursday, March 30th

9:00 am - All Ages Read Together
10:45 pm - Anam Cara
8:00 pm - Compline

Friday, March 31st

6:00 pm - Board Game Night
8:00 pm - Compline

Saturday, April 1st

8:00 am - Men's Group
9:00 am - Parish Work Day
11:00 am - LEM Training for Easter
6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
7:00 pm - Narcotics Anonymous
8:30 pm - Narcotics Anonymous

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 26th: Kesean Jacoby
March 27th: Kristin Drummond
March 28th: George Thurston
March 29th: Cooper Kelly
March 30th: Kimberly Crawley
March 31st: Ray Thomen, Sara Warnick

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

March 27th: Annette & Mike Brennan

ATTENDANCE

Sunday, March 19, 2023

<i>Time or Place</i>	<i>Attendance Online</i>	<i>Attendance In-Person</i>
8:00 AM	16	24
9:30 AM	31	126
11:00 AM	16	28
Faith Factory		20

HELP SUPPORT ST. MATTHEW'S MINISTRIES

GIVE ONLINE

stmtts.org/give

VENMO

@stmttssterling



CASH OR CHECK

Checks can be made payable to
"St. Matthew's Church" and
placed into the collection plate

**For more ways to give and
information on automatic giving:**

stmtts.org/give

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

In-Person & Online

8:00AM | This is a traditional communion service using Rite II from the Book of Common Prayer.

9:30AM | This is a vibrant communion service with our very own live band. If you are looking for a joyous family service with some of the best music around, this is the service for you.

11:00AM | A classic communion service with our fabulous choir. We use Rite II from the Book of Common Prayer.

Compline (evening prayer) Mon.–Fri. at 8pm on Facebook

Online Worship
stmmts.org/live

Sunday services are broadcast on Facebook and YouTube.

St. Matthew's Staff & Vestry

Rector, Rev. C. Robert Merola, Jr.
Rob@stmmts.org

General Manager, Miriam Turner
Office@stmmts.org

Audio, Livestream Coordinator,
Kristin Bellamy
Kristin.Bellamy@stmmts.org

Bookkeeper, Jean DeFuria
Bookkeeper@stmmts.org

Children's Ministry Intern
Aurelia Porto, Aurelia.Porto@stmmts.org

Director Choir, Kevin Fletcher
Kevin@stmmts.org

Dir. of Communications, Kathleen Bellamy
Kathleen@stmmts.org

Dir. of Student Connections, Ron Whitt
Ron.Whitt@stmmts.org

Office Assistant, Sue Reier
Sue@stmmts.org

VESTRY

Sara Warnick, Senior Warden
Andrew Wright, Junior Warden
Caitlin Dronfield
Kristin Drummond
Bob Henry
Sharon Muniz
Robby Stevens

Service Volunteers

Ushers | Jackie Harbourne, Marie Thomen, Zena Horaibi, Emory Henderson, Jim Helein

Lectors | Dick Almarode, Sue Reier

Eucharistic Ministers | Darrell Breed, Lisa Lintelman, Heather Tomaszek, Haley Elliott, Gerry Wardell

Tellers | Dan Robertson

Flower Guild | Martha Olson, Pam Hart, Priscilla Shingleton

Altar Guild | Elly Hilz, Tom Leary, Sue Reier