



SAINT MATTHEW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Lent

THE PRACTICE OF
LOVE & BELONGING

Fifth Sunday in Lent • Sunday, April 6, 2025

EASTER

with St. Matthew's

6:00 AM | Outdoor Easter Sunrise Service & Brunch

Start your Easter day with a breathtaking Outdoor Sunrise Service, featuring Paschal fire and music by Kevin and Christine Merola-Wenzel. Afterward, enjoy a festive Easter Brunch in the Parish Hall.

9:30 AM | Festival Easter Service

Join us for an uplifting Festival Worship led by the 930 Band and Horn Trio, as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Your kids will love our 'taste of VBS' Easter program.

10:30 AM | Annual Easter Egg Hunt & Meet with the Easter Bunny

Join us for our annual Easter egg hunt (only 1 this year) between the 9:30 and 11:15 AM services.

11:15 AM | Classic Easter Service

Experience a heartfelt celebration with Choir, Flute, and Strings as we mark the resurrection of our Lord. Plus, our Children's Easter Drama Workshop gives your kids the chance to step into the Easter story and make it their own.

stmtts.org/Easter

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.stmmts.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 visit our website: stmmts.org/baptism or contact our office via email at Office@stmmts.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:

Sean, Sieg, Chuck, Lea, Bonnie, Arthur, John G, Glo, Deb, Teresa, Mel, Eric, Debbie, Marshall, Ruth, Rennie, Arianna, Jeanine, Hunter, Robyn, Emma, Frances, Christy, Nick, Gus, Aldana, Clint, Chelsea, Edgar, Rusty, Anne, Shelby, Kiera, Marty, Candace, Gerry, Becky, RL, Panita, Jane, Kevin, John, Ome, Renee, Grace, Kristina, Freya, Ava, Steve, Natalie, Kristen, Sophia, Sadie, Shaundra, Larry, Don, Fabiano, Luke, John, Brenda, Pete, Valorie, Cathy, Naomi, Dan, Christy, Dennis, Diane, Brent, Mary, Sybil, Judy, James, Rick, Avery, Emory, Mario, Molly, Cooper, Rose, Sarah, Jessica, Jay, Amanda, Venessa, Desira, Rose, Sarah, Natalie D, Natalie S, Paul, Katy, Randy, Maura, Kaufman Family, Rinker Family, Blair Family, Colon Family, Suaib Family, Gonzalez Family, Omar, Mona, Tala, Dima, Carter, Jean, Martha, Tony, Nancy, Clara, Elijah, Maria, Bob, Cindy, Don, Megan, Ian, Marielle, Sharp Family, Mila, Moreau Family, Pat, Heather, Marilyn, Katie, Madison, Karen, Marcy, Barbara, Katt, Jenn, Hannah, and Charles.

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 • Isaiah 43:16-21	
Psalm • 126	
Second Reading • Philippians 3:4b-14	
Gospel • John 12:1-8	
Sermon	The Reverend C. Robert Merola, Jr.
Nicene Creed	358
Prayers of the People, Form I	383
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	366
Blessing	
Dismissal	366

9:30 AM SERVICE

The Word of God

Opening Song

Opening Sentences

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

God's mercy endures forever.

Opening Prayer (stand through the Gospel)

Song • Shelter

Song • Chain Breaker

Gospel • John 12:1-8

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.stmtts.org/give)

Great Thanksgiving (stand through Communion)

Eucharistic Prayer

Sanctus • Kyrie

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Song • Even If

Closing Prayer

Blessing

Closing Song • Survivor

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 • Isaiah 43:16-21	
Psalm • 126	
Second Reading • Philippians 3:4b-14	
Gospel • John 12:1-8	
Sermon	The Reverend C. Robert Merola, Jr.
Nicene Creed	358
Prayers of the People, Form I	383
Peace	360
Announcements & Welcome	
The Holy Communion	
Offertory Anthem • Lord, Lead Us Day by Day	Handel-Hopson
Doxology • #380 vs. 3 • Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow	
Great Thanksgiving • Eucharistic Prayer B	367
Proper Preface	379
Sanctus • Hymnal S130 • Holy, Holy, Holy Lord	
The Lord's Prayer	364
Breaking of the Bread	364
Invitation to Communion	
Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn #645 v. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 • The King of Love	
Post-Communion Prayer	366
Blessing	
Procession into the World Hymn #691 • My Faith Looks Up to Thee	
Dismissal	366



5 LENT

Fifth Sunday in Lent



Revised Common Lectionary

COLLECT

Sunday, April 6, 2025

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: Isaiah 43:16-21

THUS SAYS THE LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: “Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to

give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.”

Refrain

The Lord has done great things for us and
we are glad indeed.

Psalm 126 *from the Book of Common Prayer*

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, * then were we like those who dream. | us, * and we are glad indeed. |
| 2 | Then was our mouth filled with laughter, * and our tongue with shouts of joy. | 5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, * like the watercourses of the Negev. |
| 3 | Then they said among the nations, * “The Lord has done great things for them.” | 6 Those who sowed with tears * will reap with songs of joy. |
| 4 | The Lord has done great things for | 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, * will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves. |

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

IF ANYONE ELSE has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss

because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL: John 12:1-8

SIX DAYS BEFORE the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Used by permission. Collects and Psalter translation are from The Book of Common Prayer, 1979.

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Holy Week



WALK THROUGH HOLY WEEK
Maundy Thursday April 17, 7 PM
Good Friday

April 18, 12PM and 7 PM

Holy Saturday

April 19, 10 AM

Evening services will be livestreamed and nursery will be available.



SUNDAY FUN DAYS!

Join us at 10:30AM on Sundays for fun, fellowship, and delicious treats.

Sun. April 6: HRTS Packing

Backpack Buddies is now serving more than 300 children per week!

Sun. April 13: PEEPS Day

Love them or hate them, join us for Peep tasting and activities.



LENTEN DISCUSSION SERIES
**HEALING POWER OF LOVE
IN DIVIDED TIMES**



WEDNESDAYS IN LENT AT 6:30PM
STMTTS.ORG/LENT

Palm Sunday

PALM SUNDAY AT 8, 9:30, 11AM
SUNDAY, APRIL 13

Join us for a special worship service including the reading of the Passion by our youth. All services begin outside, remembering Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem in the last days of his life with waving palms, singing, and processing.

Children are invited to join in a procession around the grounds. Gather at the garden at 9:20AM.



PARISH WORK DAY
SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 9AM-12PM

Help us prepare the church and grounds for Easter. Stay for one hour or whatever portion of the morning you are free. All help is greatly appreciated! If you'd like to work outside, bring gloves and tools.

We'll have activities for all ages—including kids! Our youngest friends are invited to spend time with Miss Cana in the church nursery.

Enjoy coffee & donuts while we work!



YOUTH GROUP

Activities, connection, and conversation designed specifically for middle & high school students.

Scan the QR Code to stay up to date with all the youth happenings, or contact our Youth Minister, Ben at Ben.Merola@stmtts.org.



DONUTS & DISCOVERY Sundays at 9:30AM

Students are invited to join us for donuts and engaging faith discussions tailored just for them.

PALM SUNDAY PASSION

Middle and high school students are invited to participate in reading the Passion during services on Palm Sunday, April 13. Youth should attend practice at 10:30AM on Sunday, April 6.



FRIDAY FLASH/NEWSLETTER

Stay up to date on all the happenings at St. Matt's. Email Office@stmtts.org to receive our weekly email, The Friday Flash, or monthly printed newsletter.



SERVE OTHERS THIS EASTER STMTTS.ORG/EASTERHELP

Easter brings many guests to St. Matthew's and it is our great privilege to welcome them. There are many ways to serve on Easter and in the days leading up to Easter. From creating centerpieces or sharing home baked sweet treats for brunch following the sunrise service to offering parking assistance or setting up for the egg hunt, there are many ways to be involved. Please visit the link above to select an opportunity to serve.



SUMMER MISSION TRIP AUGUST 2-8 TO FLORIDA!

Join us as we serve communities, grow in faith, and make lasting memories. Before we head home, we'll take our minions on a detour to Universal Studios and spend our last day making magical memories and having big fun!

Register using the link below, and make a \$150 deposit today to reserve your space. Payment plans and scholarships are available.



BACKPACK BUDDIES STERLINGHELP.ORG

Backpack Buddies (HRTS) requests have increased, and we are now serving over 300 local school children. Join us on Tuesdays at noon and the first Sunday of each month at 10:30 AM to pack food.

Do you know a teen looking for service hours? We are actively seeking people or companies interested in hosting neighborhood or company food drives.

Learn about feeding children in our community by emailing Hilary at Hilary.Hultman-Lee@hrtsterling.org.



DEDICATE EASTER FLOWERS STMTTS.ORG/FLOWERS

You're invited to help us fill the church with flowers on Easter Sunday. Dedications for Easter flowers are due Palm Sunday, April 13. Flower dedications are a joyful way to celebrate special occasions, give thanks, or honor the memory of loved ones. Any donation amount is welcome using the link above.



EXPLORE BAPTISM - APRIL 13 STMTTS.ORG/BAPTISMCLASS

If you or your child would like to be baptized, or are interested in learning more about baptism, Seminarian Gabe Oakes invites you to join our Baptism Preparation Class on Sunday, April 13 at 10:30AM. Baptisms will be held, for those who so choose, on Sunday, April 27 at all three services.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 21-25, 2025

VBS 2025 will guide kids on the ultimate Alaskan adventure. Pointing them toward Jesus, True North VBS shows them that he is a faithful friend we can always trust—our True North.

Register today or share with a friend at stmtts.org/VBS.

Make a difference in the life of a child this summer. Adult and teen volunteers are needed to make VBS the best week of summer. Sign up today using the link above. Documentation of service hours will be provided.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MATT'S

Sunday, April 6th

- 8:00 am - Rite II Worship Service
- 9:30 am - Festival Worship Service
- 9:30 am - Faith Factory
- 9:30 am - Middle & High School Student
- 10:30 am - Backpack Buddies Packing
- 11:00 am - Classic Worship Service
- 2:00 pm - On That Note Rehearsal

Monday, April 7th

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

Tuesday, April 8th

- 9:00 am - All Ages Read Together
- 9:00 am - Staff Meeting
- 12:00 pm - HRTS/Backpack Buddies Packing

- 6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7:00 pm - Education for Ministry
- 7:00 pm - Naturalization Class
- 7:00 pm - Band Rehearsal
- 8:00 pm - Compline (on line)

Wednesday, April 9th

- 10:30 am - Outside Book Group
- 12:00 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 6:30 pm - Lenten Soup Supper
- 7:00 pm - Lent Book Discussion
- 8:00 pm - Compline
- 8:00 pm - Women's NA Group

Thursday, April 10th

- 9:00 am - All Ages Read Together
- 12:00 pm - Bible Study with Fr. Rob
- 6:15 pm - Girl Scouts
- 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal

Friday, April 11th

- 7:00 pm - Old Dominion Dancers

Saturday, April 12th

- 8:00 am - Men's Group
- 9:00 am - Parish Wide Spring Work Day
- 6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7:00 pm - Narcotics Anonymous
- 8:30 pm - Narcotics Anonymous

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- April 6th: Michael Horrigan, Heidi Lathrop
- April 7th: Gwen Lee
- April 8th: Elly Hilz, Robby Stevens
- April 9th: Anne Beltrane, Kaylyn Burawkowski, David Denholm
- April 10th: Katherine Gomez
- April 11th: Olivia Sta. Ana
- April 12th: Callahan Massa

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- April 7th: Christy & Mark Hrozencik
- April 12th: Vicki & Peter Nelson, Jenny & Matt Greenlund

ATTENDANCE March 30, 2025

Time or Place	Attendance Online	Attendance In-Person
8:00 AM	14	33
9:30 AM	40	177
11:00 AM	12	55
Faith Factory		25
Youth Group		9

HELP SUPPORT ST. MATTHEW'S MINISTRIES



WEBSITE



MOBILE



CASH/
CHECK

Checks can be
made payable to
"St. Matthew's
Church"

For more ways to give and
information on automatic giving:

stmmts.org/give