

To Know and Share God's Love

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

**Fourth Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 19, 2023**

EASTER

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

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

CELEBRATE EASTER! SUNDAY, APRIL 9

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



**EASTER
FOOD
BAGS**

EASTER BAGS RETURN MARCH 21 STMSTS.ORG/EASTERBAGS

Easter is a wonderful time to share hope and joy in the community. Help provide 200 bags to share with families this Easter! Take home a bag today to fill with requested items. You can also visit the link above to download the shopping list or purchase items online with direct shipping to St. Matt's. Please consider sharing with friends or co-workers who may also be interested in helping. Packers and shoppers are also needed. See the link above.

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 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:

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, and Steve.

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

8:00 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 • 1 Samuel 16:1-13	
Psalm • 23	
Second Reading • Ephesians 5:8-14	
Gospel • John 9:1-41	
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 • House of the Rising Sun/Amazing Grace

Opening Sentences

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

God's mercy endures forever.

Opening Prayer (stand through the Gospel)

Song • Joy

Song • Speak to the Mountains

Gospel • John 9:1-41

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 • Greater Still

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.	
Decalogue	350
Confession of Sin and Absolution	352
Collect of the Day (Contemporary)	Insert
Lessons	
First Reading • 1 Samuel 16:1-13	
Psalm • 23	
Second Reading • Ephesians 5:8-14	
Gospel • John 9:1-41	
Sermon	The Reverend C. Robert Merola, Jr.
Nicene Creed	358
Prayers of the People	
Peace	360
Announcements & Welcome	
The Holy Communion	
Offertory Anthem •	
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 •	
Post-Communion Prayer	365
Blessing	
Procession into the World •	
Dismissal	366



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



DONUTS & DISCOVERY

Was Jesus's resurrection a hoax? Maybe he wasn't dead, after all, but resuscitated? Was the body stolen from the tomb? This week in Donuts & Discovery take a look at the science and evidence of the resurrection and decide for yourself.

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



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.



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.



COFFEE HOUR KIDS **STMTTS.ORG/EGGHUNT**

Elementary aged kids are invited for activities while parents enjoy fellowship in the parish hall. Grab a snack and head to classroom two for fun! March 19 & 26 - Stuff Eggs
Click the link above to contribute toys and candy for our egg hunts.



DEDICATE EASTER FLOWERS STMTTTS.ORG/FLOWERS

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



**SPRING LUNCH MEET-UP
FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 11:45AM**
Head over to Virginia Kitchen (450 Elden St, Herndon, VA) for lunch, friends, and fellowship.

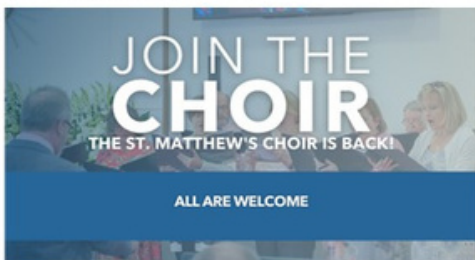


**GAME NIGHT
FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 6PM-9PM**



WEDNESDAYS AT CHURCH STMTTTS.ORG/LENT

This Lent, we invite you to spend time with God by joining us on Wednesdays from 7 to 8PM. We'll begin with a brief reflection, followed by discussion as we consider how we can deepen our understanding of the following: March 22: Why Me? March 29: What is Salvation



JOIN THE CHOIR!
The choir is preparing for Palm Sunday and Easter, and we'd love to have you join us. For more information, contact Kevin at kevin@stmmts.org.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JULY 24-29, 2023, 5:30-8:30PM
STMTTTS.ORG/VBS**



4 LENT

Fourth Sunday in Lent



Revised Common Lectionary

COLLECT

Sunday, March 19, 2023

Traditional

GRACIOUS FATHER, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which giveth life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Contemporary

GRACIOUS FATHER, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

THE LORD SAID to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one."

Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Refrain

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

Psalm 23 *from the Book of Common Prayer*

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want. | rod and your staff, they
comfort me. |
| 2 He makes me lie down in
green pastures * and leads
me beside still waters. | 5 You spread a table before
me in the presence of those
who trouble me; * you have
anointed my head with
oil, and my cup is running
over. |
| 3 He revives my soul * and
guides me along right
pathways for his Name's
sake. | 6 Surely your goodness and
mercy shall follow me all
the days of my life, * and I
will dwell in the house of the
LORD for ever. |
| 4 Though I walk through
the valley of the shadow of
death, I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me; your | |

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

ONCE YOU WERE darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

AS JESUS WALKED ALONG, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.” The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the

parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

Scripture Text Bulletin Insert No. RCL 202012A-RCL. 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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THIS WEEK AT ST. MATT'S

Sunday, March 19th

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
6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
6:30 pm - Girl Scout Troop 2274
8:15 pm - Narcotics Anonymous

Monday, March 20th

9:00 am - Classroom of Discovery
12:00 pm - Social Time with Candace
5:00 pm - Girl Scout Troop 2157
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 21st

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
7:30 pm - Sandwich Generation
8:00 pm - Compline

Wednesday, March 22nd

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 23rd

9:00 am - All Ages Read Together
10:45 pm - Anam Cara
2:00 pm - Food Organization
8:00 pm - Compline

Friday, March 24th

11:45 pm - Lunch Fellowship Outing
8:00 pm - Compline

Saturday, March 25th

8:00 am - Men's Group
10:00 am - Easter Bag Packing
6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
7:00 pm - Narcotics Anonymous
8:30 pm - Narcotics Anonymous

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 19th: Dean D'Ambrosi
March 20th: Anne Pope
March 21st: Carter Glascock
March 22nd: Maria Palmer, Wes Clark
March 25th: Barbara Thomas, Amy Schrock

ATTENDANCE

Sunday, March 12, 2023

Time or Place	Attendance Online	Attendance In-Person
8:00 AM	13	25
9:30 AM	30	100
11:00 AM	19	33
Faith Factory		16

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