A dark grey silhouette of a palm frond, positioned to the left of the text.

palm sunday

Hosannah in the highest

8:00 AM

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church | 201 E. Frederick Drive | Sterling, VA
stmmts.org

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:

Zach, Arjun, Scotty, Brad, Myers Family, Phil, Terry, Kathy, Pat, Mary W., Sanjay, Susanna, Fabiano, McKeown Family, Viola, Harry R, Karter, Addie, Mercedes Family, Crystal, Benjamin, Sieg, Chuck, Lea, Bonnie, Arthur, John G, Gina, Glo, James, Sean, Deb, Teresa, Mel, Eric, Debbie, Marshall, Ruth, Rennie, Webster, Julia, Madison, Nora, Robert, Missy, Tom, Lynne, Arianna, Amy, Jackie, Ann, Kay, Jane, Panita, Mary Ann, Sharp Family, Amelia, Kassadi, Kyle, Samantha, Dawn, Rudy, Kay, Clarissa, Huxsten, Dottie, Jonathan, Ageanna, Becky, RL, Priscilla, Darla, Gerry, Paul, Jenny, Reena, Sarah, Brandi, Barbara, Michael, Peggy, Emmett, Cathleen, Ray, BMR, Asley, Robyn, Emma, Frances, Christy, Nick, Gus, Jim, Bill, Aldana, Clint, Chealsie, Edgar, Shelby, Marty, Verdun, Candace, Rusty, Anne, William, Billie, Brown family, firefighters and first responders, Kevin, John, and Renee.

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 • Jeremiah 31:31-34	
Psalm • 119:9-16	
Second Reading • Hebrews 5:5-10	
Gospel • John 12:20-33	
Sermon	The Reverend C. Robert Merola, Jr.
Nicene Creed	358
Prayers of the People, Form III	387
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

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

The Word of God

Lessons

First Reading • Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm • 31:9-16

Second Reading • Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel • The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

*Customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted. Stand at the verse which mentions the arrival at Golgatha (Mark 15:22).

Homily

Kara Laughlin, Seminarian

Prayers of the People

392

Peace

360

Announcements & Welcome

The Holy Communion

Offertory

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Great Thanksgiving • Eucharistic Prayer B

367

Sanctus

362

The Lord's Prayer

364

Breaking of the Bread

364

Agnus Dei

407

Invitation to Communion

364

Communion of the People

Post-Communion Prayer

366

Blessing

Silent Recessional and Dismissal

366

The Word of God

Opening Song • Landslide

Opening Sentences

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

God's mercy endures forever.

Opening Prayer (stand through the Gospel)

Song • Move

Song • Sunday's Coming

Gospel • John 12:20-33

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

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Song • Scars

Closing Prayer

Blessing

Closing Song • My Story

Dismissal

The Word of God

Gospel • The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Mark

*Customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted. Stand at the
verse which mentions the arrival at Golgatha (Mark 15:22).

Homily

Kara Laughlin, Seminarian

Prayers of the People

Peace

Announcements & Welcome

The Holy Communion

Great Thanksgiving

Sanctus • *Kyrie*

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Song • *Lead Me to the Cross*

Silent Recessional and 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 • Jeremiah 31:31-34	
Psalm • 119:9-16	
Second Reading • Hebrews 5:5-10	
Gospel • John 12:20-33	
Sermon	The Reverend C. Robert Merola, Jr.
Nicene Creed	358
Prayers of the People	
Peace	360
Announcements & Welcome	
The Holy Communion	
Offertory Anthem • His Eye is on the Sparrow	
Doxology • #380 vs. 3 • Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow	
Great Thanksgiving • Eucharistic Prayer B	367
Proper Preface	379
Sanctus • S129	
The Lord's Prayer	364
Breaking of the Bread	364
Angus Dei	407
Invitation to Communion	
Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn • #474 • When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (verses 1, 2, 3, & 4)	
Post-Communion Prayer	366
Blessing	
Procession into the World • Hymn #516 • Come Down, O Love Divine (verses 1, 2, & 3)	
Dismissal	366

The Word of God

Lessons

First Reading • Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm • 31:9-16

Second Reading • Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel • The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to

Gospel • The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Mark

*Customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted. Stand at the verse which mentions the arrival at Golgatha (Mark 15:22).

Homily

Kara Laughlin, Seminarian

Prayers of the People

Peace

360

Announcements & Welcome

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem • *Ride On, King Jesus*

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Doxology • *Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow (verse 3)*

Great Thanksgiving • Eucharistic Prayer B 367

Sanctus • Hymnal #362 (verse 1 only)

The Lord's Prayer 364

Breaking of the Bread 364

Fraction Anthem • S163 • Agnus Dei

Invitation to Communion

Communion of the People

Communion Hymn • #172 • Were You There? (all verses)

Post-Communion Prayer 366

Blessing

Silent Recessional and Dismissal 366



FAITH FACTORY
Unplugged

9:30 AM

DONUTS & DISCOVERY



10:30 AM



**YOUTH GROUP
EVENTS**

YOUTH GROUP ON SUNDAYS

Faith Factory Unplugged: 6-8th graders, 9:30 AM, classroom four. Bible study and life lessons.

Donuts and Discovery: Middle and high schoolers, 10:30 AM, in classroom one, but moving to 9:30 AM on April 7. Stay updated with Band App! Scan the QR code to join for group updates, chats, & event reminders.



YOUTH EVENTS

STMTTS.ORG/YOUTHEVENTS

Launch Trampoline Park

Wednesday, March 27th
Meet at Launch Herndon 4-6 PM
Cost: \$10

Join Ben at Launch for an Indoor Trampoline Park Party!
Details and RSVP can be found at the link above.

Service Event at Good Shepherd

Wednesday, April 10, 2 PM - 5 PM
Join Ben and help out the community with yard work + optional pillow drive. Bring extra rakes & gloves to work with!

STMTTS.ORG/YOUTHEVENTS



**2024 YOUTH GROUP
SUMMER MISSION TRIP**

SUMMER 2024 YOUTH MISSION STMTTS.ORG/YOUTHMISSION

Register now for the youth mission trip, June 23-29, 2024. Rising sixth - twelfth graders (and chaperones) are invited. The goal this year is to help students navigate the many influences in their lives and encourage them to look toward Jesus, the greatest influencer of all time, so they use their influence to positively change their culture. Find more details and register at the link above.



The 
CHOSEN

SEASON 4

STREAMING & DISCUSSION

THE CHOSEN - SEASON 4

Join us on Wednesdays at 7PM or Thursdays at 12PM starting April 3 and 4 to watch and discuss episodes of The Chosen, Season 4. The Chosen is a historical drama based on the life of Jesus. You do not need to have watched previous seasons, but you may do so on the Angel Studios app.



EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS

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 today, Palm Sunday, March 24. Dedications are a way to celebrate, give thanks, or honor the memory of loved ones.

Any amount is welcome. Submit donations at stmtts.org/flowers.



FAITH FACTORY KIDS
EVERY SUNDAY AT 9:30 AM &
ALSO AT 11:00 AM STARTING
APRIL 7

FAITH FACTORY STMTTS.ORG/FAITHFACTORY

Faith Factory is St. Matthew's Sunday programming for kids ages four - fifth grade. It's a chance to learn about God's love for us through Bible stories, relationship building, songs, art projects, and more! Students are invited to meet our teachers in the classrooms off the parish hall. Ask an usher if you need directions.

We are very excited to announce that starting Sunday, April 7, we will be offering Faith Factory class for children at 9:30 & 11AM. Questions? Email Hilary at FaithFactory@stmtts.org



EASTER VOLUNTEERS

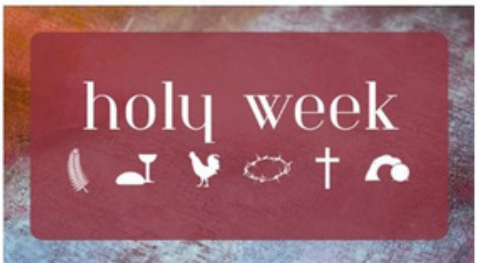
VOLUNTEER THIS EASTER

Easter brings many guests and it is our great privilege to welcome them.

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve..."

There are many ways to serve on Easter and in the days leading up to Easter. Please visit the link below to select an opportunity to serve.

STMTTS.ORG/EASTERHELP



holy week

WALK THROUGH HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday March 28 7 PM

Good Friday

March 29, 12PM and 7 PM

Holy Saturday

March 30, 10 AM

Immediately following the Holy Saturday service, volunteers are invited to help prepare for Easter brunch in the kitchen.



eclipse
stop and see the SON

NEW SERMON SERIES
Beginning April 14th

THIS WEEK AT ST. MATT'S

Sunday, March 24th

- 8:00 am - Rite I Worship Service
- 9:30 am - Festival Worship Service
- 10:30 am - Donuts & Discovery for Middle & High School Students
- 11:00 am - Classic Worship Service
- 12:30 pm - Young Professionals
- 6:30 pm - Girl Scout Troop 2274

Monday, March 25th

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

Tuesday, March 26th

- 9:30 am - All Ages Read Together
- 10:00 am - Staff Meeting
- 12:00 pm - Backpack Buddies Packing
- 6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7:00 pm - Band Rehearsal
- 8:00 pm - Compline

Wednesday, March 27th

- 12:00 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 4:00 pm - Youth Group: Launch Trampoline Park
- 8:00 pm - Women's NA Group
- 8:00 pm - Compline

Thursday, March 28th

- 9:30 am - All Ages Read Together
- 7:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Service
- 8:00 pm - Compline

Friday, March 29th

- 12:00 pm - Good Friday Service
- 7:00 pm - Good Friday Service
- 8:00 pm - Compline

Saturday, March 30th

- 8:00 am - Men's Group
- 9:00 am - Altar Guild Polishing and Easter Set-up
- 10:00 am - Holy Saturday Service
- 6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7:00 pm - Narcotics Anonymous
- 8:30 pm - Narcotics Anonymous

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- March 24th: Sophia Bruce
- March 25th: Barbara Thomas, Amy Schrock
- March 26th: Kesean Jacoby
- March 27th: Kristin Drummond
- March 28th: George Thurston
- March 29th: Cooper Kelly, Kayla Nelson
- March 30th: Kimberly Crawley, David Middleton

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- March 27th: Annette & Mike Brennan

ATTENDANCE

Sunday, March 17, 2024

Time or Place	Attendance Online	Attendance In-Person
8:00 AM	None	29
9:30 AM	None	142
11:00 AM	17	35
Faith Factory		26

HELP SUPPORT ST. MATTHEW'S MINISTRIES



GIVE ONLINE



stmmts.org/give



venmo



@stmmtssterling



CASH OR
CHECK

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

For more ways to give and information on automatic giving:

stmmts.org/give



PALM SUNDAY

Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday



Revised Common Lectionary

Sunday, March 24, 2024

COLLECT

Traditional

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who, of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Contemporary

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

THE LORD GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

answer? What is it that they testify against you?" But Jesus was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" Jesus said, "I am; and 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,' and 'coming with the clouds of heaven.'" Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?" The whole council condemned Jesus as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophecy!" The guards also took Jesus over and beat him. While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." But Peter denied it, saying, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about." And Peter went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." But again Peter denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean." But Peter began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about." At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And Peter broke down and wept.

[Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)]

AS SOON as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered him, "You say so." Then the chief priests accused Jesus of many things. Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed. Now at the festival Pilate used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder

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.

GOSPEL: Mark 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39, [40-47]

IT WAS TWO DAYS before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for they said, “Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.” While Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger, “Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.” And they scolded her. But Jesus said, “Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.” Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray Jesus to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So Judas began to look for an opportunity to betray Jesus. On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, Jesus’ disciples said to him, “Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” So Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying to them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to Jesus to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. [*Silence may be kept.*] And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way Jesus breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!" [There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow Jesus and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem. When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if Jesus were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether Jesus had been dead for some time. When Pilate learned from the centurion that Jesus was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. Joseph then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.]

Scripture Text Bulletin Insert No. 7 RCL-NRSV. 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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BLPALMA/301112



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.

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Ushers | Fred Brittain, Emory Henderson, Michael Horrigan, Lorenzo Martini, Sharon Ferguson

Lectors | Martha Olson, Sue Reier

Eucharistic Ministers/LEMs | Darrell Breed, Debbie Majewski, Tom Leary, Lisa Lintelman, Gerry Wardell

Tellers | Dan Robertson

Flower Guild | Martha Olson, Pam Hart, Priscilla Shingleton

Altar Guild | Lisa Lintelman, Linda Merola, Sue Reier