

## To Know and Share God's Love

*St. Matthew's Episcopal Church*

**Third Sunday of Easter  
Sunday, April 14, 2024**



### **LIFE IS BETTER IN COMMUNITY STMTTS.ORG/GROUPS**

Our faith journey becomes even more enriching when accompanied by laughter and shared moments with friends. While meeting people on Sunday mornings is wonderful, the real magic of building lasting friendships, essential for nurturing your faith, happens in the warmth of a smaller group setting.

That's why we encourage everyone at St. Matthew's to become a part of a Group. Visit the link above to find the right group for you.



**eclipse**  
stop and see the SON

NEW SERMON SERIES  
Beginning April 14th

### **ECLIPSE, STOP AND SEE THE SON SUNDAYS STARTING APRIL 14**

We hope you'll join us each Sunday in April for our new sermon series, Eclipse. This series will encourage us to pause amidst life's busyness and distractions, compelling us to gaze intently at the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

We are collecting eclipse glasses to share with those in other parts of the world who do not have easy access to glasses. Please bring your glasses to church by Sunday, April 28.

## 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](http://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](http://stmmts.org/Baptism) or contact our office via email at [Office@stmmts.org](mailto: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, Renee, Grace, Kristina, and Wesley.

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

# 8 AM SERVICE

## The Word of God

Opening Prayer	
Acclamation and Collect for Purity	355
Holy God	356
Collect of the Day (contemporary)	Insert
Lessons	
First Reading • Acts 3:12-19	
Psalm • 4	
Second Reading • 1 John 3:1-7	
Gospel • Luke 24:36b-48	
Sermon	The Reverend C. Robert Merola, Jr.
Nicene Creed	358
Prayers of the People, Form III	387
Confession of Sin and Absolution	359-360
Peace	360
Announcements & Welcome	

## The Holy Communion

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

*(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](http://www.stmtts.org/give))*

*All things come of thee, O Lord,  
**And of thine own have we given thee.***

Great Thanksgiving • Eucharistic Prayer A	361
The Lord's Prayer	364
Breaking of the Bread	364
Invitation to Communion	364
Communion of the People	
Post-Communion Prayer	365
Blessing	
Procession into the World	366

# 9:30 AM SERVICE

## The Word of God

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Opening Songs (stand through the Gospel)

Song • Running Home

Song • Shelter

Gospel • Luke 24:36b-48

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](http://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 • Come to the Table

Closing Prayer (stand through dismissal)

Blessing

Closing Song • Hallelujah Anyway

Dismissal

# 11 AM SERVICE

## The Word of God

Processional Hymn • #8 • Morning Has Broken (vs. 1, 2, & 3)	
Acclamation and Collect for Purity	355
Gloria • S280	
Collect of the Day (Contemporary)	Insert
Lessons	
First Reading • Acts 3:12-19	
Psalm • 4	
Second Reading • 1 John 3:1-7	
Gospel • Luke 24:36b-48	
Sermon	The Reverend C. Robert Merola, Jr.
Nicene Creed	358
Prayers of the People	
Confession of Sin and Absolution	359-360
Peace	360
Announcements & Welcome	

## The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem • When the Saints Go Marching In	
Presentation of Tithes and Offerings	
Doxology • #380 vs. 3 • Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow	
Great Thanksgiving • Eucharistic Prayer A	361
Sanctus • Hymnal S129 • Holy, Holy, Holy Lord	
The Lord's Prayer	364
Breaking of the Bread	364
Invitation to Communion	
Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn • #693 • Just As I Am, Without One Plea (all verses)	
Post-Communion Prayer	365
Blessing	
Procession into the World • #460 • Alleluia! Sing to Jesus! (vs. 1, 2, & 3)	
Dismissal	366





## YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

### YOUTH GROUP ON SUNDAYS

**Donuts and Discovery:** Middle and high schoolers are invited to meet on Sundays at 9:30 AM. High school students will meet in classroom five (music room) with Ben and middle school students will meet in classroom four with Tom. Each group will enjoy donuts and discussion around a new series, Follow.

Regardless of what you believe, Regardless of how you behave, Jesus invites you to . . . Follow.

Stay updated with all the youth happenings by using Band App! Scan the QR code to join for group updates, chats, & event reminders.



### Earth Day - Great Falls Hike Sunday, April 21, 11 AM - 1 PM

Join Ben for a hike to celebrate Earth Day. We'll carpool together from church. Bring lunch, water bottle, and wear sturdy shoes.



## 2024 YOUTH GROUP SUMMER MISSION TRIP

### SUMMER 2024 YOUTH MISSION STMTTS.ORG/YOUTHMISSION

Have you been thinking about joining the summer youth mission trip? Maybe you're registered, but have questions. Join our Mission Trip Leaders, Ben Merola and Jae Mitchell on **Sunday, April 28 at 10:30AM** for a short Q&A. Meet in classroom four off of the parish hall.

Register now for the youth mission trip, June 23-29, 2024. Rising sixth - twelfth graders (and chaperones) are invited. Find more details and register at the link above.



### MEMORIAL WEEKEND PICNIC SUNDAY, MAY 26, 11:30AM

Save the date as we join together to celebrate the start of summer. We'll worship together at St. Matthew's at 8AM and 9:30AM and then enjoy a picnic lunch and games. More details coming soon.

If you are willing to help make this a fun filled day, please contact Miriam at [Office@stmtts.org](mailto:Office@stmtts.org).



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

## MESSAGE ON THE GO

CHECK OUT OUR WEEKLY PODCAST

Listen at [stmtts.org/podcast](http://stmtts.org/podcast)

Available on Spotify

Available on Apple Podcasts

Available on Google Podcasts



SUPPORT BACKPACK BUDDIES

### BACKPACK BUDDIES/HRTS STERLINGHELP.ORG

Backpack Buddies packs food at 12PM on Tuesdays in the Classroom on the Hill. We also accept donations of shelf-stable, single-serve pantry items (e.g. tuna, snacks, fruit cups).

HRTS is always looking for volunteers to organize local food drives to help collect donations while spreading the word about the good work HRTS is doing in our local community. This is a great way to earn service hours.

Share the message of HRTS and follow us on social media @hungerresponse. If you'd like to learn more about how you can help fight childhood hunger in our community, please contact Hilary Hultman-Lee by email at Hilary.Hultman-Lee@hrtsterling.org

Celebrate  
Earth Day

### EARTH DAY SUNDAY, APRIL 21

Join us on April 21 to celebrate Earth Day. Come for worship and pick up a pack of seeds to bring joy and beauty to your garden.

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

We are very excited to announce that starting Sundays in April we are offering Faith Factory class for children at both 9:30 AM and 11 AM worship services. Questions? Contact Hilary at FaithFactory@stmtts.org

ST. MATTHEW'S  
GAME NIGHT

### GAME NIGHT FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 6-9PM

Do you love tabletop games? Parks, Forbidden Desert, Sushi Go, Wing Span, Who Killed Dr. Lucky? There are so many great games! Which is your favorite? Bring your favorite game and a snack to share, as we hang out and try new games. We meet the last Friday of each month.



# WOMEN'S MINISTRY

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY [STMTTS.ORG/WOMENSGROUPS](http://STMTTS.ORG/WOMENSGROUPS)

Join the women of St. Matthew's for a volunteer event at Women Giving Back on Sun., April 28, 1 - 3:30PM. RSVP required using the link above.

Participate in the Letters from Love small group led by Sara Warnick on Sunday, April 21, 1PM-3PM. We meet at St. Matthew's and explore God's unconditional love and how to tap into that for nourishment, direction, and peace. For additional details visit the link above.

## MEN'S GROUP

SATURDAYS AT 8 AM  
IN THE TRAILER & ON ZOOM.  
[mensgroup@stmtts.org](mailto:mensgroup@stmtts.org)

## MEN'S GROUP SATURDAYS AT 8AM

All men are welcome to meet in the classrooms on the hill for fellowship, Bible study, and encouragement. Want to learn more? Contact [mensgroup@stmtts.org](mailto:mensgroup@stmtts.org).

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

## FRIDAY FLASH

Weekly Newsletter

Email [office@stmtts.org](mailto:office@stmtts.org)  
to be added to the  
distribution list today!

## The CHOSEN

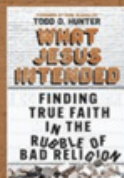
SEASON 4

STREAMING & DISCUSSION

## THE CHOSEN - SEASON 4

This April and May, you're invited to join us on Wednesdays at 7PM or Thursdays at 12PM 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.

## BREAD OF LIFE BOOK GROUP MONDAYS AT 7PM



## BREAD OF LIFE: BOOK GROUP MONDAYS AT 7PM

Join us in April as we continue reading *What Jesus Intended: Finding True Faith in the Rubble of Bad Religion*. We meet in classroom four and virtually. Join at any time.

Contact Darrell Breed at [Office@stmtts.org](mailto:Office@stmtts.org) for directions on how to join online or more information.

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

 @stmttssterling

 @StMatthewsEpiscopalChurch



y gave him a piece of broiled  
their presence. Then he said to  
at I spoke to you while I was  
written about me in the law  
the psalms must be fulfilled.”  
to understand the scriptures,  
s written, that the Messiah is  
ad on the third day, and that  
sins is to be proclaimed in  
ing from Jerusalem. You are



Revised Common Lectionary

3 EAS  
Third Sund

COLL

O GOD, whose blessed Son  
disciples in the breaking of  
the eyes of our faith, that w  
redeeming work; through the  
Lord, who liveth and reigneth  
Holy Spirit, one God, now an

O GOD, whose blessed Son  
disciples in the breaking of br  
that we may behold him in all  
and reigns with you, in the un  
now and for ever. *Amen.*

## FIRST READING

PETER ADDRESSED THE  
do you wonder at this, or wh  
by our own power or piety  
The God of Abraham, the G  
Jacob, the God of our ance  
Jesus, whom you handed ove  
of Pilate, though he had de  
rejected the Holy and Right  
murderer given to you, and  
whom God raised from the d  
And by faith in his name,

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man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

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## Refrain

You have put gladness in my heart, O Lord.

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### Psalm 4 *from the Book of Common Prayer*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Answer me when I call,<br>O God, defender of<br>my cause; * you set me<br>free when I am hard-<br>pressed; have mercy on<br>me and hear my prayer. | upon the LORD, he will<br>hear me.   |
| 2 “You mortals, how<br>long will you dishonor<br>my glory; * how long<br>will you worship dumb<br>idols and run after false<br>gods?”                | 4 Tremble, then, and do<br>not sin; * speak to your<br>heart in silence upon<br>your bed.  |
| 3 Know that the LORD<br>does wonders for the<br>faithful; * when I call  | 5 Offer the appointed<br>sacrifices * and put your<br>trust in the LORD.   |
|  | 6 Many are saying, “Oh,<br>that we might see<br>better times!” * Lift<br>up the light of your<br>countenance upon us,<br>O LORD. |

7 You have put gladness  
in my heart, \* more  
than when grain and  
wine and oil increase.

8 I lie down in peace; at  
once I fall asleep; \* for  
only you, LORD, make  
me dwell in safety.

### **SECOND READING:** 1 John 3:1-7

SEE WHAT LOVE the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

### **GOSPEL:** Luke 24:36b-48

JESUS STOOD AMONG the disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have

you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

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Scripture Text Bulletin Insert No. RCL 2021-16B-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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 **CHURCH  
PUBLISHING  
INCORPORATED**



## THIS WEEK AT ST. MATT'S

### Sunday, April 14th

- 8:00 am - Rite II Worship Service
- 9:30 am - Festival Worship Service
- 9:30 am - Faith Factory
- 9:30 am - Middle & High School Groups
- 11:00 am - Classic Worship Service
- 11:00 am - Faith Factory
- 12:15 pm - Kara's Lay Support Team
- 12:30 pm - Young Professionals
- 6:30 pm - Girl Scout Troop 2274

### Monday, April 15th

- 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 (on line)

### Tuesday, April 16th

- 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 - Education for Ministry
- 7:00 pm - Band Rehearsal
- 7:30 pm - Sandwich Generation Small Group
- 8:00 pm - Compline (on line)

### Wednesday, April 17th

- 12:00 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7:00 pm - Bible Study
- 8:00 pm - Women's NA Group
- 8:00 pm - Compline (on line)

### Thursday, April 18th

- 9:30 am - All Ages Read Together
- 11:00 am - Anam Cara (closed group)
- 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal
- 8:00 pm - Compline (on line)

### Friday, April 19th

- 7:00 pm - Old Dominion Dancers
- 8:00 pm - Compline (on line)

### Saturday, April 20th

- 8:00 am - Men's Group
- 9:00 am - Music Class
- 9:00 am - Reverence Committee
- 6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7:00 pm - Narcotics Anonymous
- 8:30 pm - Narcotics Anonymous

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- April 17th: Cate Roche, Matt Drummond
- April 18th: Dick Almarode
- April 19th: Emily Stevens, Carter Dunstan
- April 20th: Allison Dodd, Janet Hart

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- April 14th: Barbara & Lowell Thomas
- April 15th: Martha & Bob Olson
- April 20th: Erin & Tom Leary

## ATTENDANCE

April 7, 2024

Time or Place	Attendance Online	Attendance In-Person
8:00 AM	22	23
9:30 AM	26	161
11:00 AM	19	45
Faith Factory		26
Youth Group		6

## HELP SUPPORT

ST. MATTHEW'S MINISTRIES



GIVE ONLINE



[stmtts.org/give](https://stmtts.org/give)



venmo



@stmttssterling



CASH OR CHECK

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

For more ways to give and information on automatic giving:

[stmtts.org/give](https://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](https://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 Coordinators,  
Mason Turner II, Mason2.Turner@stmmts.org  
Colin Leary and Kaylyn Burakowski

Bookkeeper, Jean DeFuria  
Bookkeeper@stmmts.org

Director Choir, Kevin Fletcher  
Kevin@stmmts.org

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

Director, Faith Factory, Hilary Hultman-Lee  
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Office Assistant, Sue Reier  
Sue@stmmts.org

Seminarian, Kara Laughlin  
Kara.Laughlin@stmmts.org

Youth Ministry and Marketing Coordinator,  
Ben Merola  
Ben.Merola@stmmts.org

### VESTRY

Robby Stevens, Senior Warden

Andrew Wright, Junior Warden

Craig Dubishar

Bob Henry

Julie Kane

Sharon Muniz

Stephanie Zebrowski

### Service Volunteers

**Ushers** | Fred Brittain, Maria Palmer, Dee Carter, Regina McPhie

**Lectors** | Martha Olson

**Eucharistic Ministers/LEMs** | Debbie Majewski, Lisa Lintelman, Gerry Wardell

**Tellers** | Dan Robertson

**Altar Guild** | Lisa Lintelman, Linda Merola, Sue Reier