

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Illuminated Manuscript of the "Evangelium Jean Grandes Heures de Anna de Bretagne," Queen of France (1477-1514)

1st Sunday after Christmas Day
Holy Eucharist: Rite II
December 28, 2025 – 10:30am

WELCOME!

Whether it's your first visit to St. Matthew's, you've come several times now, or you're a long-time member, we are grateful for your presence, and pray that your time with us will be enriching. Our clergy would love the chance to welcome you, introduce you to the life of our community, and answer any questions you may have. To start that conversation, please fill out the printed Connection Card located in the seatbacks, and place it in the offering plate during the Offertory. Alternatively, you may complete the same Connection Card online by scanning this QR code with your phone's camera.



OUR WORSHIP TODAY

This bulletin leads you through our worship service. Service music not included in this bulletin will likely be found in the blue "Hymnal 1982" located between the seats. Items marked in the bulletin as BCP, followed by a page number, refer to the Book of Common Prayer (black or red), which can also be found in a bookholder nearby.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

We extend a warm welcome to families with children as we worship together. We want everyone to feel at home at St. Matt's, and encourage you to have everyone in your family stay in place during the service as you wish, even if your little one starts to get fussy. To assist with this, in the lobby there are "busy bags" full of fun activities for kids to enjoy at their seats. We have a large table downstairs with snacks and water, at the foot of the East stairwell. During the service, we also encourage your child (and you, if you wish) to visit Children's Chapel for a kid-friendly, interactive Liturgy of the Word; we come back together in time for Communion. Need some extra wiggle room? The lobby can be a great place to move around or grab a snack during the service. You can also visit the Baby's Nest, a sound-proof room in the balcony with gliders and infant toys where you can still see and hear the service. An unstaffed nursery is available on the lower level, in room B-16.

ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES

We have 8 Assisted Listening Devices (wireless audio packs with headphones) available in the lobby near the Welcome Desk for anyone wishing to experience the spoken word sections of today's service with more clarity or at a higher volume. Please feel free to take a wireless pack with headphones from the charging station back to your seat. The power button is on the top of the pack, near the headphone jack. Once the pack is on, we recommend using the arrow buttons to adjust the volume to 15-20 as a starting point. After the service, please return the pack to the charging station.

ABOUT COMMUNION

All who seek Christ are invited to come forward during the distribution of Holy Communion. If you have never been baptized, please contact us to explore the possibility! The ushers will guide you forward by row. After you have kneeled (or stood) at the altar, as the first server approaches, please cup your hands in front of you and the host will be placed in your palm. When the second server approaches, you may consume the host and then guide the chalice to your lips to receive the wine, or you may choose to dip the host into the wine before consuming it. To receive gluten-free elements, please go to the East side of the sanctuary, nearest the windows. People of all faiths (and none) are invited to receive a blessing. To indicate your desire to receive a blessing, fold your arms over your chest as you approach the first server. For those who do not wish to consume alcohol, please be assured that to receive the elements in one kind (bread alone) is to receive the full grace of the Sacrament. If walking to the front is a challenge for you, just notify an usher and we would be happy to bring the elements to your seat. All of that said, should you choose to stay seated during communion, you will not be judged for doing so. This part of the service is God's time to feed you, however you need to be fed. Just know that whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

WEEKLY WORD & PRAYER LIST

All Weekly Word submissions and prayer requests must be received by Wednesday at noon in order to appear in the upcoming Sunday's edition. Please send Weekly Word announcements to word@stmattsaustin.org, and prayer requests to Susan at office@stmattsaustin.org.

FORMATION & FELLOWSHIP BETWEEN SERVICES

Every Sunday at 8:45am, please join us in the Sanctuary lobby for a time of fellowship with coffee and donuts. You may choose to either stay in the lobby, or at 9:15am, participate in one of our formation offerings. Our Sunday Adult Gospel Class meets downstairs in Room B-14, and an adult Topical Class meets in B-18/19. Children's offerings include Godly Play (ages 3-5th grade), and Grades 6-12.

Need help getting somewhere? Please don't hesitate to ask!

For more information about St. Matthew's please visit www.stmattsaustin.org, by scanning this QR code. While there, please click the "Subscribe to Parish News & Events Emails" button to be in the know!



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD¹

PRELUDE

The First Nowell

David Paxton (1934-2015)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN²

Once in Royal David's City (1-3, 5)

Hymnal 102

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 355

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**³

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

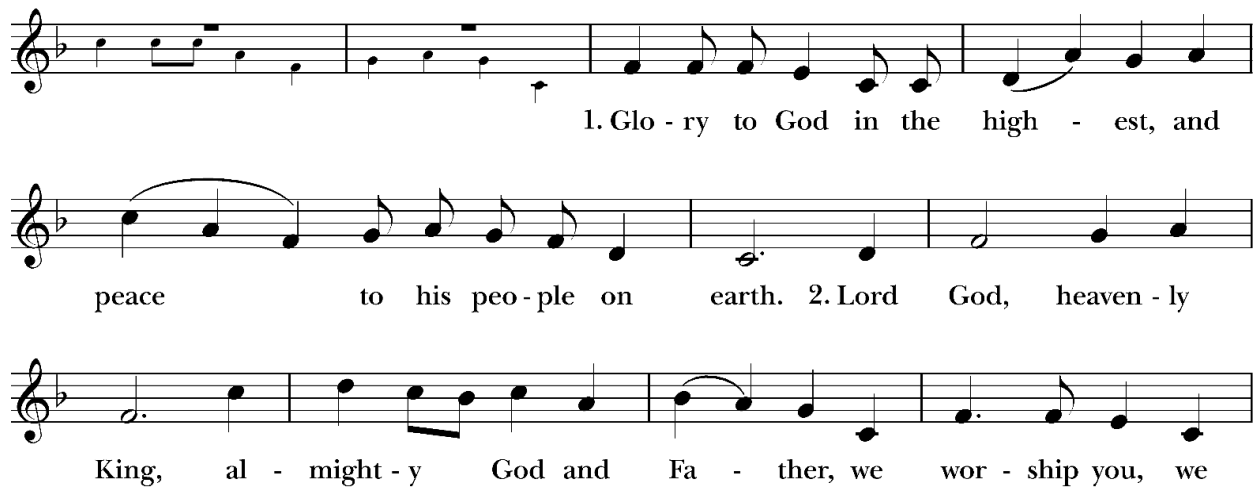
BCP 355

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GLORIA

Hymnal S280

*At the discretion of their parents, children are invited to follow the chapel leader downstairs to room B-21 for Children's chapel.
Parents are welcome to join. They will return to the Sanctuary around the time for The Peace.*



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we

¹ The first portion of the service is the **Liturgy of the Word**. Based on ancient Jewish worship, we hear and learn about God's work in the world.

² We prepare for our time together, and sing with whatever voice God has given us.

³ Bold portions are spoken together by the congregation.

give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus

Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you

take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy

on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re -

ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,

you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most

High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the

glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

☞ *Please be seated.*

A READING FROM ISAIAH 61:10-62:3⁴

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the LORD God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 147:13-21 *Responsively by half verse*

Laudate Dominum

- 13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;
- 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.
- 15 He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- 16 He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.
- 17 He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- 18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?
- 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
- 20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
- 21 He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

A READING FROM GALATIANS 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

⁴ We follow a three-year cycle of readings called a **Lectionary**. These are the lessons being heard in congregations of all types throughout the world on this day.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Hymnal 82

THE GOSPEL⁵

☞ *Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.*

John 1:1-18

Clergy: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Clergy: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Andrew Benko

⁵ **The Gospel** - We stand to indicate the importance placed on Jesus's words and actions. The Gospel book is carried into the midst of the people, and all turn toward the reader.

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

⁶ **The Creed** - The Episcopal church holds the ancient Creeds, such as the Apostles' and the Nicene to be our statements of faith. They contain the core of our belief as Christians, but do not limit our faith. We use the English Language Liturgical Consultation (ELLC) text of the Nicene Creed approved for use in the Episcopal Church in 1994. The use of "We believe," is appropriate as the creed is a statement of the faith of the whole Church, at all times and places, and not only that of a particular congregation or person. The Nicene Creed was created in 325AD by the first council (gathering of bishops) in Nicaea.

The Leader and People pray responsively.

Trusting in God, let us pray, O come, O come Emmanuel;
Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, make us increase and abound in love for one another. Keep your Church on the paths of love and faithfulness. O come, O come Emmanuel;
Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, usher in your reign of justice and righteousness. May all the world know your peace and safety. O come, O come Emmanuel;
Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, you place signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars. Give us the eyes to see, the wisdom to prepare, and the faith to trust in you. O come, O come Emmanuel;
Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, under your reign divisions are overcome, unity restored: bring the people of central Texas and this nation together in a spirit of love and respect. O come, O come Emmanuel;
Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, remember your compassion and love. Heal and restore the sick and the suffering, the anxious and the grieving. O come, O come Emmanuel;
Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, keep us blameless before you that we may meet the coming of Lord Jesus with joy. May we, and all who have died rise to life immortal. O come, O come Emmanuel;
Be our hope and our salvation.

The Celebrant continues:

Hasten, O God, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate.
Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN⁷

☞ Standing or kneeling

BCP 360

Minister: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be held.

Minister and People:

⁷ We sin when our behavior—either by acting or failing to act—disrupts our relationship with God and with others. We come together each week and **confess this sin** to God with the intention to improve and turn back to God. We have the courage to make this confession because we have been assured by Jesus that when we confess and repent (turn around), God will forgive us.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Celebrant stands and says:

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

THE PEACE⁸

BCP 360

Children will return from Children's Chapel to their pew seats around this time.

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: **And also with you.**

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Weekly Word (Newsletter)

Printed copies of the announcements, and more, are available on the credenza in the Sanctuary lobby, as part of the Weekly Word. The Weekly Word can also be accessed online by scanning the QR code provided.



⁸ **The Peace** - We affirm our reconciliation with one another as preparation for receiving communion (Matthew 5:23-24). In ancient times, Christians would greet each other with “the kiss of peace.” Today, we shake hands or hug. There are no predetermined words; “Peace,” “God’s Peace,” “Peace be with you,” and “the Peace of the Lord be with you,” are all commonly said.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE⁹

THE OFFERTORY

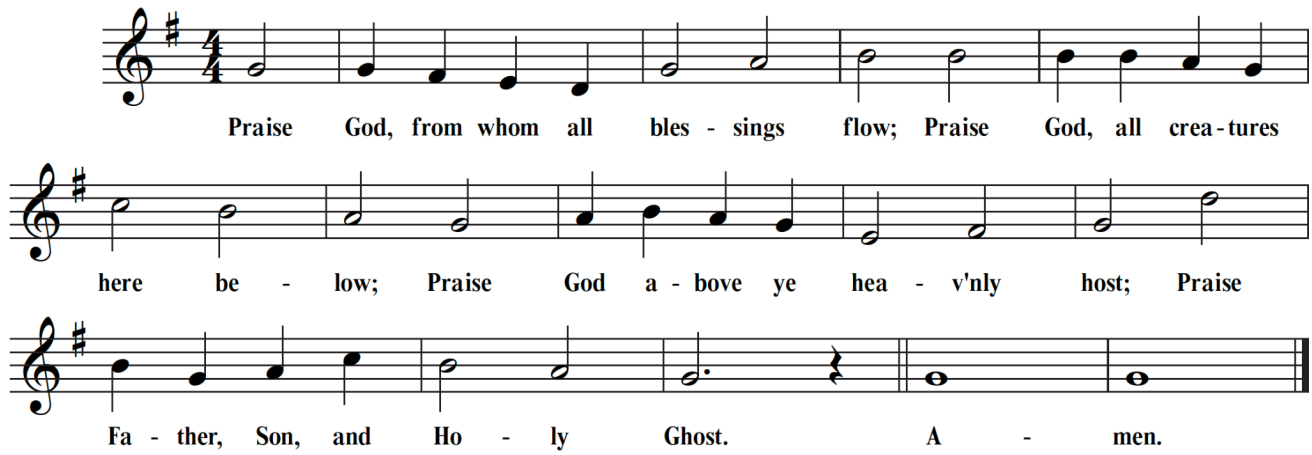
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
One-Time Donation (Via Stripe)

Hymnal 89



THE DOXOLOGY

OLD 100th



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A

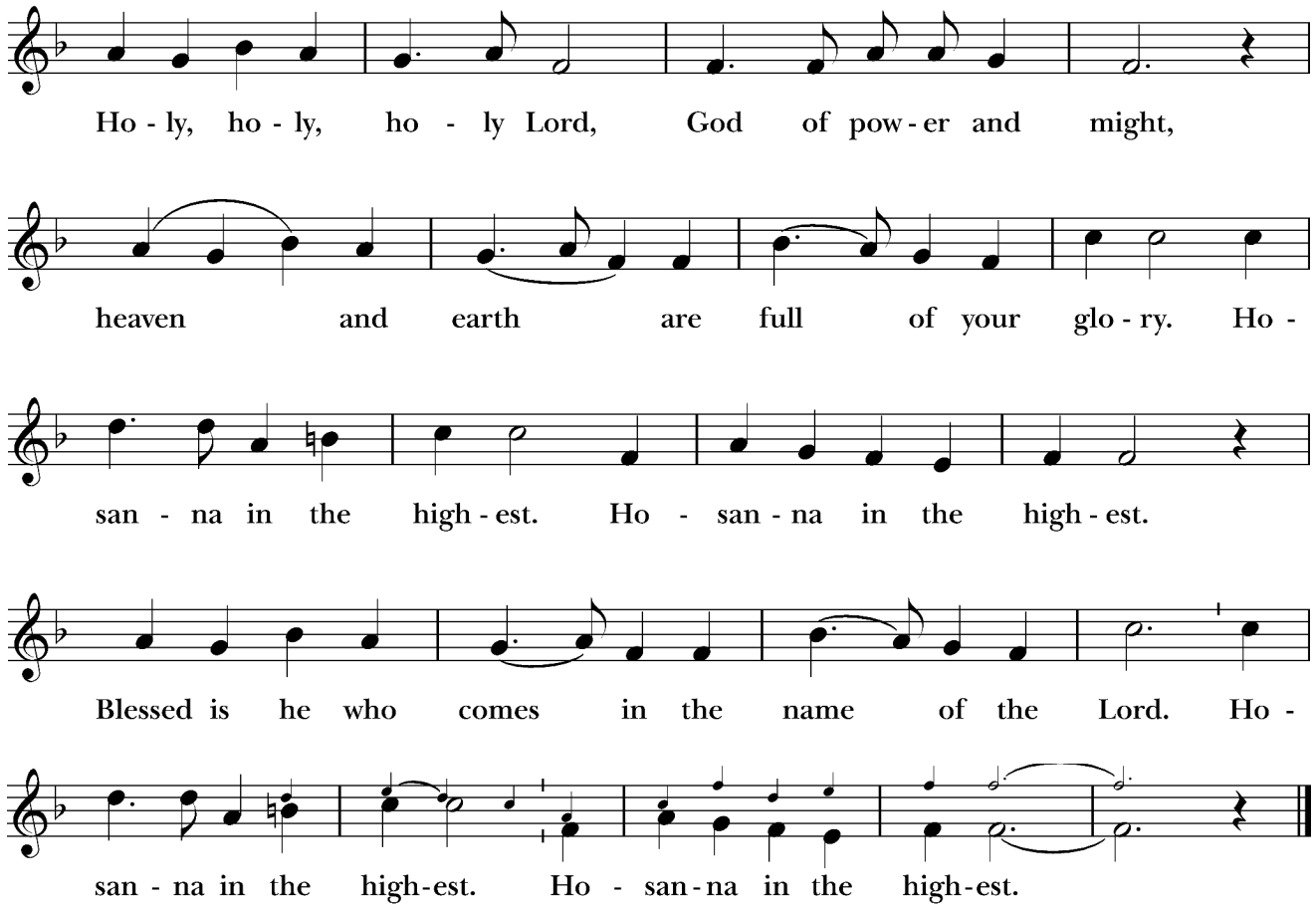
BCP 361

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant continues:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth...(*Proper Preface*)...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

⁹ The **Liturgy of the Table** is the second act in the drama of the service. It is based on Jewish fellowship meals, particularly the Passover observance. We begin with the **Offertory**. Collecting financial gifts, or passing the plate, serves as a visible reminder that our whole lives are offered to God, and a part of the riches God has given to us are offered back in thanksgiving for all that we have and all that we are. **If you wish to make a one-time donation or annual gift online**, scan our Virtual Offering Plate QR code with your phone's camera. A notification will appear which will take you to our Realm giving site, www.onrealm.org/stmattsaustin/give/now.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Celebrant continues:

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself. When we had fallen into sin and death, you in your mercy sent Jesus Christ your only and eternal Son...

...Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

The Celebrant continues:

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving...in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

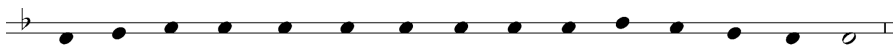
BCP 364

Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done,
 on Earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

 *Silence may be held, after the fraction.*

Celebrant: 
 Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

People: 
 There-fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

You need not be Episcopalian to receive Holy Communion. When the ushers come to your aisle please move forward to gather around the chancel to receive communion; the eucharistic ministers will come to you. If you prefer to receive a blessing only, simply fold your arms across your chest. Gluten-free elements are available at the station closest to the windows on the east side of the Sanctuary; come up and tell the ministers, "gluten-free". For those in need, we will bring the communion elements to your seat; just tell an usher.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

O Christ, the Word Incarnate

Hymnal 632

In the Bleak Midwinter

Hymnal 112

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

 *Please stand or kneel.*

BCP 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
 you have graciously accepted us as living members
 of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
 and you have fed us with the spiritual food
 in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
 Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage
 to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;
 through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE SENDING FORTH OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

In the name of God and this Congregation,
 we send you forth bearing these holy gifts,
 that those to whom you go may share with us
 In the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.
 We who are many are one body,
 because we all share one bread, one cup.

THE BLESSING

DISMISSAL HYMN

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Hymnal 92

THE DISMISSAL

The Deacon or Priest dismisses the congregation.

The People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

POSTLUDE

Fanfare on “Joy to the World”

Paul Fey (b.1998)

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Coloring Page: www.clipart-library.com

OUR CLERGY, STAFF & VESTRY

Rector: The Rev. Katie Leuba
Associate Priest: The Rev. Dr. Andrew Benko
Assisting Deacon: The Rev. Bill Holder
Assisting Priest: The Rev. Jerry Chapman
Assisting Priest: The Rev. Seth Deleery
Director of Music: Dr. Jeff Vanderlee
Organist: Yung Sil Chun
8am Pianist: Lucy Zhu
Children & Families Musician: Mary Smith

Assistant to the Rector: Lena Carson
Finance Manager: Pat Brajnikoff
Office Manager: Susan Kerr
Parish Administrator: Lisa Kay Pfannenstiel
Communications Assistant: April Beaty
Sextons: Carly & Gabriel
Chef: Robert Mayberry
Head of Day School: Page Race
Wardens: Jenny Watson & Doug Webster
Vestry of the Month: Bob Ascott & Larry Simons

Contact information can be found on our website, www.stmattsaustrin.org, or by calling the church office.

UPCOMING EVENTS - See the Weekly Word for more details on these, and other parish events!

- Wednesday, Dec. 31st, 3pm-5pm – New Year's Game Night for All Ages; Youth Center
- Church office will be closed on Jan. 1 (New Years Day)
- Friday, January 9th, 7pm-7am, Boy Scout Lock-in; Huffman Hall
- Wednesday, January 14th, 11am-1pm, Settlement Club New Members Luncheon; Huffman Hall
- Sunday, January 18th, 9am-10am, Parish Annual Meeting; Sanctuary
- February 7th, All-day event, Women's Retreat

NEW YEAR SERVICES

New Years Eve, Wednesday December 31st, 2025, 12:00pm; Service of Healing

Considering becoming an Episcopalian? Or curious to learn more about the Episcopal Church?

Contact Fr. Andrew Benko if you would like to know more, at: (318) 415-8131, or abenko@stmattsaustrin.org

OFFICE HOURS

Church office hours are M - F, 9:00am - 4:00pm. Appointments to meet with clergy and staff are recommended. Contact office@stmattsaustrin.org or (512) 345-8314 to set an appointment with clergy, and for staff, contact the staff member directly. Your clergy typically take Friday as their sabbath. During office hours, the receptionist can assist you in an emergency: (512) 345-8314. For after-hours pastoral emergencies, call or text the Rev. Katie Leuba directly: (440) 985-8982.

REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday: 8:00am, Traditional Holy Eucharist (Rite I), Sanctuary
10:30am, Holy Eucharist with Music (Rite II), Sanctuary
Wednesday: 12:00pm, A Service of Public Healing with Holy Communion, Sanctuary
Every Evening: 6:00pm, Evening Prayer, Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88579583087>)



ST. MATTHEW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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