



ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I DECEMBER 14, 2025

THE WORD OF GOD

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THE HOLY COMMUNION

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THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Merciful God, who didst send thy messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A READING FROM ISAIAH 35:1-10¹

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 15, Magnificat, Song of Mary *Responsively by half-verse*

BCP91

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

¹ We follow a three-year cycle of readings called a **Lectionary**. These are the lessons being heard in congratulations of all types throughout the world on this day.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.

A READING FROM JAMES 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL²

 *Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.*

Matthew 11:2-11

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

People: **Glory be to Thee, Lord Christ.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

² **The Gospel** - We stand to indicate the importance placed on Jesus's words and actions. The Gospel book comes into the midst of the people and all turn toward the reader.

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Clergy: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Our Clergy, Staff & Vestry

Rector: The Rev. Katie Leuba
Associate Priest: The Rev. Dr. Andrew Benko
Associate Priest: The Rev. Christine Brunson
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: Martha Galie
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: Connie Marks & Rogene Tesar

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

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

- Sundays, Nov.-Dec., 9:15am – Adult Formation: What is Christian Nationalism? (Dec. 14, 21)
- Sunday, Dec. 14th, 2pm – Austin Saxophone Ensemble Youth Concert
- Sunday, Dec. 14th, 11:30am – Newcomers Luncheon; Huffman Hall
- Wednesday, Dec. 17th, 5pm – Christmas Movie Night (Polar Express); Huffman Hall - Santa will be there!
- Thursday, Dec. 18th, 5:30-6:30pm – Invite, Welcome, and Connect (IWC) Meeting; B-13
- Sunday, Dec. 21st, 11:30am – Cooking for Community First Village & Veterans; Huffman Hall

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24, 2025

- 4pm, Youth Pageant; 7:30pm & 10:00pm, Traditional Services

Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25, 2025

- 10:30am Christmas Morning Service

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@stmattsauustin.org

OFFICE HOURS

Church office hours are M - F, 9:00am - 4:00pm. Appointments to meet with clergy and staff are recommended. Contact office@stmattsauustin.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, at (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>)



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