



ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I DECEMBER 21, 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.

We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A READING FROM ISAIAH 7:10-16¹

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-6, 16-18 *Responsively by whole verse*

BCP91

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
 shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, ***
 stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 **O LORD God of hosts, ***
 how long will you be angered
 despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
 you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 **You have made us the derision of our neighbors, ***
 and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 **Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, ***
 the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
 give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; ***
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

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.

A READING FROM ROMANS 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our LORD, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the LORD Jesus Christ.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL²

 *Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.*

Matthew 1:18-25

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

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

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the LORD through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the LORD commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Clergy: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

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.

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!

- Sunday, Dec. 21st, 11:30am – Cooking for Community First Village & Veterans; Huffman Hall
- Sunday, Dec. 21st, 3:30pm – Caroling at Community First Village
- Church office will be closed Dec. 24th and Dec. 25th
- 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)

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24, 2025 (no noon service)

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

Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25, 2025

- 10:30am Christmas Morning Service

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@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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