

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Nativity - Lorenzo Monaco (1370-1425)

Christmas Eve
Holy Eucharist: Rite II
December 24, 2025 – 10:00pm

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

In Dulci Jubilo, from 79 *Chorales*, op. 28

Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN²

Angels we Have Heard on High

Hymnal 96

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

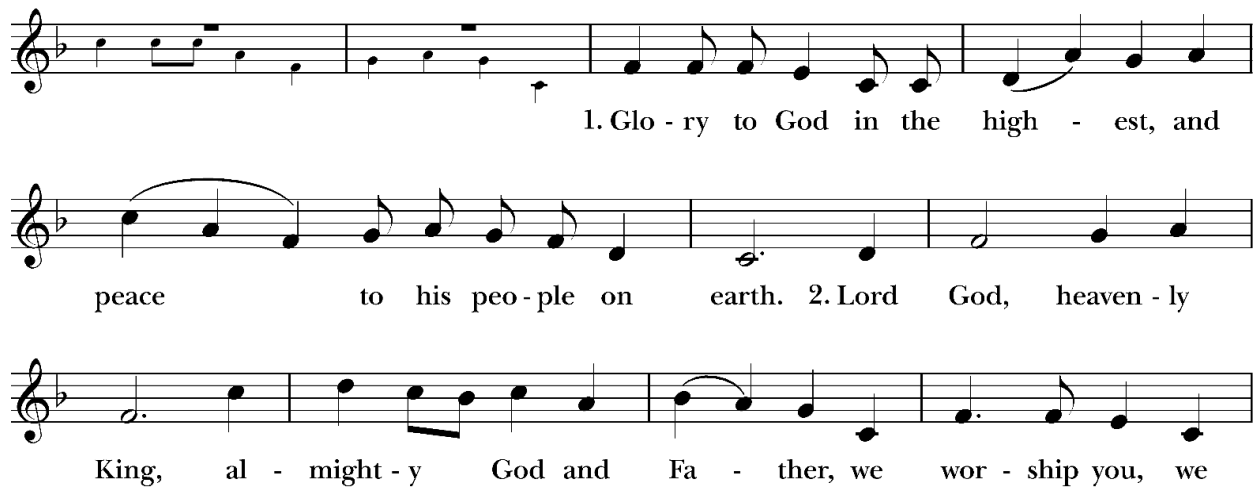
BCP 355

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.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

☞ *Please be seated.*

A READING FROM ISAIAH 9:2-7⁴

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96 *Responsively by half verse*

Cantate Domino

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name;
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples;
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name;
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: “The LORD is King!
**he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.”**
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
**let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.**

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.

- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the LORD when he comes,
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with his truth.

A READING FROM TITUS 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.


Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN

A Stable Lamp is Lighted

Hymnal 104

THE GOSPEL⁵

 *Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.*

Luke 2:1-20

Clergy: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

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.

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Clergy: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. Katie Leuba

THE NICENE CREED⁶ 🕯️ *Please stand.*

EOW 53

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.

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.

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

☞ *Please stand or kneel.*

Adapted from Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

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.

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

Silence may be held.

Minister and People:

**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.



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.

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

One-Time Donation (Via Stripe)



On Christmas Night - Austin Lovelace

On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring; (x2)
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.

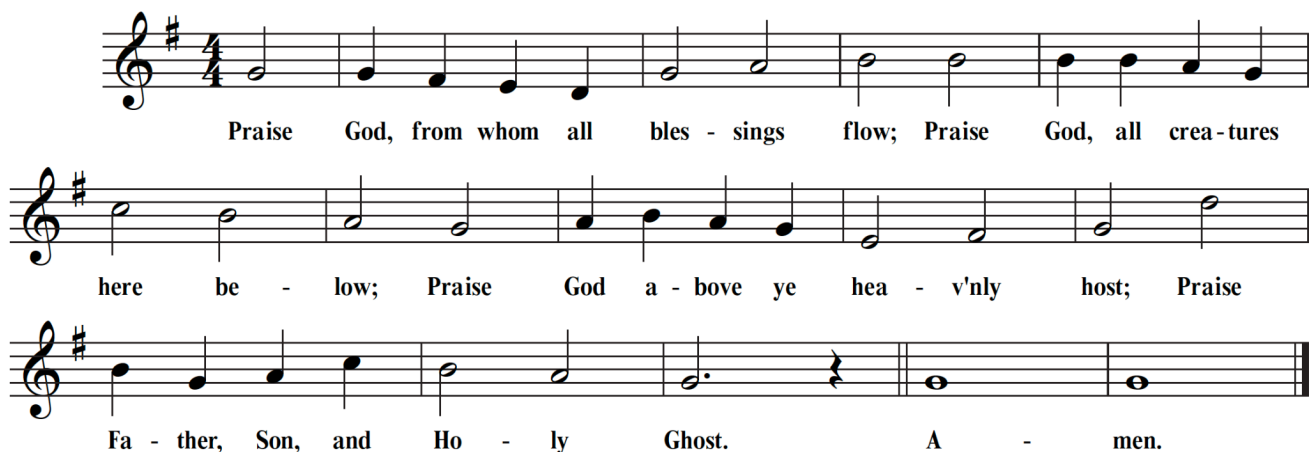
Then why should men on earth be sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad? (x2)
when from our sin He set us free,
all for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before His grace,
then life and health come in its place; (x2)
angels and men with joy may sing,
all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night; (x2)
“Glory to God and peace to men,
now and forevermore. Amen.”

THE DOXOLOGY

OLD 100th



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.

Celebrant *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*

Lift up your hearts. 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:

SANCTUS

Hymnal S125

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.

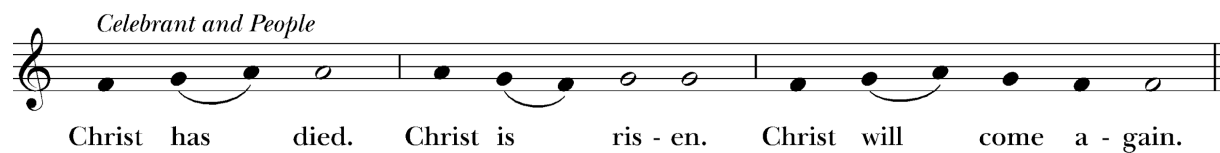
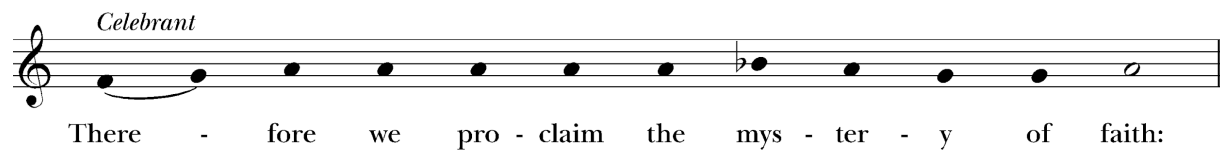
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



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."



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.**

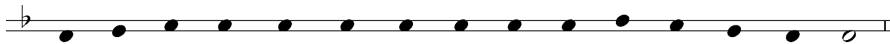
THE LORD'S PRAYER


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

Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming

Hymnal 81

While Shepherds Watched their Flocks By Night

Hymnal 94

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.

A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May Almighty God, who sent the Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season,
scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of God's holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent the angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth,
fill you with joy and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth
and earth to heaven, give you God's peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

At this time the lights are dimmed, and the congregation's candles are lit, beginning from the worship leaders. Please tilt unlit candles towards lit candles in order to avoid wax drips. Please do not light your candles from the aisle torches, thank you.

The congregation is invited to kneel

DISMISSAL HYMN

Silent Night

Hymnal 111

After the hymn has finished, all candles are extinguished.

THE DISMISSAL

The Deacon or Priest dismisses the congregation.

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

POSTLUDE

In Dulci Jubilo, BWV729

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)



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!

- 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 DAY/NEW YEAR 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@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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