



# ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I DECEMBER 28, 2025

### THE WORD OF GOD

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The Collect of the Day	booklet
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The Sermon	The Rev. Dr. Andrew Benko
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Announcements and Offertory	

### THE HOLY COMMUNION

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The Distribution of Communion	
The Post-Communion Prayer	BCP 339
The Blessing	
The Dismissal	

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.  
*People:* **And with thy spirit.**  
*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Almighty God, who hast poured upon us the new light of thine incarnate Word: Grant that the same light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; 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 61:10-62:3<sup>1</sup>

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 whole verse*

BCP91

- 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!**

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<sup>1</sup> 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 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.

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.**

### THE GOSPEL<sup>2</sup>

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

**Matthew 1:1-18**

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

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

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 be to Thee, O Christ.**

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<sup>2</sup> **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  
*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.stmattsaustin.org](http://www.stmattsaustin.org), or by calling the church office.

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

- Wednesday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 9<sup>th</sup>, 7pm-7am, Boy Scout Lock-in; Huffman Hall
- Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 11am-1pm, Settlement Club New Members Luncheon; Huffman Hall
- Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 9am-10am, Parish Annual Meeting; Sanctuary

### 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@stmattsaustin.org](mailto:abenko@stmattsaustin.org)

### OFFICE HOURS

**Church office hours are M - F, 9:00am - 4:00pm.** Appointments to meet with clergy and staff are recommended. Contact [office@stmattsaustin.org](mailto:office@stmattsaustin.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>)



**ST. MATTHEW'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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