



**ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I
January 4, 2026**

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation	BCP 323
Gloria	BCP 324
The Collect of the Day	booklet
The Lessons	booklet
The Sermon	The Rev. Katie Leuba
The Nicene Creed	BCP 326
The Prayers of the People	BCP 328
The Confession of Sin	BCP 331
The Peace	BCP 332
Announcements and Offertory	

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer II	BCP 340
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.

O God, who didst wonderfully create, and yet more wonderfully restore, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, thy Son Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A READING FROM JEREMIAH 31:7-14¹

Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, “Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel.” See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.” For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 84 Responsively by whole verse

Quam dilecta!

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

2 **The sparrow has found her a house**
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young;
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house!
they will always be praising you.

4 **Happy are the people whose strength is in you!**
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs,

¹ 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.

for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

6 **They will climb from height to height,
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.**

7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.

8 **Behold our defender, O God;
and look upon the face of your Anointed.**

9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room,
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

10 **For the Lord God is both sun and shield;
he will give grace and glory;**

11 No good thing will the Lord withhold
from those who walk with integrity.

12 **O Lord of hosts,
happy are they who put their trust in you!**

A READING FROM EPHESIANS 1:3-6, 15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our LORD Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the LORD Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our LORD Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL²

 *Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.*

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

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

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

After the wise men had left, an angel of the LORD appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

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.

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”

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

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 & Pat Naeve

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!

- 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

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: (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
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