



SAINT MATTHEW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Lent

THE PRACTICE OF
LOVE & BELONGING

Third Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 23, 2025 · 8:00 AM



YOUTH SUMMER MISSION TRIP AUGUST 2-8 TO FLORIDA!

Join us as we serve communities, grow in faith, and make lasting memories. Before we head home, we'll take our minions on a detour to Universal Studios and spend our last day making magical memories and having big fun!

Register using the link below, and make a \$150 deposit today to reserve your space. Payment plans and scholarships are available.

STMTTS.ORG/YOUTHMISSION

EASTER FOOD DRIVE DUE: SUNDAY, MARCH 30

Share God's love this Easter through the act of packing a reusable grocery bag with essential food items. Join us in achieving our goal of donating 250 bags to those in need this Easter. Drop off all donations before March 30. We encourage you include a notecard or drawing with a heartfelt message.

Sign up to sort food, purchase extra supplies, deliver bags, and more:

STMTTS.ORG/EASTERBAGS

WELCOME

We know that going to church or to a new church for the first time can be nerve-racking. We want to help make your first experience at St. Matthew's a great one!

If this is your first visit to Saint Matthew's, we welcome you. Please join us between services for coffee, tea and refreshments in the Parish Hall. For more information about our community, visit our website www.stmmts.org. We are so glad you are here!



COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All baptized Christians are welcome to participate in communion. If you would like to receive, simply place one hand on top of the other, palms up, and the priest will place bread in your hand. You may then consume the wafer. If for any reason you prefer to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms across your chest and the priest will give you a blessing. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.

Would you like to learn more about baptism? Please visit our website: stmmts.org/baptism or contact our office via email at Office@stmmts.org or phone at 703-430-2121.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER LIST

The Saint Matthew's intercessory prayer list is for those in or related to our community who are in need of prayer. It is designed so that all members of our community can pray for each other on an ongoing basis. In order to pray for those on the list, simply ask God to be with them and help them in any way needed - God knows what is going on, so we don't need to.

Please pray for the following:

Sean, Sieg, Chuck, Lea, Bonnie, Arthur, John G, Glo, Deb, Teressa, Mel, Eric, Debbie, Marshall, Ruth, Remie, Arianna, Jeanine, Hunter, Robyn, Emma, Frances, Christy, Nick, Gus, Aldana, Clint, Chelsea, Edgar, Rusty, Anne, Shelby, Kiera, Marty, Candace, Gerry, Becky, RL, Panita, Jane, Kevin, John, Ome, Renee, Grace, Kristina, Freya, Ava, Steve, Natalie, Kristen, Sophia, Sadie, Shaundra, Larry, Don, Fabiano, Luke, John, Brenda, Pete, Valorie, Cathy, Naomi, Dan, Christy, Dennis, Diane, Brent, Mary, Sybil, Judy, James, Rick, Avery, Emory, Mario, Molly, Cooper, Rose, Sarah, Jessica, Jay, Amanda, Venessa, Desira, Rose, Sarah, Natalie D, Natalie S, Paul, Katy, Randy, Maura, Kaufman Family, Rinker Family, Blair Family, Colon Family, Suaib Family, Gonzalez Family, Omar, Mona, Tala, Dima, Carter, Jean, Martha, Tony, Nancy, Clara, Elijah, Maria, Bob, Cindy, Don, Megan, Ian, Marielle, Sharp Family, Mila, Moreau Family, Pat, Madison, Katie, Katt, and Heather.

If you or someone you care about are in need of Pastoral Care, please call 703-430-2121.

8 AM SERVICE

Silent Entrance (Congregation Stands)	
Acclamation and Opening Sentences	351
Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.	
God's mercy endures for ever.	
Confession of Sin and Absolution	352
Collect of the Day (Contemporary)	Insert
Lessons	
First Reading • Exodus 3:1-15	
Psalm • 63:1-8	
Second Reading • 1 Corinthians 10:1-13	
Gospel • Luke 13:1-9	
Sermon	The Reverend C. Robert Merola, Jr.
Nicene Creed	358
Prayers of the People, Form I	383
Peace	360
Announcements & Welcome	
The Holy Communion	
Offertory	
Great Thanksgiving • Eucharistic Prayer B	367
Proper Preface	379
Sanctus	362
The Lord's Prayer	364
Breaking of the Bread	364
Angus Dei	407
Invitation to Communion	
Communion of the People	
Post-Communion Prayer	366
Blessing	
Dismissal	366

9:30 AM SERVICE

The Word of God

Opening Song

Opening Sentences

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

God's mercy endures forever.

Opening Prayer (stand through the Gospel)

Song • Start a Fire

Song • Clean Heart

Gospel • Luke 13:1-9

Sermon

The Reverend C. Robert Merola, Jr.

Prayers of the People

Peace

Announcements & Welcome

The Holy Communion

Offertory

(An offertory plate is not passed at this service. If you wish to make a donation, the collection plate can be found at the back of the church, or donations are accepted online at www.stmmts.org/give)

Great Thanksgiving (stand through Communion)

Eucharistic Prayer

Sanctus • Kyrie

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Song • Come as You Are

Closing Prayer

Blessing

Closing Song • I Refuse

Dismissal

11 AM SERVICE

Silent Entrance (Congregation Stands)	
Acclamation and Opening Sentences	351
Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins. God's mercy endures for ever.	
Confession of Sin and Absolution	352
Collect of the Day (Contemporary)	Insert
Lessons	
First Reading • Exodus 3:1-15	
Psalm • 63:1-8	
Second Reading • 1 Corinthians 10:1-13	
Gospel • Luke 13:1-9	
Sermon	The Reverend C. Robert Merola, Jr.
Nicene Creed	358
Prayers of the People, Form I	383
Peace	360
Announcements & Welcome	
The Holy Communion	
Offertory Anthem •	
Doxology • #380 vs. 3 • Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow	
Great Thanksgiving • Eucharistic Prayer B	367
Proper Preface	379
Sanctus • Hymnal S129 • Holy, Holy, Holy Lord	
The Lord's Prayer	364
Breaking of the Bread	364
Invitation to Communion	
Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn •	
Post-Communion Prayer	366
Blessing	
Procession into the World •	
Dismissal	366



3 LENT

Third Sunday in Lent



Revised Common Lectionary

COLLECT

Sunday, March 23, 2025

Traditional

ALMIGHTY GOD, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Contemporary

ALMIGHTY GOD, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: Exodus 3:1-15

MOSES WAS KEEPING THE FLOCK of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard

their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” He said, “I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.” But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’: This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.”

Refrain

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you.

Psalm 63:1-8 *from the Book of Common Prayer*

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 O God, you are my God;
eagerly I seek you; * my
soul thirsts for you, my
flesh faints for you, as in
a barren and dry land
where there is no water. | 2 Therefore I have gazed
upon you in your holy
place, * that I might
behold your power and
your glory. |
|--|--|

- 3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; * my lips shall give you praise.
- 4 So will I bless you as long as I live * and lift up my hands in your Name.
- 5 My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, * and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
- 6 When I remember you upon my bed, * and meditate on you in the night watches.
- 7 For you have been my helper, * and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- 8 My soul clings to you; * your right hand holds me fast.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

I DO NOT want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will

not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

AT THAT VERY TIME there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

The Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Used by permission. Collects and Psalter translation are from The Book of Common Prayer, 1979.



YOUTH GROUP

Activities, connection, and conversation designed specifically for middle & high school students.

Scan the QR Code to stay up to date with all the youth happenings, or contact our Youth Minister, Ben at Ben.Merola@stmtts.org.



DONUTS & DISCOVERY Sundays at 9:30AM

Students are invited to join us for donuts and engaging faith discussions tailored just for them.

PALM SUNDAY PASSION

Middle and high school students are invited to participate in reading the Passion during services on Palm Sunday, April 13. Youth should confirm interest with our Youth Minister, Ben, and then attend practice at 10:30AM on Sundays, March 23, 30, and April 6.



FRIDAY FLASH/NEWSLETTER

Email Office@stmtts.org to receive our weekly email, The Friday Flash, or monthly printed newsletter.



CELEBRATE EASTER - APRIL 20 STMTTS.ORG/EASTER

6:00 AM - Watch the sun rise during the beautiful Easter Vigil, followed by a delicious brunch. The service begins outside and then moves into the sanctuary.

9:30 AM - Vibrant Easter service with band, strings, and horns. Kids will love our special Children's Program featuring Alaska-themed games, music, science experiments, and crafts as a taste of this summer's Vacation Bible School, True North. After the service, enjoy an egg hunt and photos with the Easter bunny.

11:15 AM - Classic, family-friendly worship service with choir, strings and woodwinds. Arrive at 10:30AM to enjoy the Easter egg hunt and photos with the Easter bunny. During the service, children will take the stage in our Faith Factory classrooms, collaborating to create a reenactment of the Easter story - you won't want to miss the finished product, shared with families after the service.

VOLUNTEER THIS EASTER

Easter brings many guests to St. Matthew's and it is our great privilege to welcome them. There are many ways to serve on Easter and in the days leading up to Easter. Please visit the link below to select an opportunity to serve.

STMTTS.ORG/EASTERHELP

PRETZEL SUNDAY



SUNDAY FUN DAYS!

Join us at 10:30AM on Sundays for fun, fellowship, and delicious treats.

Sun, March 23: Chip & Dip Day

Celebrate National Chip & Dip Day with a festive spread.

Sun. March 30: Pretzel Day

Celebrate National Pretzel Day with an assortment of pretzels.

JOIN THE CHOIR

ALL ARE WELCOME

JOIN THE ST. MATT'S CHOIR

All are welcome as we lift our voices and sing each week at the 11am worship service. Join us for weekly rehearsals on Thursdays at 7:30 PM.

PARISH WORK DAY

PARISH WORK DAY SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 9AM-12PM

Help us prepare the church and grounds for Easter. Enjoy coffee & donuts while we work!



LENTEN DISCUSSION SERIES HEALING POWER OF LOVE IN DIVIDED TIMES



WEDNESDAYS IN LENT STMTTS.ORG/LENT

Join us for a weekly discussion series exploring themes of love, healing, and connection from **Gregory Boyle's Cherished Belonging**. The evening includes programming for adults, teens, and children, and nursery for our youngest members.

On Wednesdays starting at 6:30PM we'll enjoy a light soup and salad supper, engaging discussions for all ages, and a short Compline worship to end the evening. For all the details and to sign up to share a soup or salad one evening, visit stmtts.org/len.

GAME NIGHT

BOARD GAME NIGHT! FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 6-9PM

Do you love tabletop board and card games? Uno, Scrabble, Sorry, Bananagrams, Codenames, Qwirkle, Catan, and more!

There are so many great games! Bring your favorite game and a snack to share, as we hang out and try new games and enjoy old favorites.



BACKPACK BUDDIES STERLINGHELP.ORG

Backpack Buddies (HRTS) continues packing 280 bags of food each week to feed local school children. Join us on Tuesdays at noon and the first Sunday of each month at 10:30 AM.

Do you know a teen looking for service hours? We are actively seeking people or companies interested in hosting neighborhood or company food drives.

Learn more about feeding children in our community by visiting the link above or contact Hilary at Hilary.Hultman-Lee@hrtsterling.org.



DEDICATE EASTER FLOWERS STMTTS.ORG/FLOWERS

You're invited to help us fill the church with flowers on Easter Sunday. Dedications for Easter flowers are due Palm Sunday, April 13. Flower dedications are a joyful way to celebrate special occasions, give thanks, or honor the memory of loved ones. Any donation amount is welcome using the link above.



BAPTISM CLASS MAR. 30/APR 13 STMTTS.ORG/BAPTISMCLASS

If you or your child would like to be baptized, or are interested in learning more about baptism, Seminarian Gabe Oakes invites you to join our Baptism Preparation Classes on Sunday, March 30 and April 13 at 10:30AM. Baptisms will be held, for those who so choose, on Sunday, April 27 at all three services.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 21-25, 2025

VBS 2025 will guide kids on the ultimate Alaskan adventure. Pointing them toward Jesus, True North VBS shows them that he is a faithful friend we can always trust—our True North.

Register today or share with a friend at stmtts.org/VBS.

Make a difference in the life of a child this summer. Adult and teen volunteers are needed to make VBS the best week of summer. Sign up today using the link above. Documentation of service hours will be provided.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MATT'S

Sunday, March 23rd

- 8:00 am - Rite II Worship Service
- 9:30 am - Festival Worship Service
- 9:30 am - Faith Factory
- 9:30 am - Middle & High School Student
- 11:00 am - Classic Worship Service
- 2:00 pm - On That Note Rehearsal

Monday, March 24th

- 12:00 pm - Social Time with Candace
- 7:00 pm - Bread of Life
- 7:30 pm - Free to Live

Tuesday, March 25th

- 9:00 am - All Ages Read Together
- 9:00 am - Staff Meeting
- 12:00 pm - HRTS/Backpack Buddies Packing
- 6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7:00 pm - Education for Ministry
- 7:00 pm - Vestry
- 7:00 pm - Band Rehearsal
- 8:00 pm - Compline (on line)

Wednesday, March 26th

- 12:00 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 6:30 pm - Lenten Soup Supper
- 7:00 pm - Lent Book Discussion
- 8:00 pm - Compline
- 8:00 pm - Women's NA Group

Thursday, March 27th

- 9:00 am - All Ages Read Together
- 12:00 pm - Bible Study with Fr. Rob
- 6:15 pm - Girl Scouts
- 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 28th

- 6:00 pm - Game Night
- 7:00 pm - Old Dominion Dancers
- 8:00 pm - Compline (on line)

Saturday, March 29th

- 8:00 am - Men's Group
- 6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7:00 pm - Narcotics Anonymous
- 8:30 pm - Narcotics Anonymous

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- March 24th: Mark Hrozencik, Sophia Bruce
- March 25th: Barbara Thomas, Amy Schrock
- March 26th: Cibun Thomas, Kesean Jacoby
- March 27th: Kristin Drummond
- March 29th: Kayla Nelson

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- March 27th: Annette & Mike Brennan

ATTENDANCE March 16, 2025

Time or Place	Attendance Online	Attendance In-Person
8:00 AM	12	26
9:30 AM	42	187
11:00 AM	17	37
Faith Factory		26
Youth Group		12

HELP SUPPORT ST. MATTHEW'S MINISTRIES



WEBSITE



MOBILE



CASH/
CHECK

Checks can be
made payable to
"St. Matthew's
Church"

For more ways to give and
information on automatic giving:

stmmts.org/give