

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Universal City, Texas

*We serve Jesus Christ as a community rich in the Episcopal tradition
by welcoming the seeker, providing a caring family, encouraging spiritual growth,
and reaching into our neighborhood and world.*

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024

8:00 A.M. & 10:00 A.M.

This is the House of God! We invite you to be reverent, thoughtful, and silent. In the course of the service give yourself in worship and speak to the Lord God Almighty; be open to and listening for what He might say to you in return. After the service greet with joy your fellows.

Guests: *Thank you for worshipping at St. Matthew's.*

We invite you to participate in the worship to the extent you feel comfortable.

*The page numbers referenced in this bulletin refer to the books in the pew:
the black **Book of Common Prayer** and the blue **Hymnal 1982**.*

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Welcome and Announcements

THE WORD OF GOD

BCP 355

Hymn #142

Lord, who throughout these forty days

Penitential Order

All standing, the Celebrant says

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People **His mercy endures for ever.**

Decalogue

The people kneel.

Hear the commandments of God to his people: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Honor your father and your mother.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit murder.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit adultery.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not steal.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not be a false witness.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence.

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 Priest 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.*

All standing. (Hymnal S-102)

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One.
Have mercy upon us. (3x)

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

All sit.

First Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

A Reading from the book of Numbers.

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

All remained seated.

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 *Confitemini Domino*

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
and his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Let all those whom the LORD has redeemed proclaim *
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.
- 3 He gathered them out of the lands; *
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.
- 17 Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; *
they were afflicted because of their sins.
- 18 They abhorred all manner of food *
and drew near to death's door.
- 19 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.
- 20 He sent forth his word and healed them *
and saved them from the grave.
- 21 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.
- 22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

Second Reading

Ephesians 2:1-10

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Ephesus.

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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

Sequence Hymn #706 (verses 1-2)

In your mercy, Lord, you called me

All stand.

Holy Gospel

John 3:14-21

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sequence Hymn #706 (verse 3)

In your mercy, Lord, you called me

All stand.

Sermon

A time of silence for reflection and prayer will follow the sermon.

Nicene Creed

All stand.

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: by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
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.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.*

Prayers of the People (Form I)

BCP 383

All remain standing or kneel. Additional prayer needs may be offered aloud during the period of silence.

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace of the world, especially Ukraine and Palestine, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; David, our Bishop; Fr. Cristopher, our Rector; Fr. Tim, our retired Rector; for the Episcopal Church; for Sunday school teachers; Christian Formation leaders; and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Joe, our President; the Congress; Greg, our Governor; the men and women of the Armed Forces, especially those deployed, including **Giovanni and Mitchell**; for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, and those in need, especially **Tyra & Kyron, the Hudson Family, Deputy Jordan, Lia & Family, the Fletcher Family, the McDaniel & Dunlap Families, Chuck, Donovan, Christian, June & Family, Liz, Baby James, Ben, Jeff, Becky, Barbara & Family, Mike, Maria, the Bailey Family, Anthony, Steve, Byron, Carolyn, Glen, Kristen, Kasey, Payton, Megan & Ryan, Ben, Joan, and Loris;**

Silence. (The People may add their own thanksgivings.)

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

With thanksgiving for **Ron & Jayne, Porter, and Willie;**

Silence. (The People may add their own thanksgivings.)

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed;

Silence. (The People may add their own petitions.)

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of Matthew and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

Silence

The Celebrant says

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Peace

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

BIRTHDAY PRAYER: O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant *N.* as *he* begins another year. Grant that *he* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *his* trust in your goodness all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANNIVERSARY PRAYER: O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Offertory Hymn 467

Sing, my soul, his wondrous love

Giving to St. Matthew's Church:

- Make checks Payable to: St Matthew's Episcopal Church.
- 1. Mail to: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 810 Kitty Hawk Rd. Universal City, TX 78148.
- 2. Use your Credit Union or Bank's ability to send periodic checks to the church; this is especially useful for fulfilling your annual pledge.
- 3. Use the QR Code to donate through VANCO.



THE HOLY COMMUNION

All Stand. The service will continue with the offertory sentences.

The Doxology

(Hymn #380 verse 3)

Celebrant and People

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer C, BCP p. 369)

All remain standing.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus (Hymnal S-124)

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. *AMEN.*

The Celebrant then continues

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. *Amen.*

The Breaking of the Bread (BCP p. 364)

A period of silence is kept.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore, let us keep the feast.

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Hymn #671

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound

All baptized Christians who seek God and are drawn to Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion in God's Table.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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 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.

Anointing of the Prayer Minister

Blessing

The priest blesses the people, saying the following or another blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Hymn #489

The great Creator of the worlds

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Announcements:

- **Spring Clean-Up** has begun. We will gather on **Saturday, March 23, @ 8am**, to get work done together. Breakfast will be served. However, you have from now until the 23rd to get it done at your convenience. In addition, folding of the **Palm Crosses** will also be on the **23rd, at 10am**. See Liz Sampson
- The congregation is encouraged to donate **one can of food per day** during the 40 days of Lent for the RACAP food pantry. Bring your cans to **Creasy Hall** at any time during office hours (9:00am-12:00pm, M-F) throughout the Lenten Season, and the food donations will be delivered to RACAP. On Easter Sunday, there will be a special in-gathering of **one extra can** per person.
- A **Prayer Minister** will be available immediately following the service at the far end of the first pew in the choir section for anointing and prayers for anyone who has a special need.

THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Most Reverend Michael Curry
Presiding Bishop

THE DIOCESE OF WEST TEXAS

The Right Reverend David G. Read
Bishop of West Texas

ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH

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Parish Secretary: Lisa Weatherspoon | E-mail: office@stmatts-uc.org

Rector: The Reverend Cristopher Robinson

THE PARISH VESTRY

If you have any questions or concerns, please talk to a Vestry member.

Jayne Dunlap '24, Senior Warden

Maribeth Likins '24, Janet Clere '25

Richard Guerrero '25, Terry May '26

Arlene Stalvey '26

(The end of a member's term is indicated by the year)