

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 Second Sunday of Easter

April 27, 2025

8:00 A.M. – 10:00 AM

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

Proclamation Hymn #210

The day of resurrection!

Welcome and Announcements

THE WORD OF GOD

BCP 355

All standing, the Celebrant says

Alleluia. Christ is risen!

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Celebrant says

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.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

All sit.

The Reading

Acts 5:27-32

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the temple police had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 150 *Laudate Dominum*

1 Hallelujah!

Praise God in his holy temple; *
praise him in the firmament of his power.

2 Praise him for his mighty acts; *
praise him for his excellent greatness.

3 Praise him with the blast of the ram's-horn; *
praise him with lyre and harp.

4 Praise him with timbrel and dance; *
praise him with strings and pipe.

5 Praise him with resounding cymbals; *
praise him with loud-clanging cymbals.

6 Let everything that has breath *
praise the LORD. Hallelujah!

Second Reading

Revelation 1:4-8

A Reading from the Revelation of John.

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn #209 (verses 1-2)

We walk by faith, and not by sight

All stand.

Holy Gospel

John 20:19-31

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sequence Hymn #209 (verses 3-4)

We walk by faith, and not by sight

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 IV)

BCP 388

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

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray especially for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; David & Angela, our Bishops; Cristopher & Barbara, our Clergy; for the Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean; St. Mark's, Corpus Christi; and St. Mark's, San Antonio.

Silence.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray especially for Donald, our President; the Congress; the Supreme Court; Greg, our Governor; the men and women of the Armed Forces, especially those deployed, including **Mitchell**; and wisdom for the leaders of all nations.

Silence.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We give thanks today for **Steven, Jayne, Chelsey, and John.**

Silence. The People may add their own thanksgivings.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray especially for, **Gavin, Skip, Mary, Pat & Sheila, Dennis, Rosemary, Catherine, Sharon, Austin, Tony, Zuri, Kirsten, Ava, Jessalyn, and Monique.**

Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. We pray especially for **Janice and Pope Francis.**

Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Confession of Sin

All kneel. The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A period of silence is observed.

Celebrant 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 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.*

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.*

Flowers were given by Catherine Oakley in celebration of her birthday.

Offertory Hymn #206

O sons and daughters, let us sing!

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 A)

The people stand.

(S-120)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus (Hymnal S-125)

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 people stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.
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)

Fraction Anthem: Hymn S-152

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia

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

Communion Hymn#328

Draw nigh and take the body of the Lord

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.

Blessing

The priest blesses the people

Hymn #193

That Easter day with joy was bright

Dismissal

Celebrant Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Announcements:

- **Spiritual Retreat in Recovery #123, *Bridging the Gap between Church and Recovery*, May 2-4, 2025, Camp Capers, Waring, TX.** Please see posted flyers for further detailed information.
- **RACAP** is in desperate need of the following items: **Jelly, Tomato Products, Laundry Soap, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, and Tampons.** As always, your support is greatly appreciated.
- 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.

Giving to St. Matthew's Church:

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



THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Most Reverend Sean Rowe
Presiding Bishop

THE DIOCESE OF WEST TEXAS

The Right Reverend Dr. David G. Read
Bishop of West Texas
The Right Reverend Angela Maria Cortiñas, Bishop Suffragan
Diocesan website: www.dwtx.org

ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH

810 Kitty Hawk Road | Post Office Box 2337
Universal City, Texas 78148
Church Office phone 210-658-5956

Website: www.stmatts-uc.org | [Facebook.com/stmattuc](https://www.facebook.com/stmattuc)

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

Rector: The Reverend Cristopher Robinson

Associate Rector: The Reverend Barbara Duffield

THE PARISH VESTRY

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

Janet Clere '25, Senior Warden

Arlene Stalvey '26, Junior Warden

Richard Guerrero '25, Terry May '26

Tarawanda Howard '27, Ellen Yelverton '27

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