

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 Advent

December 7, 2025

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

Processional Hymn #437

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!

Welcome and Announcements

THE WORD OF GOD

BCP 355

All standing, the Celebrant says

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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.

The following is sung, all standing (S 277)

(During the singing, those participating in Children's Chapel process out)

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.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

All sit.

The Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 `Deus, *judicium*

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.

Second Reading

Romans 15:4-13

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

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn #76 (verses 1&2)

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Holy Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sequence Hymn #76 (verse 3)

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

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, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, the Church of Bangladesh; and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury-Elect; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; David & Angela, our Bishops; Cristopher & Barbara, our Clergy; Church of Advent, Brownsville; St. Andrew’s, Sequin; St. Andrew’s, San Antonio; and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Donald, our President; the Congress; Greg, our Governor; the men and women of the Armed Forces, especially those deployed, including **Sean**; 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 **Trina & Baby Violet, Austin, Jennifer, the Lindsey Family, Millie, Curren, J.J, Chris, Maribeth, Tarawanda, Colleen, the Atchley & Barsalov Families, Birdie, Jacobe, the Parham Family, Bruce, Johnny, Johnnieann, and the Yanez Family;**

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

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

With thanksgiving for **Janet, Justin & Family, Lisa & Family, Becki, Jayne, Mark, and Melody;**

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, especially **Charles, Phil, and RJ;**

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.

Stewardship Prayer

I ask for your remembrances of thanksgivings and blessings, for we are given time, talent, and treasure to share with the world.

May we be generous with our gratitude as we Tell Out My Soul.

*Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.*

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.*

Candles were given by Richard Guerrero in celebration of his birthday.

Offertory Hymn #65

Prepare the way, O Zion

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 B, BCP p. 367)

The people remain standing.

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them to the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	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.

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

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 people stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Matthew and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 for ever. *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)

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 #67

Comfort, comfort ye my people

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

Dismissal

<i>Celebrant</i>	Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

Announcements:

- **Today, December 7, 2025** officially ends our Stewardship Campaign; however, those who have not yet turned in your estimate of giving cards may turn them in at any time; we would appreciate if you can get them in **NLT December 14th**. If you have any questions, please see or call Wayne Mudge, (210)240-1059. **Completed estimate of giving cards will be blessed today during the 8 & 10am services.**
- **RACAP Holiday Basket Program continues.** Please help RACAP fill their clients Christmas meal baskets with the following items: **Brown Sugar (1 lb.), Evaporated Milk, Stuffing Mix, Canned Pumpkin, Yams or Sweet Potatoes, Fruit Cocktail, Cranberry Sauce, Corn (not creamed), Green Beans (not French), and Chicken Broth.** Donated Funds will be used to purchase gift cards and perishable items for the baskets. **Please bring your food items and cash donations to Creasy Hall by Sunday, December 14th, 2025.** See Kathy Ercoline for more information (210)410-9314. As always, your support is greatly appreciated. *Thank you for helping us help others!*
- 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.

Advent/Christmas Schedule

12/7 – 2nd Sunday of Advent, regular service 8 and 10 am Eucharist.

12/14 – 3rd Sunday of Advent, 8:00: Eucharist/funeral for Charles Atchley.

10:00: Lessons and Carols. The Service of Lessons and Carols tells the story of God's salvation using readings and familiar carols/hymns.
There is no sermon and no Eucharist.

12/21 – Bishop Read visits! One service at 9:00 AM, brunch to follow.

12/24 – Christmas Eve, Carols at 7:15 PM and Holy Eucharist at 7:30 PM.

12/25 – Christmas Day, 10:00 AM.

12/28 – 1st Sunday after Christmas, regular 8 and 10 am Eucharist.

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 Most Reverend and Right Honourable Sarah Mullally
Archbishop of Canterbury - Elect

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

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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)