

# ***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 First Sunday of Advent**

**December 1, 2024**

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

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*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**

### **Processional Hymn #66**

***Come, thou long-expected Jesus***

### **THE WORD OF GOD**

*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.

## Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*All sit.*

## First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

A Reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 25:1-9 *Ad te, Domine, levavi*

1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;  
my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
let me not be humiliated,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

3 Show me your ways, O LORD, \*  
and teach me your paths.

4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.

5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, \*  
for they are from everlasting.

6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*  
remember me according to your love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; \*  
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

8 He guides the humble in doing right \*  
and teaches his way to the lowly.

9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness \*  
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

## **Second Reading**

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

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

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## **Sequence Hymn #58 (verses 1-2)**

*Lo! he comes, with clouds descending*

*All stand.*

## **Holy Gospel**

Luke 21:25-36

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

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap.

For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

*Celebrant* The Gospel of our Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**Sequence Hymn #58 (verses 3-4)**

*Lo! he comes, with clouds descending*

**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 V)

BCP 388

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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop; David, our Bishop; Angela, our Bishop Suffragan - Elect; Cristopher, our Rector; Tim, our retired Rector; for all bishops and ministers; and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the mission of the Church, especially for the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan; St. Nicholas, Bulverde; Church of the Advent, Alice; that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For those in positions of public trust especially Joe, our President; the Congress; Greg, our Governor; the men and women of the Armed Forces, especially those deployed, including **Devon**; that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; especially for: **Crystal, Susan, Ron, Bill, Memo, Jose, David, Joe, Glen, Larry, Maribeth, Daniel, Andrew, Jonetta, Willie B., Janet, Elizabeth, the Walker Family, and Kirsten.**

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

that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, especially: **Pam.**

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

that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy*

We give thanks for: **Jacob & Scarlett, Mary, and Nathan.**

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

Rejoicing in the fellowship of blessed Matthew and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

*To you, 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 “Walk in Love.”

*Response: **Hear the prayers of your people, Creator God. May we who are blessed by so much wealth and wisdom, share our works with a world in need.***

## **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.*

**Offertory Song by Choir**

***“Soon and Very Soon”***

## 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.*

*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.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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-130)**

*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)**

*A period of silence is kept.*

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 Song**

***“Wait for the Lord”***

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

*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 #73**

***The King shall come when morning dawns***

### **Dismissal**

*Celebrant* Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

### **Announcements:**

- **Today, December 1, 2024** 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 15<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please see or call Wayne Mudge, (210)240-1059. **Completed estimate of giving cards will be blessed December 8<sup>th</sup>.**

- **Potluck with Tamales & Trimmings. December 1st**, following the 10am service. We will also be decorating Creasy Hall after the festivities.
- The Living Compass Advent Devotional, *Practicing Peace with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind*, is available to pick up in the narthex.
- **RACAP** is in desperate need of the following items: **Cereal, Meat Helpers, Muffin Mix, Tampons, and Feminine Hygiene Pads**. 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. 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 ANGLICAN COMMUNION**

**THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

The Right Reverend Sean Rowe  
Presiding Bishop

**THE DIOCESE OF WEST TEXAS**

The Right Reverend Dr. David G. Read  
Bishop of West Texas

**ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH**

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Church Office phone 210-658-5956

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

Parish Secretary: Lisa Weatherspoon | E-mail: [office@stmatts-uc.org](mailto: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

Arlene Stalvey '26, Junior Warden

Maribeth Likins '24, Janet Clere '25

Richard Guerrero '25, Terry May '26

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