

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 7, 2024

8:00 A.M. & 10 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 #182

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing

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.

The following is sung, all standing (S 280)

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 4:32-35

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Psalm 133 *Ecce, quam bonum!*

- 1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, *
when brethren live together in unity!
- 2 It is like fine oil upon the head *
that runs down upon the beard,
- 3 Upon the beard of Aaron, *
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
- 4 It is like the dew of Hermon *
that falls upon the hills of Zion.

5 For there the LORD has ordained the blessing: *
life for evermore.

Second Reading

1 John 1:1-2:2

A Reading from the First letter of John.

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life-- this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us-- we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn # 490 (verses 1-2)

I want to walk as a child of the light

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 #490 (verses 3)

I want to walk as a child of the light

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 Gaza, 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; Cristopher, our Rector; Tim, our retired Rector; the Province of Alexandria; Church of the Resurrection, Windcrest; Church of the Redeemer, Eagle Pass; 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 **Mitchell and Nicole**; 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 **the Sanchez Family, Kathryn & Family, Javelle, Ben & Joan, Carolyn, Glen, Danny, Cathy, Marissa & Rhett, Jackie, Catherine, Christian, Rick, Constance, Howard, Saxon & Kasey, Mericela, Baby Matteo, and Stella**;

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

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

With thanksgiving for **Lisa**;

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.

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 stands and 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.*

Silence

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 Cindy Hull in celebration of Jacque Hull's 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 D, BCP p. 372)

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.

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we say,

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 acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all. When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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." Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name. Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, Matthew, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and 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.

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.

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

Communion Hymn #474

When I survey the wondrous cross

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 #174

Now let the heavens be joyful

Dismissal

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

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Announcements:

- **Bishop Read is coming: Celebration of a New Ministry, April 30th, 6pm.**
- **There will be no Prayer Meeting tomorrow, April 8th.**
- **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 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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Website: www.stmatts-uc.org | Facebook.com/stmattuc

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)