

# ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 14, 2025  
10:30AM IN THE CHURCH



*Welcoming all in community;  
Joyfully doing God's work  
in the world.*

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church sits on the traditional homelands of the people of the Council of Three Fires: the Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and Odawa nations. This land was also a place of travel and trade to many other tribes, including the Menominee, Ho-Chunk, and Miami tribes. These Native Peoples were forced off their lands with the Second Treaty of Prairie du Chien in 1829. After a series of land transfers, St. Matthew's acquired its current site within this territory in 1906. Today, Cook County is home to tens of thousands of Native Americans from many tribes. We acknowledge and respect our Indigenous neighbors, as we strive to be good stewards of this Native land.

## ST. MATTHEW'S EVENTS

**December 24**    **Christmas Eve:**

4:00pm Family Service, Brown Bag Pageant

10:15pm St. Matthew's Choir Prelude of Christmas Music

11:00pm Christmas Eve, Festival Holy Eucharist with Music

**December 25**    **Christmas Day:**

10:00am Said Service of Holy Eucharist

### Welcome to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Welcome! If you would like to become a registered parishioner or are just updating your information, please complete as much information as possible. Completed forms may be returned to the Parish Office, placed in the offering plate or mailed to the office. You may also fill out this form online by scanning the QR Code below.

NAME:	
ADDRESS:	
PHONE:	
EMAIL:	RECEIVE EMAILS FROM ST. MATTHEW'S? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS:	



**ONLINE FORM**

**St. Matthew's Episcopal Church**

**2120 Lincoln St. Evanston, IL 60201**

**847-869-4850**

# WELCOME TO ST. MATTHEW'S

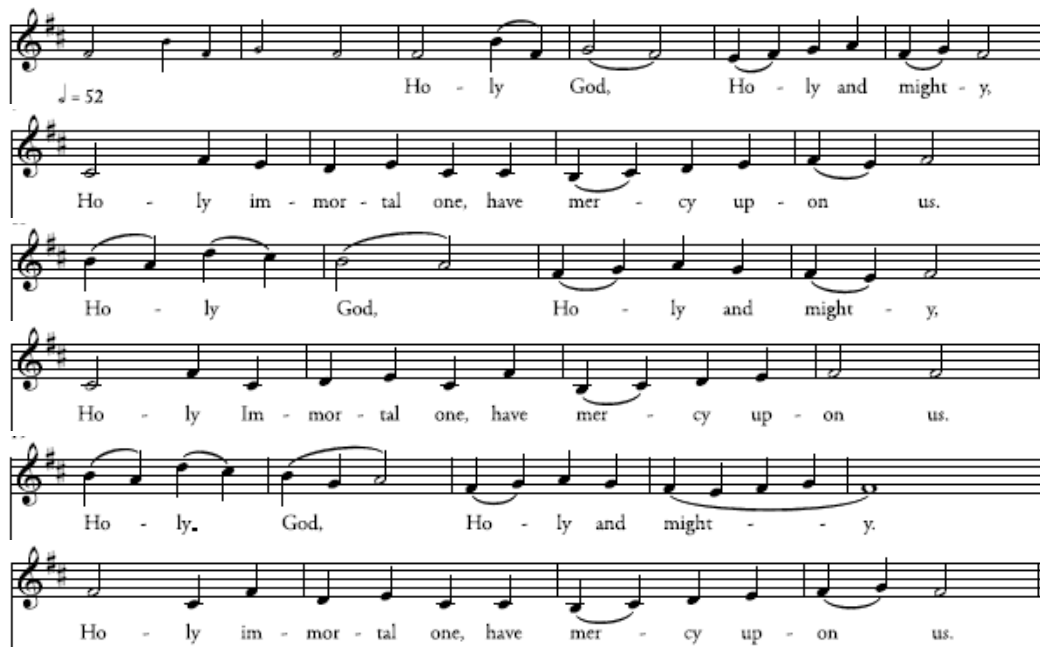
Whoever you are and wherever you find yourself in your journey of faith,  
you are welcome at God's table to receive the bread and wine made holy.

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## THE PRELUDE

*The congregation stands as able as a handbell is rung.*

## THE TRISAGION



*Celebrant* People of God: awake!  
The day is coming soon when you shall see God face to face.  
Remember the ways and the works of God.  
God calls you out of darkness to walk in the light of his coming.  
You are God's children.

*People* **Lord, make us one as we walk with Christ today and for ever. Amen.**

## THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*Celebrant* People of God: be glad!  
Your God delights in you,  
giving you joy for sadness and turning the dark to light.  
Be strong in hope therefore;  
for your God comes to save.  
You are God's children.

*People* **Lord, make us one in the love of Christ  
today and for ever. Amen.**

*One candle on the Advent Wreath is lit.*

*Celebrant* Creator God,  
you call us to repent of our sins:  
soften our proud and stubborn hearts.  
Lord, have mercy.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Celebrant* Lord Jesus,  
you declared the forgiveness of God:  
teach us to forgive one another.  
Christ, have mercy.

*People* **Christ, have mercy.**

*Celebrant* Holy Spirit,  
you search our hearts and show us the truth:  
direct us in your way of righteousness.  
Lord, have mercy.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*All stand as able.*

**THE OPENING HYMN** *Hymnal 1982 #76* On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

*Winchester New*

*Verses 1, 2, 3 & 5*

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of three systems of music, each with five numbered verses of lyrics underneath. The first system covers verses 1 through 5, the second system covers verses 1 through 5, and the third system covers verses 1 through 5. The lyrics are as follows:

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -  
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make  
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our  
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and  
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -  
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we  
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy  
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.  
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.  
3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.  
4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.  
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

## THE WORD OF GOD

### THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Celebrant* Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

*People* **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

*The Celebrant may say*

## THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

*Celebrant* 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.

*People* **Amen.**

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*The Celebrant says to the people*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray,

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

*The people sit.*

## A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH (35:1-10).

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!"  
Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you."

*(Continued on the next page)*

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.  
No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

**THE PSALM 146:4-9** *Lauda, anima mea* Cantor: Angela Torres-Kutkuhn



<sup>4</sup> Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! \*  
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

<sup>5</sup> Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; \*  
who keeps his promise for ever;

<sup>6</sup> Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, \*  
and food to those who hunger.

**REFRAIN**

<sup>7</sup> The LORD sets the prisoners free;  
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; \*  
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;



<sup>8</sup> The LORD loves the righteous;  
the LORD cares for the stranger; \*  
he sustains the orphan and widow,  
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD shall reign for ever, \*  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.  
Hallelujah!

## REFRAIN

*The people sit.*

## A READING FROM THE LETTER OF JAMES (5:7-10)

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE SEQUENCE HYMN MHSO 20

Celtic Alleluia

O'Carroll, Walker

Jack Ellis, cantor

We will repeat the Alleluia 2 times before the verse and 2 times after verse



*Verse:* The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor.

# THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

(11:2-11)

*People* **Glory to you, O Christ.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Gospel of our Savior.

*People* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## THE SERMON

*The Rt. Rev. Whayne Hougland, Jr.*

*After a time of silent reflection, all are invited to stand, as they are able, and say together:*

### THE NICENE CREED

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.

*(Continued on the next page)*



For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: FORM 1

*Leader* With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to God, saying "God, have mercy."  
For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls,  
let us pray to God.

*People* **God, have mercy.**

*Leader* For Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Paula, our Bishop; for our own clergy and those at St.  
Andrew's Pentecost, and for all the clergy and for all the people, let us pray to God.

*People* **God, have mercy.**

*Leader* For Donald, our President, for the leaders of the nations, for all in authority, and for those in  
uniform, risking their lives daily on our behalf, let us pray to God.

*People* **God, have mercy.**

*Leader* For the cities and towns of Evanston, Skokie, and Wilmette, for every city and community,  
and for those who live in them, let us pray to God.

*People* **God, have mercy.**

*Leader* For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to God.

*People* **God, have mercy.**

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

*People* **God, have mercy.**

*Leader* For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air, let us pray to God.

*People* **God, have mercy.**

*Leader* For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, especially for Connie, Carol, Jim, Timmy, David, Juliette, Janice, Gina, Dorothy, Jeremy, Tobin, Kaden, Larry, Beth, Brad, Ann, Bob, Becky, Ramona, Harriet, Paige, Kate, Benjamin, Bob, Jessica, Maeve, Donna, Carol, Will and for Maua and her 5 daughters.

*The leader pauses as the people offer the names of those in need.*

*Leader* For all of these, let us pray to God.

*People* **God, have mercy.**

*Leader* 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 God.

*People* **God, have mercy.**

*Leader* For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, let us pray to God.

*People* **God, have mercy.**

*Leader* For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to God.

*People* **God, have mercy.**

*Leader* That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to God.

*People* **God, have mercy.**

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

*People* **To you, O God.**

## THE CONFESSION OF SIN

*Celebrant* God has promised forgiveness to all who truly repent,  
turn to Christ in faith and are themselves forgiving.

In silence we call to mind our sins.

*The people kneel or stand in silence, contemplating how we have neglected to love God and our neighbors.*

*Deacon* Let us confess our sins.

*Silence may be kept*

*Deacon* Most merciful God,

*People* 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.

*Celebrant* Through the cross of Christ, God have mercy on you, pardon you and set you free.  
 Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.  
 God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal.

*People* **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*The ministers and people greet each other in the name of the Lord.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

# † THE HOLY COMMUNION †

## THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

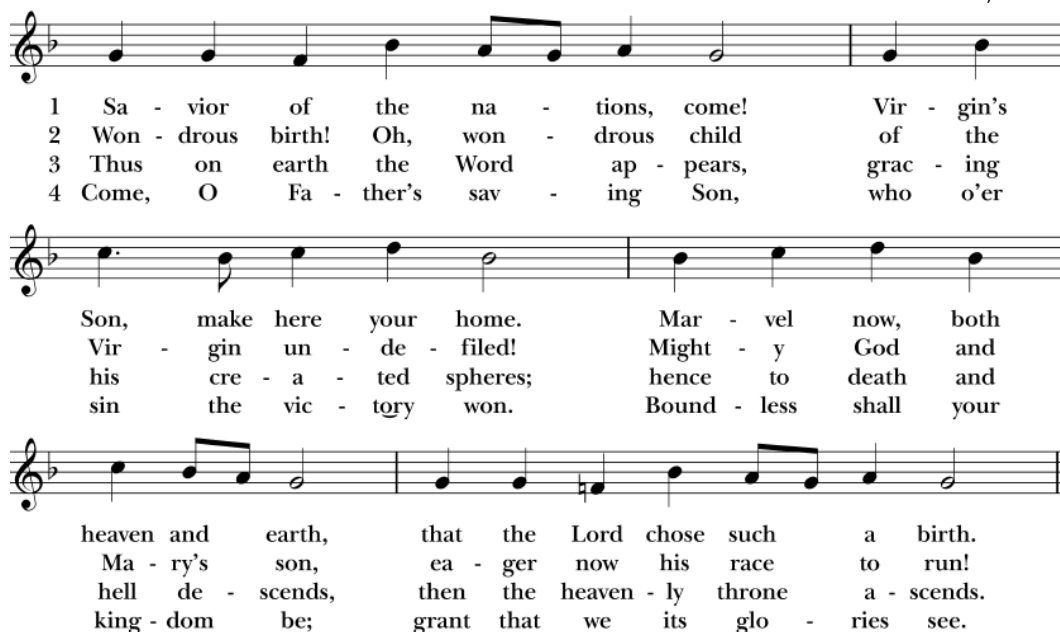
*People, Look East*

Howard Helvey

People, look East. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able. Trim the hearth, and set the table. People, look East, and sing today: "Love, the Guest, is on the way." Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there. Give up your strength, the seed to nourish; that in course, the flow'r may flourish. People, look East and sing today: "Love, the Rose, is on the way." Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled. Even the hour when wings are frozen, He for fledging time has chosen. People, look East, and sing today: "Love, the Bird, is on the way." Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim; shining beyond the frosty weather, bright the sun and moon together. People, look East, and sing today: "Love, the Star, is on the way." Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth. Set ev'ry peak and valley humming with the Word, the Lord is coming. People, look East, and sing today: "Love, the Lord, is on the way."

## THE OFFERTORY HYMN *Hymnal 1982 #54* Savior of the nations, come

*Nun komm, de Heiden Heiland*



1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's  
 2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the  
 3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing  
 4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er

Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both  
 Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and  
 his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and  
 sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.  
 Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
 hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.  
 king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

*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 our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere  
to give thanks to you, God 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 Jesus of everlasting life;  
that when Jesus 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:

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. It begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written below the staff, with some words connected by hyphens to indicate long notes. The score includes several measures of rests, indicating where the voice should be silent. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, 1. Heav - en and earth are full 2.,3. Bless - ed is he who comes 1. of your glo - ry. 2.,3. in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na! in the high - est." The score ends with a double bar line.

Ho - ly,  
ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
God of pow - er and might,  
1. Heav - en and earth are full  
2.,3. Bless - ed is he who comes  
1. of your glo - ry.  
2.,3. in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na!  
est. san - na! Ho -  
san - na in the high - est.

*Celebrant* Holy and gracious God: 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 Child, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. Jesus 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 Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and after giving thanks to you, Jesus broke it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and after giving thanks, Jesus 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.**

*Celebrant* We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's 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 Christ. 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 Matthew and all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through our Savior 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.

*Celebrant*

*and People* **AMEN.**

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

*Celebrant*

*and People* **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People* Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six systems of staves. The first system shows a choir part (top staff) and a solo voice part (bottom staff). The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the". The second system continues the choir and solo parts with the lyrics: "world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of". The third system shows the choir and solo parts with the lyrics: "God, you take a - way the sins of the". The fourth system continues the choir and solo parts with the lyrics: "world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of". The fifth system shows the choir and solo parts with the lyrics: "God, you take a - way the sins of the". The sixth system shows the choir and solo parts with the lyrics: "world: grant us peace.".

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

Yah-weh, I know You are near, stand-ing

al-ways at my side. You

guard me from the foe. And You lead me in

**Fine**

ways e-ver-last-ing.

1. Lord, You have searched my heart, and You  
2. Where can I run from Your love? If I

1. know when I sit and when I stand. Your  
2. climb to the heav-ens You are there; If I

1. hand is up-on me pro-tect-ing me from death,  
2. fly to the sun-rise or sail be-yond the sea,

**D.C.**

1. keep-ing me from harm.  
2. still I'd find You there.

Let us Pray

Eternal God, heavenly Creator, 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 Christ's 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.

## THE BLESSING

*Celebrant* May Almighty God, by whose Providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. May he whose second coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

*People* **Amen.**

## THE CLOSING HYMN *Hymnal 1982 #H58*    Lo! He comes, with clouds descending    *St. Thomas* Verses 1, 2 & 4

1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for our sal -  
2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in dread - ful  
3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion still his daz - zling  
4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on thine e -  
va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing  
ma - jes - ty; those who set at nought and sold him,  
bo - dy bears, cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion  
ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the power and glo - ry;  
swell the tri - umph of his train: Al - le - lu - ia!  
pierced, and nailed him to the tree, deep - ly wail - ing,  
to his ran - somed wor - ship - ers; with what rap - ture,  
claim the king - dom for thine own: Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.  
with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

## THE DISMISSAL

*Deacon* Let us go forth into the world,  
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## THE POSTLUDE



## Leading Our Worship This Morning

*Celebrant:* The Rt. Rev. Whayne Hougland, Jr

*Deacon:* The Rev. Terri J. Morrissey

*Music Director:* Mark Crayton

*Greeter:* Volunteer

*Lectors:* Larkin Myers, Ginger Carr

*Prayer Leader:* Kristin Jacobsen

*Chalice Bearer:* Volunteer

*Acolytes:* Harper Olsen, Quincy Senechal,

Willow Meyers, Roxanne Meyers

*Bread Baker:* Volunteer

*Altar Guild:* Deborah Williams

*Green Team:* Jennie Woodring

*Livestream:* Volunteer

## The Choir of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Mark Crayton, Music Director and Conductor

Quinn Brann, Organist/Pianist

### Soprano

Monique Austin

Charlotte Bishop

Ginger Carr

Alice Dolan

Chloe Beal\*\*

Kaylie O'Dell\*\*

Winifer Castaneda Verastegui\*\*\*

### Alto

Bernadette Brockman\*

Nancy Churchill

Allyn Rawling

Angela Torres-Kutkuhn\*\*†

### Tenor

Francis Lynch

Karlos Piñero-Mercado\*

Zachary Schwartz\*

Anthony Rohr\*\*\*

Brian Pember\*\*\*

### Bass

Terry Bucher\*

Steve Carr

Jack Ellis\*

\*Section Leader

\*\*\*Substitute Singer

\*\*Staff Singer

†Choral Assistant

# Why We Love St. Matthew's...



*In this stewardship season, we reflect on why we support the church. The reasons are in the pews next to us in church and in the seats next to us in the choir, at movie group, study class, the coffeehouse, etc. We've asked parishioners to tell us why they support St. Matthew's. If you would like to tell your story, email Whayne at [whayne@stmatthewsevanston.org](mailto:whayne@stmatthewsevanston.org) or Tim at [tim.patenode@gmail.com](mailto:tim.patenode@gmail.com).*

## 2026 Pledges Are Now Open - Pledge Today!

Your pledge of financial support for 2026 makes all the difference. It ensures that our worship remains vibrant, that our outreach extends compassion into Evanston and beyond, and that our ministries continue to form disciples in the way of Jesus. More than dollars and cents, your pledge is an expression of trust in God's faithfulness and of gratitude for the many blessings of this community.

"When I moved to Evanston from Bellevue, Washington, ten years ago, I was searching for a spiritual home and was living nearby on Central Street. Having just taken a new job in Chicago, I found myself drawn to St. Matthew's. The name itself felt providential—Matthew was a publican, a tax collector, and in my own profession of credit collections, and being brought up in the Episcopal church, an obvious choice. For the previous 30 years, I had been attending a Presbyterian church in Seattle.

What I discovered here has been even more meaningful. The people of St. Matthew's are smart, engaging, welcoming, and caring. I've enjoyed many of the parish's offerings, from the movie and men's groups to the quiet, peaceful chapel to the richness of Holy Week. Each has deepened my sense of belonging.

I also value the theology of the Episcopal Church, which I often picture as a tricycle: the big wheel is Scripture, and the two smaller wheels are reason and tradition. That balance gives me comfort. I am especially grateful that we are a church willing to live with mystery—that we may not know everything, but we are called to love everyone.

St. Matthew's has become a place of faith, friendship, and hope for me. I look forward to supporting this community in the years ahead and to continuing the journey together."

*-Rick Worden*



**Scan the QR Code to make  
your pledge today!**



# CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND FLOWERS

**Remember someone special this  
Christmas by contributing to the  
flowers in the sanctuary or supporting  
our music program.**

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## CHRISTMAS MUSIC / FLOWERS DONATIONS

☐

MUSIC

☐

FLOWERS

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In thanksgiving for: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

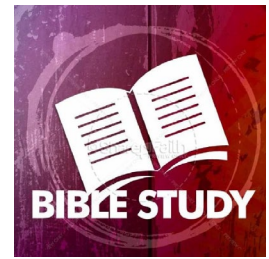
**Deadline for listing in Christmas bulletins is Monday, December 15.**

Please return this form to Gregory Peebles at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church: 2120 Lincoln Street, Evanston, IL 60201

Please make checks out to St. Matthew's with "Christmas Music/Flowers" in the memo line.

## Bible Study with Rev. Wayne Tuesdays at 12 Noon, St. Matt's Library

Join Rev. Wayne for Bible Study every Tuesday. We will meet at Noon in St. Matt's Library / Gallery. Bible Study will last around an hour. Bring your lunch - and a friend!



## A Note From Deacon Terri

In my recent sermon on Creation Care, I spoke about how our Native Plant Garden at St. Matthew's promotes biodiversity and environmental sustainability. The challenge of caring for God's creation includes helping wildlife and the land thrive naturally. Please enjoy this post from Homegrown National Park about the importance of leaving the leaves in place over the winter months.



-The Reverend Terri J. Morrissey, Deacon

<https://homegrownnationalpark.org/leave-the-leaves-why-less-cleanup-means-more-life/>

## Anti-Racism / Loving Our Neighbor

**Jazz for Joy:** Come to a holiday jazz concert and coat drive on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 4 p.m. at Sherman United Methodist Church, 2214 Ridge Avenue in Evanston. The concert is free, and organizers suggest donation of a new coat or cash that will be used to purchase coats. Sponsored by Sherman UMC, Unitarian Church of Evanston, Shorefront, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Theta Kappa Kappa Chapter.



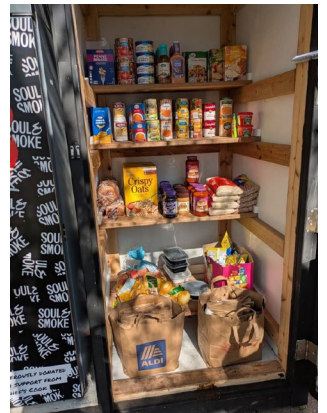
Your recycling—if it's in a plastic bag—won't be recycled. The bag will be pulled off the line and trashed because there is no time to open and empty it, and plastic bags cannot be allowed to go through because they tangle up the equipment and cause shutdowns.

## Wednesday Lunches

As part of our outreach, St. Matthews partners with St. Marks, through Interfaith Action of Evanston, to provide lunch every Wednesday to those in need and has been doing so since 2015. We prepare and serve a nutritious lunch meal at St. Mark's Cunningham Hall, 1519 Ridge, Evanston. Lunch is prepared by volunteers in the St. Mark's kitchen. If you are interested in volunteering to help, please click on the link for the SignUp Genius which includes further information on what is involved and how it works. If you have any questions, please email Karen Hertel at [klchivas@aol.com](mailto:klchivas@aol.com). <https://tinyurl.com/wedsack>

## EVANSTON FOOD FRIDGES

Food insecurity is something many in our community deal with. Since Covid, Evanston Food Fridges, along with many in our community, have been doing their part. How does it work? Food pantries and refrigerators are located in 4 places in Evanston where you can drop off food for those in need. Fresh foods are most appreciated. Those in need can come, get food, no questions asked. Soul and Smoke, Northwestern, and Starbucks all donate regularly. Feel free to drop off food or you can donate money directly to them. <https://www.evanstoncommunityfridges.com>



Food fridges are located at:

1601 Payne Street next to Soul and Smoke

1335 Dodge Street

619 West Howard Street

602 Madison Street

# NOTES:

# THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

You are encouraged to include these names in your daily prayers.

During Sunday worship, you are encouraged to offer silently or aloud your prayers to God. If you wish to add a name to the prayer list, email [info@stmatthewsevanston.org](mailto:info@stmatthewsevanston.org). Names are listed for 4 weeks.

The Prayer List is prayed for weekly by the St. Matthew's Prayer Group.

**In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Anglican Church of Burundi

**In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** *For the ecumenical relationships between the churches in full Communion with the Episcopal Church: the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Church of North India; Church of South India; Church of Pakistan; Church of Bangladesh; the Old Catholic Churches; the Philippine Independent Church; the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar; and the Moravian Church in America, Northern and Southern Provinces.*

**For the congregation at St. Matthew's** as we embrace our mission to be welcoming all in community; joyfully doing God's work in the world: welcoming our neighbors near and far.

**We pray for all those who celebrate birthdays in December:** Anne Branning, George Darrell, David Frederickson, Kristin Jacobsen, John Lloyd-Still, David Senechal.

**We pray for all those who celebrate anniversaries in December:** Connie & Dudley Conley, Kate & Gregg Lauderbaugh, Judy Royal & Tim Patenode, Diane & David Senechal.

**We pray for equal opportunity and equal treatment under the law for all people;** that we may be agents of God's kingdom, dismantling systems of injustice wherever and whenever we can, and for the will to enact common sense gun control laws.

**We pray for those in uniform, risking their lives daily on our behalf:** Cobe Layag, Jeremy Garrett, Aaron Grant, Thomas Greenwich, Lee Henderson, Tyler Howland, Peter Marks, Ian McGuffin, Joseph Sanford, Thomas Garbee, and the members of our city's fire and police departments, and for their families.

**We pray for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit or who have asked for our prayers:** Connie Conley, Carol Imperial, Jim, Timmy Arondale, David Julian, Juliette, Jancie Dark, Gina Purse, Dorothy Wyandt, Jeremy Herschaft, Tobin Hudgins, Kaden Brown, Larry Anderson, Beth Swigart, Brad Swigart, Ann Wilson Wesley, Bob Baker, Becky Wilson, Ramona Frederickson, Harriet Brandt, Paige D, Kate Martin, Benjamin Ticobay, Bob Teska, Jessica Mueller, Maeve Shampine, Donna Wagner, Carol Wagner, Will Widmer and for Maua and her 5 daughters.

**We pray for all in need:** those struggling with the Coronavirus, all victims of this pandemic, organ donors and those awaiting transplant, the lonely and isolated, our nation, especially those oppressed by our current systems, those protesting racial injustice, all elected officials seeking to lead communities in this challenging time, the unemployed and under-employed.

**We pray for those suffering** from acts of violence – including warfare, gun violence and sexual violence – as well as from natural disasters, and their aftermaths.

**We pray for all who have died.**

## ABOUT THIS MORNING'S SERVICE

While the shape and format of our service is from the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer* (revisions authorized by the Episcopal Church, March 17, 2020), St. Matthew's strives to offer worship that is relevant, inclusive, and hospitable: worship which is in keeping with our mission to be "welcoming all in community; joyfully doing God's work in the world." Therefore, we draw upon a variety of authorized sources, adapting them as necessary.

In today's service, the Opening Acclamation comes from "Text of Expansive Language Liturgies – from Resolution 2018-D078- updated 09-02–2019" and the introductions to prayers and responses and the Peace come from *Enriching Our Worship I*. The Collect of the Day comes from a collection of prayers written to match the lessons appointed in the Revised Common Lectionary: *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* by Steven Shakespeare. Scripture readings follow the Revised Common Lectionary using the *New Revised Standard Version* of the Bible.

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St. Matthew's lay leaders duly elected and appointed at  
The 149<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Parish on January 26, 2025

**St. Matthew's Vestry**

Stephen Carr, *Senior Warden*

Tim Patenode, *Junior Warden*

William Widmer, Kelsey Davies, Jim Kelly (2026)

Dudley Conley, Larkin Myers (2027)

Roberta Buchanan, Karen Hertel, David Parks (2028)

*Clerk of the Vestry*, Larkin Myers (2028)

Christopher Motogawa, *Treasurer* (2026)

**Trustees of St. Matthew's Endowment**

Don Churchill (2025)    Mary Clark (2025)    Ann Searles (2026)

**St. Matthew's Lay Delegation to the  
187<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Chicago**

ONLINE – All Day, Saturday, November 22, 2025

Delegates: Mary Clark, Ann Searles, Julia Green

**Clergy and St. Matthew's Staff**

The Most Rev. Sean Rowe, 28<sup>th</sup> *Presiding Bishop, The Episcopal Church*

The Rt. Rev. Paula E. Clark, *Thirteenth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago*

The Rt. Rev. Wayne M. Hougland, Jr., *Priest-in-Charge* | [wayne@stmatthewsevanston.org](mailto:wayne@stmatthewsevanston.org)

The Rev. Terri J. Morrissey, *Deacon* | [terri@stmatthewsevanston.org](mailto:terri@stmatthewsevanston.org)

Mark Crayton, *Music Director* | [mark@stmatthewsevanston.org](mailto:mark@stmatthewsevanston.org)

Julie Salako, *Communications Director* | [julie@stmatthewsevanston.org](mailto:julie@stmatthewsevanston.org)

Gregory Peebles, *Parish Administrator* | [gregory@stmatthewsevanston.org](mailto:gregory@stmatthewsevanston.org)

Jorge Lopez, *Handyman*

[www.stmatthewsevanston.org](http://www.stmatthewsevanston.org)                      [www.onrealm.org](http://www.onrealm.org)

[info@stmatthewsevanston.org](mailto:info@stmatthewsevanston.org)