

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 18, 2026
7:30PM IN THE CHURCH



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 made holy.

† THE WORD OF GOD †

The Celebrant and ministers enter in silence.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH (58:1-12).

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways!

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God

Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.
Is such the fast that I choose,
A day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bullrush,

And to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,

A day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice

to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,

and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread

And bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them,

and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,

and your healing shall spring up quickly;

your vindicator shall go before you,

The glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;

You shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,

the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

if you offer your food to the hungry

and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,

then your light shall rise in the darkness

and your gloom be like the noonday.

The LORD slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,

and satisfy you needs in parched places

and make your bones strong;

and you shall be like a watered garden,

like a spring of water,

whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt,

you shall raise up the foundations of many generations

You shall be called the repairer of the breach,

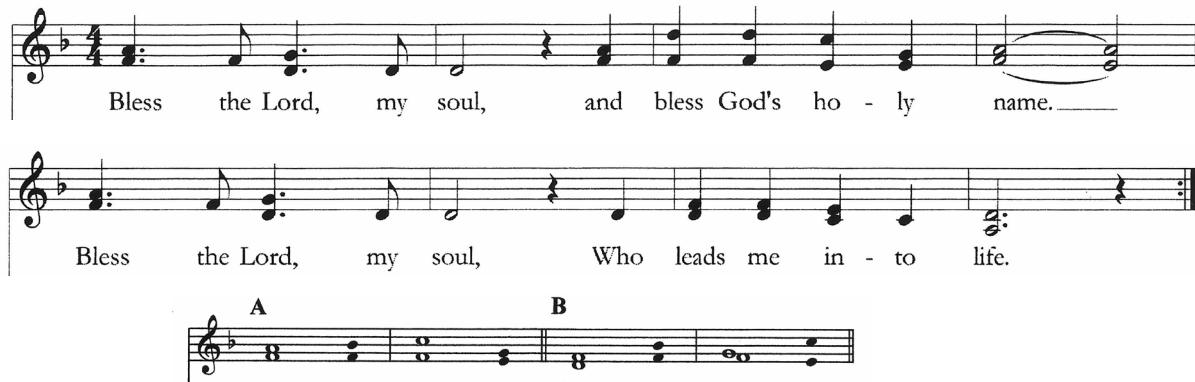
The restorer of streets to live in.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 103:8-14

The congregation joins in singing the refrain.



Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name. _____

Bless the Lord, my soul, Who leads me in - to life.

A 8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

A 9 He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.

B 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness. [ANT.]

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

12 As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us. [ANT.]

13 As a father cares for his children, *
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.

14 For he himself knows whereof we are made; *
he remembers that we are but dust. [ANT.]

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS (5:20b-6:10)

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see~ we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

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

People Thanks be to God.

All stand, as able, and sing together.

THE SEQUENCE HYMN W293

Lenten Acclamation

Richard Proulx

Cantor: Angela Torres-Kutkuhn



Verse: If today you hear the Lord's voice, harden not your hearts.

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

(6:1-6, 16-21).

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

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

The Gospel of our Savior.

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

THE SERMON

The Rt. Rev. Whayne Hougland, Jr, Priest in Charge

The People stand.

THE INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF A HOLY LENT

Celebrant Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is then kept for a time, all kneeling.

THE BLESSING OF ASHES

Celebrant Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

People **Amen.**

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

All who wish to receive the Imposition of Ashes are invited to come forward and kneel at the rail. The ashes are imposed with the following words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Wilt thou forgive that sin...Donne. Sung by Jack Ellis. For the words, please look at Hymnal 1982 #140.

THE LITANY OF PENITENCE

The Celebrant and People together, all kneeling.

Most holy and merciful Father:

We confess to you and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints
in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault
in thought, word, and deed;
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

Celebrant We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

People **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

We confess to you, Lord.

Celebrant Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

We confess to you, Lord.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Celebrant Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Presider 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 Christ. The people sit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

† THE HOLY COMMUNION †

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Steal away

arr. Brian Moles

Soloist: Karlos Piñero-Mercado

Steal away, steal away to Jesus, O, steal away, steal away home, I ain't got long to stay here. My Lord, He calls me, He calls me by the thunder, The trumpet sounds with in a my soul, I ain't got long to stay here. Green trees abending, Poor sinner stands a trembling, The trumpet sounds with in a my soul, I ain't got long to stay here.

THE OFFERTORY HYMN *Hymnal 1982* #147

Now let us all with one accord

Bourbon

1 Now let us all with one ac-cord, in
 2 The cov-e-nant, so long re-vealed to
3 Your love, O Lord, our sin-ful race has

1 com-pa-ny with a-ges past, keep vi-gil with our
 2 those of faith in for-mer time, Christ by his own ex-
3 not re-turned, but fal-si-fied; au-thor of mer-cy,

1 heaven-ly Lord in his temp-ta-tion and his fast.
 2 am-ple sealed, the Lord of love, in love sub-lime.
3 turn your face and grant re-pent-ance for our pride.

The people stand as able.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP PRAYER I

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

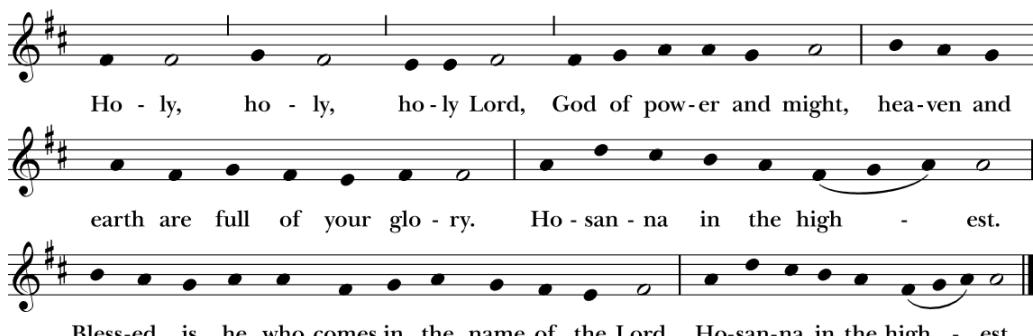
Celebrant Let us give thanks to God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

THE SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS *Hymnal 1982 #S124* *Holy, holy, holy*



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

The people stand or kneel as able.

Celebrant Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people. Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with St. Matthew, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

People

AMEN.

Celebrant

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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 Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

Celebrant 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.

THE COMMUNION HYMN LEVAS #29

Near the cross

William H. Doane



1. Je - sus, keep me near the cross, There's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2. Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, Love and mer - cy found me;
1. Free to all, a heal - ing stream Flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
2. There the Bright and Morn - ing Star Sheds its beams a - round me.
In the cross, in the cross Be my glo - ry ev - er;
Till my rap - tured soul shall find Rest be-yond the riv - er.

After all have received communion or a blessing, all stand.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

All God of abundance,
you have fed us
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one with all your people
in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Celebrant Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

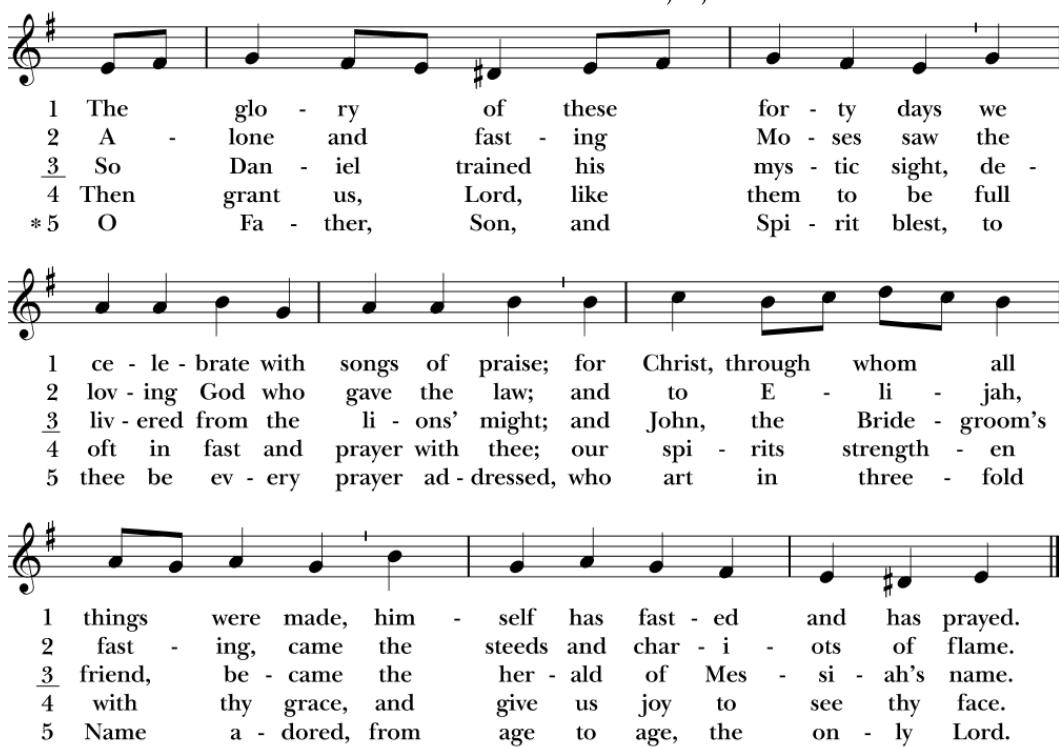
All stand, as able, and sing together.

THE CLOSING HYMN *Hymnal 1982* #143

The glory of these forty days

Erhalt uns, Herr

Verses 1, 2, 3 & 5



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we
2 A lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the
3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -
4 Then grant us, Lord, like them to be full
*5 O Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit blest, to

1 ce - le - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
2 lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
3 liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
4 oft in fast and prayer with thee; our spi - rits strength - en
5 thee be ev - ery prayer ad - dressed, who art in three - fold

1 things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
2 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
3 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
4 with thy grace, and give us joy to see thy face.
5 Name a - dored, from age to age, the on - ly Lord.

Words: Latin, 6th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell (1862-1947), alt. By permission of Oxford University Press. Music: *Erhalt uns, Herr*, melody from *Geistliche Leider*, 1543; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Leading Worship This Evening

Celebrant: The Rt. Rev. Whayne Hougland, Jr

Preacher: The Rev. Laura Gottardi-Littell

Deacon: The Rev. Terri J. Morrissey

Music Director: Mark Crayton

Greeter: Volunteer

Lectors: Steve Carr, Ginger Carr

Prayer Leader: Volunteer

Chalice Bearers: Volunteer

Bread Baker: Volunteer

Altar Guild: Kate Lauderbaugh,
Jennie Woodring

Green Team: Mary Jo Deysach

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***

Madison Holmes***

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

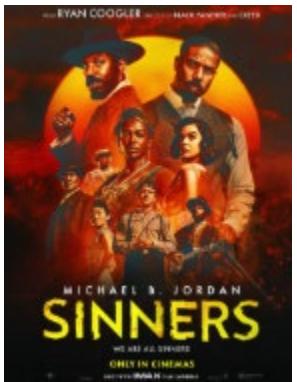
***Substitute Singer

**Staff Singer

†Choral Assistant

The St. Matthew's Movie Discussion Group February 22 | 3pm in the Parlor

Movie group discusses *Sinners*: In honor of Black History Month, mark your calendars for Sunday, Feb. 22 at 3 p.m. in the St. Matthew's Parlor for a joint Movie Group/Antiracism Team discussion of *Sinners*. The movie, which broke records with 16 Academy Award nominations, is about twin African-American brothers returning to their Mississippi hometown to start a juke joint, only to encounter vampires on opening night. Watch the movie ahead of time on HBO Max, Hulu, or other platforms. For more information, contact Ann Seasles at searlesil@yahoo.com or Kristin Jacobsen at kejcat@gmail.com.



WHO WILL WIN THE GOLDEN HALO?

Lent Madness 2026

As our journey through Lent approaches, please take some time to consider participating in Lent Madness and taking on the joyful practice of learning from the saints. Lent Madness is modeled on bracket-style sports competition (e.g. March Madness), and begins with a slate of 32 saints culminating in The Golden Halo. Unlike past years, there will be no Saintly Scorecard published in advance. Bios of the saints will be posted in each day's matchup. Matchup posts will begin the first week of Lent, on Thursday, February 19. There are two ways to participate - you can play along each day and record your progress - or fill out your bracket in advance!

Questions?? Contact Deacon Terri at terri@stmatthewsevanston.org to find Lent Madness resources, which include a printable bracket, visit www.lentmadness.org and click on the Menu in the upper right corner. Additional information about the saints is available from the following resources: Lesser Feasts and Fasts - www.episcopalcommonprayer.org; Wikipedia - visit The Calendar of the Church Year (Episcopal); Saints and Commemorations of the Episcopal Church - www.satucket.com

Follow Rev. Whayne on Substack

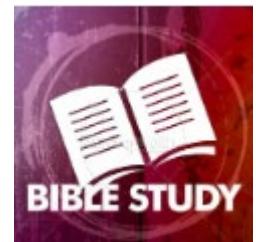
Sermon text can be found on Substack @theritualway or
Whayne Hougland, Jr.



Bible Study with Rev. Whayne

**Every Tuesday | St. Matt's Library / Gallery
12 Noon**

Join Rev. Whayne 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!



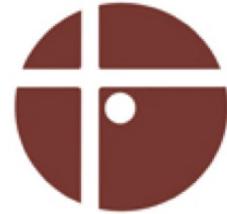
EVANSTON FOOD FRIDGES

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



*Welcoming all in community,
joyfully doing God's work in
the world.*

St. Matthew's lay leaders duly elected and appointed at
The 150th Annual Meeting of the Parish on January 25, 2026

St. Matthew's Vestry

Tim Patenode, *Senior Warden*

Karen Hertel, *Junior Warden*

Kelsey Davies, Dudley Conley, Larkin Myers (2027)

Roberta Buchanan, David Parks (2028)

Charlotte Bishop, Don Churchill (2029)

Clerk of the Vestry, Larkin Myers (2027)

Christopher Motogawa, *Treasurer* (2026)

Trustees of St. Matthew's Endowment

Steve Carr (2028) William Widmer (2028) Rick Worden (2028)

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

Ann Searles, Steve Carr

Clergy and St. Matthew's Staff

The Most Rev. Sean Rowe, *28th Presiding Bishop, The Episcopal Church*

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

The Rt. Rev. Whayne M. Hougland, Jr., *Priest-in-Charge* | whayne@stmatthewsevanston.org

The Rev. Terri J. Morrissey, *Deacon* | terri@stmatthewsevanston.org

Mark Crayton, *Music Director* | mark@stmatthewsevanston.org

Julie Salako, *Communications Director* | julie@stmatthewsevanston.org

Gregory Peebles, *Parish Administrator* | gregory@stmatthewsevanston.org

Jorge Lopez, *Handyman*

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www.onrealm.org

info@stmatthewsevanston.org