



ST. MATTHEW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Holy Eucharist 10am

The Third Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 14, 2025

It is the tradition of the Episcopal Church to maintain silence in the worship area so that people may pray. Please help us preserve an atmosphere of quiet reverence before worship. Remember to turn off or silence all phones. Thank you.

The Word of God

The Advent Candle is lit by Cynthia Racine, Nino and Emery Tran

Prelude:

People stand as able.

Opening Hymn: Prepare the way, O Zion Hymnal 65
Bereden väg för Herren

Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be God's reign, now and for ever. Amen.

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.

Trisagion: S-100
David Hurd

Children in kindergarten through the fifth grade may choose to follow the cross to Godly Play during Trisagion.

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Presider 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.

First Reading Isaiah 35:1-10

The People are seated

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."
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.

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

Psalm 146:4-9



4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in their their God;
5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
whose promise abides for ever;
6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.
7 God sets the prisoners free;
and opens the eyes of the blind; *
God lifts up those who are bowed down;
8 God loves the righteous;
and cares for the stranger; *
God sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.
9 God shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Alleluia!

The Saint Helena Psalter Translation

Second Reading 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.

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

Gospel Hymn: O come, O come, Emmanuel Hymnal 56, stanzas 5-6
Veni, Emmanuel

The People stand as able.

Holy Gospel Matthew 11:2-11

Remain standing

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People Glory to you, Lord 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."

Priest The Gospel of our Savior.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon The Rev. Suzanne Barrow

Nicene Creed

The People stand as able

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:
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.

Prayers of the People

After each petition, the People respond Hear our prayer.

Confession of Sin

The Presider says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Stand or kneel. Silence may be kept.

Presider 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 our Savior 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.

Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

Peace

All stand as able.

Presider The peace of Christ 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.

A Word of Welcome

The People are seated

Birthday Collect

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Holy Communion

During the offertory, please consider the gifts God has given you, and give generously. Your gift will help us continue vital ministries, and we really need money in this unusual moment in history. Our online giving works well, as does our text to give option. Please use this link for online giving. <https://secure.subsplash.com/ui/access/5QFR9K/>

Offertory: Magnificat Grayston Ives

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord. My spirit rejoices in God my savior; for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed. The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever. Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning,, is now and shall be for ever, Amen.

Presentation Verse Hymnal 76 stanza 5
Winchester New

All praise, eternal Son, to thee, whose advent doth thy people free; whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore.

Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C

The People remain standing.

Presider The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them up to the Lord.
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Presider continues

It is right to give you thanks and praise, O Lord, our God, sustainer of the universe. Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: shining light and enfolding dark; the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home; by your will they were created and have their being. From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with the capacity for memory, reason, and skill; you made us the stewards of your creation. Glory to you for ever and ever.

But we turned against you, and betrayed our trust; and we turned against one another. Again and again you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous law. In the fullness of time you sent your Son, born of a woman, to be our Savior. He was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities. By his death he opened to us the way of freedom and peace. Glory to you for ever and ever.

Therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus S-130
Franz Schubert

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

The People stand or kneel as the prayer continues

The Presider continues

Blessed are you, Lord our God, for sending us Jesus, the Christ, who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, 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.”

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup of wine; he gave you thanks, and said, “Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it do this for the remembrance of me.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving, we celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming. Glory to you for ever and ever.

Therefore, we who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Sanctify us also, and let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name. Glory to you for ever and ever.

Pour out your Spirit upon the whole earth and make it your new creation. Gather your Church together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, where peace and justice are revealed, that we, with all your people, of every language, race, and nation, may share the banquet you have promised

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Creator of all. Glory to you for ever and ever. AMEN.

The Presider then continues

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

Breaking of the Bread

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem: Jesus, Lamb of God S 164
Franz Schubert

The Presider says.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Please remain seated until guided by the ushers to communion. Return to your seat by the side aisles. If for any reason you do not desire to receive communion, you may come to the altar rail and cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing. If you need gluten-free bread, please ask the priest giving out bread. You are welcome to receive both bread and wine, or just bread.

Music during Communion: Redeemer of the Nations, Come
Veni Redemptor gentium

Eucharistic Visitors may be commissioned.

Postcommunion Prayer

Let us pray.

People and Presider

Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of 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 Savior. Amen.

Blessing

Closing Hymn: Hark! The glad sound! The Savior comes! Hymnal 72
St. Stephen

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Improvisation on Bereden väg för Herran Robert Lee



December 14, 2025

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve Pageant and Eucharist, 4p
Christmas Eve Prelude, 7:30p
Christmas Eve Candlelight Eucharist, 8p

Christmas Day

Christmas Day Eucharist, 10a

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

Taizé Evening Prayer continues today at 6p in Clingman

Chapel. These brief, candle-lit evenings will be held throughout the Advent season, and present a peaceful time to reflect on the true meaning of the season. All ages and families are invited.

Bell tower installation. The estimated day for the bell tower installation is Wednesday, December 17. Traffic will be blocked off at the Hubbards Lane entrance, so please enter by Massie Avenue if you are coming to church that morning.

Pageant rehearsals continue Sunday following the 10a service. We will gather in the church to review roles, lines, and microphones. Please attend.

The season of scams. This season of generosity also brings out scammers and ne'er-do-wells who masquerade as legitimate organizations online and in emails. Please be vigilant when reading and responding to the contents of your inbox. Remember, St. Matthew's does not request donations or "emergency funds" via email. Nor will staff or members of the Vestry at St. Matthew's contact you with such requests. If you have any questions about an email from the parish, contact the church office at (502) 895-3485.

Alzheimer's Association Caregivers Support Group will begin December 17 at 11a in Room A. It will be led by The Rev. Dr. Georgine Buckwalter, who has worked with dementia/Alzheimer's caregivers support groups for the majority of her career. It will meet the third Wednesday of every month.

GROW

Going Deeper Spiritually. The group will meet virtually on Zoom on: December 11, and 18. We will be led by The Rev. John Manzo as we discuss "Reflections on the Infancy Stories from the Books of Matthew and Luke." Meeting invitations are sent via email, with a Zoom link sent by Mary Jane Cherry. We log in together at 9:45a with a bit of chitchat, with the meeting starting officially at 10a and ending at 11:30a. Our first meeting of the New Year will be Thursday, January 8, 2026, when we resume meeting every second and fourth Thursday. If you would like to receive a link to the meetings, please contact Ellie Britt at (305) 776-8989 or ellie451@yahoo.com.

Clingman Forum: The Radical, Subversive Message of the Magnificat. The Magnificat, the Song of Mary, is often part of our liturgy at this time of year. Sunday our choir will sing Grayson Ives's setting of

the Magnificat as our Offertory anthem. Many Christians casually visualize the mother of Christ as meek and mild, submissive, quietly accepting the calling thrust upon her.

Listen closely to the Magnificat, though, and hear a radical, subversive message that utters a vastly different call: God scatters the proud and casts down the mighty. God lifts up the lowly, fills the hungry with good things, and sends the rich away empty. These are not meek words; and when we hear Jesus uttering similar commands in his life and ministry, we realize that he surely heard them from his mother as a child.

Join us in Clingman Forum from 11:10a-Noon Sunday, December. 14, immediately following the 10 o'clock Eucharist, as we take a closer look at the song of Mary and talk about our own impressions of Mary the mother of Jesus, which may vary depending on the paths and denominations of our personal journeys.

To stay informed about all our adult education programming, contact Robin Garr (robingarr@gmail.com) to join our email or text list.

Virtual Adult Education: Crossan on Christmas, Part II. Christmas is drawing near, and our young people are working hard on the Christmas Pageant. The Christmas story that we know and love brings together elements from the surprisingly different versions told by Matthew and Luke. What about Mark and John? They don't have a birth story at all!

Don't worry, all these confusing Bible study details don't call the New Testament into question at all. But learning about them helps us better understand the Gospels in particular and Scripture in general. Join us in Virtual Adult Education via Zoom from 6-7:15p Monday, December 15, as we tune up our hearts and minds for Christmas with a video interview with John Dominic Crossan about the book, *The First Christmas* (with Marcus J. Borg), offering their view of the deeper messages within the familiar Christmas story.

If you participate regularly, you are already registered and will receive an invitation on Monday morning with Zoom login information. If you would like to join our email or text list, contact Robin Garr (robingarr@gmail.com).

Women in Conversation. The group will not meet during Advent or Christmas. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, from noon to 1:30p at the church. We'll discuss a short sermon about the Epiphany by Rochard Rohr, found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYaDUincL6s>. For more information, contact judith.fischer@louisville.edu

Monday Bible Study with the Rector at 10a in the library. We begin with chit-chat and then progress into a discussion of scripture. All are welcome.

SERVE

Food Pantry, Saturday, December 20. Our monthly drive-through Food Pantry will be on Saturday, just five days before Christmas! Distribution will begin around 8:30a in the parking lot behind the church at 330 N. Hubbards Lane. We recommend that guests coming for food arrive and line up in their cars by that time.

In the peak of the holiday season, the need may be greater than ever. Please start spreading the word early: All are welcome, no questions are asked, and there's no need for ID. "If you are hungry, we will give you

something to eat."

We expect an extra-large crowd, so volunteers are especially welcome. This would be a great time to get involved in this important ministry, and you don't need to be a St. Matthew's member to take part! Contact Lynn Miller at millris426@gmail.com or Robin Garr at robingarr@gmail.com for more information, or just show up outside Saints Hall on Saturday morning the 20th!

WORSHIP

Illuminations. When the Messiah comes, when the Kingdom draws near, those days of glory will be filled with righteousness and justice, joy and abundance, with healing and good news for the poor. We hear this hopeful message through our readings for the third Sunday of Advent, as we light the rose candle in the Advent wreath. This week's readings shift the focus of Advent from quiet expectation toward anticipatory joy, a change in pitch that many traditionally note by wearing something pink to church. The first reading offers Isaiah's vision of the people's return to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, a homeward journey when, the prophet foretells, the desert itself shall rejoice and blossom as those who suffer are restored to joy and singing.

To read this week's Illuminations, visit: <https://www.stmatthewsepicopalouisville.org/sermons-and-illuminations>.

Consecrated Communion is available to be picked up during office hours. Consecrated wafers are in sealed bags in Myll Chapel if you would like to come to pick up a package for yourself and your family. If you are interested in receiving communion, but are unable to drive to the church, contact Kelly at kkirby@stmatthewsepicopalouisville.org.

10a Wednesday Healing Eucharist. The service is held in Myll Chapel. The service is also streamed on our Facebook page.

Daughters of the King prayer box. Please email your prayers regarding a person of concern to Sarah Johansen, dsjohansen99@gmail.com. Requests remain on the confidential prayer list for 1 month unless otherwise requested.

Listening-assist technology in the nave. If you have a hearing aid that is t-coil compatible, our listening-assist system feeds audio into your hearing aid. To learn more, visit the Accessibility/Inclusivity page on our website: stmatthewsepicopalouisville.org/accessibility-inclusivity.

Weekly Prayer List. Janelle, Kevin Wardell, Candis Crocker, Vicki, Karl, Len Pacitti, Kinsey Woodson, Granville, Beverly Nichols, Carol, Emily, Luca Altin, Lynn Miller, Anne, Nick, Jim, Ken Lamb, Elissa Slotkin, Tay.

Prayers for Pastoral Care. Janelle, Kevin Wardell, Candis Crocker, Vicki, Karl, Melinda Clark, Len Pacitti, Kinsey Woodson, Granville, Beverly Nichols, Carol, Emily, Luca Altin, Lynn Miller, Anne, Julia, Nick, Terry, Ken Lamb.

We pray for those serving in our Armed Forces.

LAY SUNDAY MINISTERS SERVING THIS WEEK

Altar Guild

Gibbs Reese

Flower Guild

Lynn Reese
Judy Fischer

8a Librarian	John Krantz
10am Eucharist	
Jackson Hager	Acolyte
Kaelin Daley	Acolyte
Kennedy Daley	Acolyte
Rick Lotz	Lector
John Krantz	Lector
Angela Koshewa	Intercessor
Robin McNally	Eucharistic Minister
Jane O'Roark	Eucharistic Minister
Jan Scholtz	Eucharistic Minister
Ann Yates	Usher
Ann Hines	Usher
Sally Macdonald	Greeter Welcome Desk
Chris Newton	Greeter 10a Entrance
Peggy Woolley	Godly Play - Story Teller
Julia Ceresa	Godly Play
David Niehaus	Librarian
5pm Eucharist	
Ellen Robertson	Lector
Dick Cirre	Intercessor
Sophia Kidd	Usher
William Brown	Eucharistic Minister

GENERAL NOTICES

Parish office hours. Monday to Thursday, 9a-3p; Friday 10a-noon.

Weekly 12-step and other meetings at St. Matthew’s. Al-Anon on Tuesdays at 6:30p (Lounge); AA on Tuesdays at 6:30p (Clingman Chapel); Ladies AA on Fridays at 11:30a (Meeting Room A); evening AA on Fridays at 6:30p (Clingman Chapel); Newcomers’ AA on Fridays at 6:45p (Lounge).

Survivors of Suicide (SOS). The group meets every Thursday at 7:30p in the Lounge. There’s no meeting on the fifth Thursday of a five-week month.

Library hours. The library is open for self-checkout Sundays from 8:45a–12p, and a librarian is there from 9:15–9:45a, and from 11:15a– 12p. For a weekday appointment, call 895-3485 or email library@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org. Books on the narthex cart may be borrowed by filling out a card as instructed.

Church archives. The parish archives have a large collection of historical images and materials that document the history of St. Matthew’s. Ask the archivist for help, when they are present, or arrange an appointment by emailing archives@stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org

Visioning videos: Sharing Our Story. Where we have been influences where we’re headed. If you’d like to learn more about St. Matthew’s past, please click here: stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org/church-history-archives

Episcopal News Service newsletter. This newsletter reports the latest news on the Episcopal Church’s mission and ministries in the U.S. and abroad. Current advocacy efforts on immigration, the crisis in Gaza and other human rights issues are covered. <https://episcopalnewsservice.org/email-signup/>

Joanne Coleman is a Notary Public. As a service to our parishioners, Joanne is available to notarize documents. If you have need of these services, make an appointment with Joanne during her office hours.

Service bulletins are available online to download. Go to our website homepage: www.stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org.

The parish directory is online. You can access the parish directory online, through our app (St. Matthew’s Episcopal – found on Android Play Store and Apple Store). If you have never accessed the directory online before, or you experience any issues, contact [Joanne Coleman](#).

Bulletin and eSpirit announcements. Submission deadline is Tuesday at 12p. Please send submissions to [Charles Frank](#).

Do you subscribe to the eSpirit? To receive a digital version of the announcements, visit: stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org/espirit/

St. Matthew’s App. Free on Google Play and the Apple App Store.

Financial statement for the month ending October 31.

	October		YTD		Annual Budget
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
TOTAL INCOME	96,850	68,432	683,245	608,930	765,730
TOTAL EXPENSE	63,782	72,210	744,394	728,145	897,017
Released from Restricted Funds	(6,081)	(17,199)	(81,345)	(96,828)	(131,450)
NET INCOME/(EXPENSE)	39,149	13,421	20,196	(22,387)	163