



We Welcome You to  
**St. Matthew's Episcopal Church!**  
214 College Ave., Henderson, Texas 75654  
Liturgy of the Word  
*November 30, 2025*  
*First Sunday of Advent*

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PRELUDE

— *Stand* —

HYMN 11    AWAKE MY SOUL  
Vs. 1, 2, 4

*Officiant:*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

*People:* **And blessed be his kingdom, now  
and for ever. Amen.**

*Officiant:*

Holy God,  
Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One.

*People:* **Have mercy upon us.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Officiant:*

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the  
works of darkness, and put on the armor of  
light, now in the time of this mortal life in

which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us  
in great humility; that in the last day, when he  
shall come again in his glorious majesty to  
judge both the living and the dead, we may  
rise to the life immortal; through him who  
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

— *The People May be Seated for the Lessons* —

THE FIRST LESSON      *Isaiah 2:1-5*

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw  
concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house  
shall be established as the highest of the  
mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,  
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of  
the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth  
instruction,  
and the word of the LORD from  
Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into  
ploughshares,  
and their spears into pruning-hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against  
nation,  
neither shall they learn war any  
more.

O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD!

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

PSALM 122

— *The Leader & People Pray Responsively  
by Full Verse* —

- 1 I was glad when they said to me,  
\*"Let us go to the house of  
the LORD."
- 2 **Now our feet are standing \*within  
your gates, O Jerusalem.**
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a city \*that is at  
unity with itself;
- 4 **To which the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the LORD, \*the  
assembly of Israel, to praise the  
Name of the LORD.**
- 5 For there are the thrones of  
judgment, \*the thrones of the  
house of David.
- 6 **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:  
\*"May they prosper who love  
you.**
- 7 Peace be within your walls \*and  
quietness within your towers.
- 8 **For my brethren and companions'  
sake, \*I pray for your prosperity.**
- 9 Because of the house of  
the LORD our God, \*I will seek to  
do you good."

THE SECOND LESSON *Romans 13:11-14*

A Reading from the Letter of Romans.

You know what time it is, how it is now  
the moment for you to wake from sleep.  
For salvation is nearer to us now than  
when we became believers; the night is  
far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay  
aside the works of darkness and put on  
the armor of light; let us live honorably as  
in the day, not in reveling and  
drunkenness, not in debauchery and  
licentiousness, not in quarreling and  
jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus  
Christ, and make no provision for the  
flesh, to gratify its desires.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

— *Stand* —

HYMN 53 ONCE HE CAME IN BLESSING

Vs. 1, 2, 4

THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 24:36-44

*Officiant:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus  
Christ, according to Matthew.

*People:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that  
day and hour no one knows, neither the  
angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only  
the Father. For as the days of Noah were,  
so will be the coming of the Son of Man.  
For as in those days before the flood they  
were eating and drinking, marrying and  
giving in marriage, until the day Noah  
entered the ark, and they knew nothing  
until the flood came and swept them all  
away, so too will be the coming of the  
Son of Man. Then two will be in the field;  
one will be taken and one will be left.  
Two women will be grinding meal

together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

*Officiant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

— *The People May be Seated for the Sermon* —

**THE SERMON**

*Mrs. Gail Love*

*Officiant:*

Let us now stand and join Christians past and present, and from all over the world, in proclaiming our common faith.

**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.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin  
Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was  
buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at  
the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life, who proceeds from the  
Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is  
worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and  
apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the  
forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

— *Stand or, if Able, Please Kneel* —

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

— *The Leader & People Pray Responsively* —

*Leader:*

In the hushed anticipation of your advent, O Lord, kindle in us the desire to remain awake; that we might be ready for your coming, and eager to pray. (*Silence*)

O God, in days to come the mountain of your house will be established, and your joy shall reign. We pray for our *St. Matthew's* parish, the *Episcopal Diocese of Texas*, and all your Church, that you might teach us your ways and that we might walk in your path.

Come Lord Jesus.

**Hear our prayer.**

Out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and you, O God, shall judge between the nations. We pray for our nation, and all nations, that your peace would be manifest in every corner of the earth.

Come Lord Jesus.  
**Hear our prayer.**

In your kingdom, O Lord, even the wilderness and dry land are glad and rejoice. We pray for those who rejoice this week as they celebrate their birthday, especially *Patty, Betsy and David*; that sorrow and sighing might flee away, and they might obtain joy and gladness.

Come Lord Jesus.  
**Hear our prayer.**

In the fullness of time, O God, you sent your son, to be born of the virgin Mary. And his name was Emmanuel: God with us. We thank you for your Presence with us, and we pray that you might be always present with those whom we love but see no longer.

Come Lord Jesus.  
**Hear our prayer.**

CONCLUDING COLLECT

Come among us O God, and hear our prayers; so that when your Son Jesus comes among us with great might, and in manger mild, we might recognize his face and his voice, and come to adore him. **Amen.**

*Officiant:*  
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *(Silence)*

*Officiant and People:*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against  
you in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole  
heart; we have not loved our neighbors as  
ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*Officiant:*  
Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

*The Officiant says to the People:*  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People:* **And also with you.**

— *The People May Seated for Announcements* —

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

*Officiant:*  
Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

THE OFFERTORY

— *Stand* —

The Doxology  
— *All Sing in Unison* —

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise Him all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.**

*Officiant:*

And now, to gather all our petitions, let us pray in the words our Savior Christ himself has taught us:

— *Stand or, if Able, Please Kneel* —

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Officiant 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.**

*Officiant:*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

— *Stand* —

HYMN 542 CHRIST IS THE WORLD'S TRUE  
LIGHT  
VS. 1 - 3

*The Officiant dismisses with these words:*

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

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

POSTLUDE



If you would like to give electronically, scan the QR code to be taken to a secure payment site.

LEADERS OF THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Celebrant: *Gail Love*

Altar Guild: *Anne Davenport*

Acolyte: *Sophia Robinson*

Lector: *Matthew Craig*

Greeters: *Roberta Vallantyne & Bonnie Geddie*

Vestry Person: *Don Gish*

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Patty Ryan 30th

Betsy Brooks 4th

David York 6th

TODAY

9:30 a.m., Liturgy of the Word,  
Coffee Fellowship

TUESDAY, DEC. 2ND

7:30 p.m. AA

SUNDAY, DEC. 7TH

9:30 a.m., Liturgy of the Word,  
Coffee Fellowship,  
Blessing of the Creches,

## Memory Tree

### STEWARDSHIP REMINDER

If you haven't already done so, please turn in your pledge sheet to the parish administrator. This helps our treasurer/vestry prepare our 2025 budget.

### UPCOMING

- Sunday, Dec. 7th, Blessing of the Creches
- Sunday, Dec. 7th, Memory Tree set up
- Sunday, Dec. 14th, Assemble Blessing Bags – (blue) lists of items needed are available in the Parish Hall
- Sunday, Dec. 21st, Greening of the Church
- Wednesday, Dec. 24th Holy Eucharist at 8pm led by The Rev. Dana Jean with the Blessing of the Reverse Advent Boxes

### OPEN PLATE OFFERING

Our **November** Sunday open plate (undesignated cash or checks) will go to the Boys & Girls Club. Our **December** Sunday open plate (undesignated cash or checks) will go to the **Henderson Interchurch Ministry**.

If you want your **cash donation to go into the General Fund**, please place it in an envelope and note your wishes on the envelope.

### POINSETTIA SIGNUP & ADVENT BOXES

The **Poinsettia sign-up** sheet is posted in the Parish Hall (**each plant is \$15**), and the (green) lists for the **Reverse Advent Boxes** are also available in the Parish Hall.

### CHRISTMAS MEMORY TREE

Our **Memory Tree** tradition will continue in the Parish Hall. Starting **December 2nd**, you may bring a religious ornament to place on the tree in memory or in honor of someone. Michaëlle has tags & ribbon available for you to write their name and who is giving it. This has been a meaningful part of our Christmas celebration at St. Matthew's.

Thank you to the Robinson family for providing a new tree!

## PRAYER LIST

**Our St. Matthew's Family:** Mother Patsy+ & Family, Charlene, David, Sheryl, Mary Jo, Jimmy, Anne & Family, Alexa, June, Lisa & John, Heath, Justin, Sophia, Ann, and Catherine.

**Friends & Loved Ones:** Brad, Judy, John, Maverick, Christy Jo, Marnie, Julie, Donna, Nancy, Ray, Misty, Nancy, Wilder, Cody, Bruce, Linda, Russell, Holly & son, Lin, Shawn, Theron, Vania, Kurt, Richard, Randy, Ashley, Monica & Bubba, Cynthia, Debbie, Valentina, Jane and Mary.

**We pray for all of our Military, at home and abroad.**

### ST. MATTHEW'S MISSION STATEMENT

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church is a body of believers united in a common desire to love and serve the Lord and our neighbors. Our faith journey is to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God.

—*Adapted from Micah 6:8*

### ST. MATTHEW'S VISION STATEMENT

"To be a Christian community that demonstrates God's love to those around us through prayer, caring, visitation, worship, and teaching."

Anyone who in need of **pastoral care** or desires to **share suggestions & concerns** for ministry at St. Matthew's, please speak to our Priest-In-Charge, Mother Patsy+ or our Senior Warden, Carol Roberts.

[WWW.STMATTHEWSHENDERSON.ORG](http://WWW.STMATTHEWSHENDERSON.ORG)

STMATTHEWS@SUDDENLINKMAIL.COM

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