

# St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**
214 COLLEGE AVE., HENDERSON, TEXAS
Liturgy of the Word

*November 8, 2026*
*Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost*

PRELUDE

— *Stand* —

HYMN 423 IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE
VS.1, 2, 4

*Officiant:* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.
*People:* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY
*Officiant:*
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.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS
— *Sung in Unison* —

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**
**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**
**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,**
**you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*Officiant:*
The Lord be with you.
*People:* **And also with you.**
*Officiant:* Let us pray.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY
*Officiant:* O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The People May be Seated for the Lessons*

## THE FIRST LESSON
*JOSHUA 24:1-3A, 14-25*

*Reader:* A Reading from the Book of Joshua.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the LORD!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.
*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 78:1-7
*— The Leader & People Recite Responsively by Whole Verse —*

Hear my teaching, O my people; *incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

**I will open my mouth in a parable; *I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.**

That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have told us, *we will not hide from their children.

**We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *and the wonderful works he has done**.

He gave his decrees to Jacob and established a law for Israel, *which he commanded them to teach their children;

**That the generations to come might know, and the children yet unborn; *that they in their turn might tell it to their children**;

So that they might put their trust in God, *and not forget the deeds of God, but keep his commandments;

## THE SECOND LESSON
*I THESSALONIANS 4:13-18*

*Reader:* A Reading from the First Letter to the Thessalonians.

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.
*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

*— Stand —*

HYMN 551 RISE UP, YE SAINTS
VS. 1-3

## THE GOSPEL
*MATTHEW 25:1-13*

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

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

*Officiant:* The Gospel of the Lord.
*People:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

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

## THE SERMON
*Mrs. Kim Robinson*

*Officiant:*
Let us now stand with 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
*— Please Kneel, if Able —*

*Leader:*
Jesus said, "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places." Trusting in God's abundance and welcome, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all creation.

Gracious God, you have made plenty good room for us in your household. Inspire your church to be a place of welcome, generosity, and love. We thank you for the resources you have entrusted to us, and we pray for wisdom to use them in service of your mission.

Lord, in your mercy,
**Hear our prayer.**

God of community, you bind us together in relationships of care and compassion. Strengthen the bonds within this congregation, and guide us to extend hospitality to our neighbors near and far.

Lord, in your mercy,
**Hear our prayer.**

God of abundance, you invite us to respond with gratitude for all your gifts. Bless this stewardship campaign, that our pledges of time, talent, and treasure may be faithful signs of our trust in you.

Lord, in your mercy,
**Hear our prayer.**

God of creation, you have made a world with plenty good room for all living things. Teach us to care for the earth and to share its resources with justice and joy.

Lord, in your mercy,
**Hear our prayer.**

God of mercy, your dwelling place has room for all who suffer. Be present with those who are sick, lonely, grieving, or in any kind of need. Surround them with your healing and your peace.

Lord, in your mercy,
**Hear our prayer.**

God of hope, you prepare a place for us in your eternal home. We remember before you those who have died, confident that they now rest in your embrace.

Lord, in your mercy,
**Hear our prayer.**

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant *Charlene* as she begins another year. Grant that she may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen her trust in your goodness all the days of her life.

Lord, in your mercy,
**Hear our prayer.**

### Concluding Collect

*Officiant:*
Loving God, you call us into your abundant life and promise that there is plenty good room for all your children. Hear our prayers and accept the offerings of our hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 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:*
Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

### The Offertory & Pledge Ingathering

*To give electronically, see the QR code on the back of the bulletin.*

*Our November open plate giving will go to the Rusk County Boys & Girls Club.*

*— 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:

*— Please Kneel, if Able —*

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:*
God love us and have mercy upon us; through the cross of Christ, pardon us and set us free; in the name of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*— Stand —*

HYMN 680 O GOD, OUR HELP
VS. 1- 3, 6

*The Officiant dismisses with these words:*
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

THE POSTLUDE

LEADERS OF THE WORSHIP SERVICE
Worship Leader: *Kim Robinson*
Altar Guild Team: *Marty Brown & Michaelle Green*
Lector: *Michaelle Green*
Greeters: *Ben Patterson & Rick Oritz*
Bishop's Committee Person: *Kim Robinson*
Coffee Refreshments: *Carol & Tom Roberts*

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK
Charlene Brewster 12th

ALTAR FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD
By Carol & Tom Roberts
in Honor of Kristin's
Birthday

**TODAY**
9:30 a.m., Liturgy of the Word w/Pledge Ingathering, Coffee Fellowship

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH**
7:30 p.m., AA in the Parish Hall

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH**
9:30 a.m., Holy Eucharist with The Rev. Lecia Brannon Celebrating,
Coffee Fellowship,
Vestry Meeting

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND**
9:30 a.m., Liturgy of the Word
Following our worship service, we will hold our Parish Meeting to elect incoming Bishop's Committee Members and our 2027 Council Delegate.
We will also enjoy a covered dish luncheon – bring your Saint's favorite dish to share.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH**
9:30 a.m., Holy Eucharist with The Rev. Cliff Rucker Celebrating
2:00 p.m., Family Activity in the Parish Hall of making Advent Wreaths together for our homes. Hot Cider & Cookies will be served.

St. Matthew's Parish Group
WhatsApp group

Join the St. Matthew's text group on WhatsApp! All text message and weekly reminders will transition to being sent through this group.

To give electronically, scan the QR code to be taken to a secure payment site.

## PRAYER LIST

**Our St. Matthew's Family:** Charlene & David, Christopher, Mary Jo, Jimmy, Anne, June, Gail & Dan, Lisa & John, Randy, Tom & Carol, Justin, Sophia, and Ann.

**Friends & Loved Ones**: Christy Jo, Marnie, Donna, Zoe, Misty, Shawn, Ashley, John, Monica & Bubba, Cynthia, Debbie, 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."

WWW.STMATTHEWSHENDERSON.ORG
STMATTHEWS@SUDDENLINKMAIL.COM

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