



We welcome you to  
**St. Matthew's Episcopal Church**  
214 College Ave.  
Henderson, Texas 75654

LITURGY OF THE WORD  
5TH SUNDAY OF LENT  
*March 22, 2026*

PRELUDE

THE WORD OF GOD

— *Stand* —

HYMN 455 O LOVE OF GOD  
VS. 1-4

*Officiant:* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People:* **His mercy endures for ever.**

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.**

KYRIE S-91

**Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

*Officiant:* The Lord be with you.

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

*Officiant:* Let us pray.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Officiant:*

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

— *Sit* —

THE FIRST LESSON

*EZEKIEL 37:1-14*

*Reader:* A Reading from the book of Ezekiel.

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will

cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act,” says the LORD.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

## PSALM 8:6-11

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

Out of the depths have I called to you,  
O LORD; LORD, hear my voice; \*let  
your ears consider well the voice of my  
supplication.

**If you, LORD, were to note what is done  
amiss, \*O Lord, who could stand?**

For there is forgiveness with you;  
\*therefore you shall be feared.

**I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for  
him; \*in his word is my hope.**

My soul waits for the LORD,  
more than watchmen for the morning,  
\*more than watchmen for the morning.

**O Israel, wait for the LORD, \*for with  
the LORD there is mercy;**

With him there is plenteous redemption,  
\*and he shall redeem Israel from all  
their sins.

## THE SECOND LESSON

*ROMANS 8:6-11*

*Reader:* A Reading from the Letter to the Romans.

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

— *Stand* —

HYMN 635 IF THOU BUT TRUST IN GOD  
VS. 1 & 2

THE GOSPEL  
JOHN 11:1-45

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

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

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”

Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” The disciples said to him,

“Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.” After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

*Officiant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

— Sit —

THE SERMON

*Mr. Matthew Craig*

— Stand —

*Officiant:* Let us now stand and join Christians past and present, and all throughout 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 and People pray responsively*—

*Leader:*

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us  
pray to the Lord, saying “Lord, have mercy.”  
*(Silence)*

For the peace from above, for the loving-  
kindness of God, and for the salvation of our  
souls, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of  
the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of  
all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our Bishops, and our priest Patsy, and for  
all the clergy and people, let us pray to the  
Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our President, for the leaders of the  
nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to  
the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this city of Henderson, for every city and  
community, and for those who live in them,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and  
orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let  
us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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 the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died, in the hope of the  
resurrection, and for all the departed, let us  
pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence,  
oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the  
Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

That we may end our lives in faith and hope,  
without suffering and without reproach, let us  
pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For your blessing to be upon your servants  
*John, Alexa, Barrett and JT* whose birthdays are  
this week; give them a joyful heart as they  
celebrate, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the  
nations of the world into the way of justice  
and truth, and establish among them that  
peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that  
they may become the kingdom of our Lord  
and Savior Jesus Christ.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad.

Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

In the communion of saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

**To thee, O Lord our God.**

#### CONCLUDING COLLECT

*Officiant:*

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son 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.**

— *Remain standing or if able, please kneel* —

*Officiant:*

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

#### THE PEACE

*Officiant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

*The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

—*Sit*—

#### OFFERTORY SENTENCES

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

#### THE OFFERTORY

Our **March** Sunday open plate will go to **Henderson Fire Department Cancer Fund.**

If you would like to give electronically, see the QR code on the back of the bulletin.

—*Stand*—

#### THE DOXOLOGY

—*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 evermore. **Amen.**

—*Stand*—

**HYMN 495 HAIL, THOU ONCE DESPISED  
VS. 1, 2, 4**

*The Officiant dismisses with these words:*

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

### LEADERS OF THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Celebrant: Matthew Craig

Altar Guild Team: Carol Roberts &  
Deborah Kangerga

Acolyte: Sophia Robinson

Lector: Linda Craig

Greeters: Ben Patterson & Rick Ortiz

Vestry Person: Katy Bartels

Coffee Refreshments: Michaelle Green

### TODAY

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

### MONDAY, MARCH 23RD

April Messenger Deadline

### TUESDAY, MARCH 24TH

7:30 p.m. AA

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25TH

7:30 p.m., Compline via Facebook Live

### PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH

9:30 a.m., Liturgy of the Palms & Holy Eucharist,  
Coffee Fellowship

### BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

John Melvin 23rd

Alexa Duke 23rd

Barrett Roberts 24th

JT Melvin 27<sup>th</sup>

### LENT & HOLY WEEK

**Wednesdays during Lent:** Join us on Facebook  
Live for Compline at 7:30pm

**March 29<sup>th</sup>** Palm Sunday Service, 9:30am

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>** Maundy Thursday Service, 6:30pm;  
The Watch begins after the  
Service

**April 3<sup>rd</sup>** The Watch ends at 7:00am

**April 5<sup>th</sup>** Easter Day, 9:30am

Beginning Sunday, Feb. 1st, we are asking **volunteers**

**to sign up to provide treats for our coffee fellowship.** The sign-up sheet is posted on the parish hall bulletin board. The Vestry Person of the day will continue to prepare our coffee and have cups/sugar/creamer set out. Please check the list the see when you when you will be able to serve.

The **sign-up for Easter Lilies** as well as for **The Watch**, are posted on the Parish Hall bulletin board.

**If you would like to volunteer to read a part in the Passion on Palm Sunday, please let Mary know. We have a few openings left. Thank you to all that have already signed up for a part!**

**Parishioners, we would like to prepare treat bags for the children/youth for Easter. Please consider contributing an individual packaged snack or treat - enough for 25. Please bring and place them in the Parish Hall left back classroom by Sunday, March 29th. Thank you,  
Michelle Green**

#### PRAYER LIST

**Our St. Matthew's Family:** Mother Patsy+ & Family, Charlene, David, Christopher, Mary Jo, Jimmy, Anne & Family, Alexa, June, Gail & Dan, Randy, 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, Meg, Richard, 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.”



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

**WWW.STMATTHEWSHENDERSON.ORG**  
**STMATTHEWS@SUDDENLINKMAIL.COM**

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