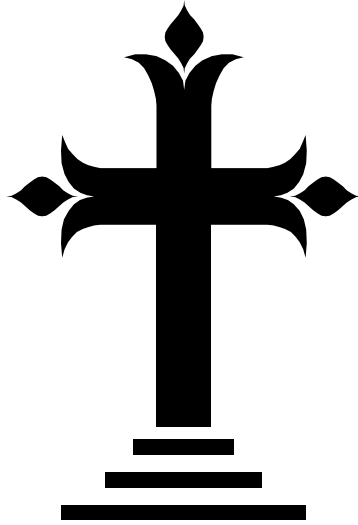


*Saint Matthew's
Episcopal Church*



101 Saint Matthew's Lane
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29301
(864) 576-0424
www.stmatthewsepiscopal.org

Our mission is to preach, teach, heal and make disciples.

**Sunday Service – 10:00 A.M.
Wednesday Evening Prayer & Healing Service – 6:30 P.M.**

**The Right Reverend Daniel P. Richards, Bishop
The Reverend Paul R. Abernathy, Resident Priest
Donna Simpson, Organist/Choir Director
Derek R. Langley, Director of Christian Formation
Lisa Fowler, Preschool Director
Michelle Pierce, Director of Communications
Jane Bird, Church Administrator
Allie Fowler & Melissa Pellin, Nursery**

which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Collect for Independence Day

Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The First Reading

Zechariah 9:9-12

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Zechariah:

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 145:8-15 (In Unison)

- 8 The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 The LORD is loving to everyone *
and his compassion is over all his works.
- 10 All your works praise you, O LORD, *
and your faithful servants bless you.
- 11 They make known the glory of your kingdom *
and speak of your power;
- 12 That the peoples may know of your power *
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
- 13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; *
your dominion endures throughout all ages.
- 14 The LORD is faithful in all his words *
and merciful in all his deeds.

15 The LORD upholds all those who fall; *
he lifts up those who are bowed down.

The Second Reading

Romans 7:15-25a

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans:

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: *Thanks be to God*

Gospel Hymn

“God the Omnipotent”

Hymnal 569 (1,2)(3,4)

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said to the crowd, “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.” At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

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.*

Silence

Prayers of the People, Form III

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

The Prayer for the Calling of Our New Rector

Gracious Father, whose Word declares there is a season for everything and a time for every matter under heaven, we humbly ask Your Holy Spirit to guide the minds and hearts of our family of Saint Matthew's as we seek and choose a new rector. We pray You will help us receive a faithful pastor who will care for Your people and equip us in our ministries, such that we may continue to preach, teach, heal, and make disciples with joy and thanksgiving for the glory of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

The Confession

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

Minister 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.

The Absolution

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.

Peace

All stand.

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord 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.

Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem “*America the Beautiful*” by Katherine Bates/Samuel Ward (1929)

Offertory Hymn *The Doxology*

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A BCP 361

The people remain standing.

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 the Lord our God.

People: *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power
and might.
Heaven and earth are full of Your Glory.
Lord we sing Your praise.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the
highest. Lord we sing Your praise.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord. God of power and might.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of
the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the
highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Lord we sing your praise. Lord we sing
your praise. Lord we sing your praise.

David Dubay 1990, www.palmettopastor.com

The people stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile

us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

The Celebrant then continues

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

BCP 364

People and Celebrant

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

BCP 364

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

Sung

Wonder Love & Praise #875

Cantor or Choir

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, } in the
 The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus }

1. Congregation | 2. Cantor or Choir

break - ing of the bread. Be bread. The
 bread which we break, al - le - lu - ia, Is the com -
 Congregation

mun - ion of the bod - y of Christ. Be
 known to us, Lord Je - sus, } in the break - ing of the
 ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus }

Cantor or Choir

Congregation

Je - sus, } in the break - ing of the bread.
Je - sus }

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The Celebrant says

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.

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Communion Hymns

“O God Our Help in Ages Past”

Hymnal 680

“My Country ‘Tis of Thee”

Hymnal 717

“O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”

Hymnal 719

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

*Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son 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 Lord. Amen.*

The Blessing

The priest blesses the people, saying

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, make you perfect in every good work to do his will; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Hymn for Going Forth

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

Hymnal 599

Announcements

Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Servers

Eucharistic Minister (Vested):

Grace Keller

Eucharistic Minister:

Kathy Bloomfield

Lector:

Danny Shelton

Crucifer:

Debbie Richardson

Greeters:

Mark Simpson

Ushers:

Matt Cox, Leesa Simmons

Vestry of the Month:

Grace Keller

Streaming & Sound:

Debbie Richardson, Jane Bird, John McArthur

Lemonade in the Lobby Hosts:

Hospitality Team

Birthdays and Anniversaries this week:

- | | | | |
|---|---|----|--------------------------------|
| 5 | John & Debbie Richardson (A)
Nick & Mary Paul (A)
Helen Pettit
Jeremy Barber | 8 | Cheryl Jacobson
Mac Francis |
| 7 | Sarah Donnan
Helen Fazzone
Mary Jo Garrett | 9 | Mary File
Kevin Howlett |
| | | 10 | Joseph Bradley
Joy Kelley |
| | | 11 | Norman & Cheryl Neff (A) |

For a Birthday

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

For a Wedding Anniversary

O God, You have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church; Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants N. and N., that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Diocesan Canterbury College Ministries

The Anglican Cycle of Prayer

The Anglican Church of South America

Supporting those stricken by earthquakes in Venezuela:

Gloria and Oscar Villatoro, long-time friends of St. Matthew's and heads of our Spanish language community, ask our aid in caring for our Venezuelan brothers and sisters stricken by the recent earthquakes. We are collecting first aid items and clothing and undergarments (men's, women's, children's), and diapers and towels. Monetary contributions are to be directed to the American Red Cross or Episcopal Relief and Development. Moreover, and always, please, let us continue praying for Divine aid through helping hands and hearts.



How to Support St. Matthew's with Online Giving and Beyond

Scan the QR Code or visit stmatthewsepiscopal.org/giving to donate online.

Remember there are many ways to support St. Matthew's: pledges, stock gifts, online giving, or direct transfers such as Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs)

SAVE THE DATE

July 5, 2026

July 5 **One Sunday Service** at 10 am. **Independence Day Desserts & Lemonade** right after! Children's Formation from *10 to Eucharist*. 6mo-5K to The Nursery. 1st-5th grade, Lg Classrm. *Bible, Bread & Wine* with Father Paul at 5:30 pm.

Labyrinth Prayer Program with Derek Langley, 7-8 pm. On the new labyrinth!

July 6 **Full-Day Summer Camp**, 5K - 2nd Grade, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Monday-Friday.
Session 6: Travel Around The World, July 6-10
Session 7: The Show Goes On, Jul 13-17

July 8 **Wednesday Evening Holy Eucharist w/Healing**, 6:30 pm.
Morning Food Pantry closed due to holiday Food Bank closure. Clients given alternatives.

July 12 **One Sunday Service** at 10 am. **Nominations to Search Committee due by 6:00 pm to Will Boyd.** Children's Formation from *10 to Eucharist*. 6mo-5K to The Nursery. 1st-5th grade, Lg Classrm. *Bible, Bread & Wine* with Father Paul at 5:30 pm.

Jul 13-17 **Vacation Bible School**, 5:30-7:30 pm with Derek Langley, Dir. Christian Formation.
True North: Following Jesus Through Every Season!

Jul 13-17 **Full-Day Summer Camp**, 5K - 2nd Grade, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Monday-Friday.
Session 7: The Show Goes On, July 13-17
Session 8: Let's Camp Out, July 20-24

July 15 **Wednesday Evening Holy Eucharist w/Healing**, 6:30 pm.

Jul 18 **Saturday, Respect Ya'Self Ministries, Backpack Ministry**

July 19 **One Sunday Service** at 10 am.

Jul 20-24 **Full-Day Summer Camp**, 5K - 2nd Grade, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Monday-Friday.
Session 8: Let's Camp Out, July 20-24
Session 9, Final Session: STEAM, July 27-31

July 22 **Wednesday Evening Holy Eucharist w/Healing**, 6:30 pm.

July 26 **One Sunday Service** at 10 am.

Jul 27-31 **Full-Day Summer Camp**, 5K - 2nd Grade, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Monday-Friday.

WORSHIP

Sundays:

Holy Eucharist, 10:00 am 'til autumn.

Children's Formation, 10 till Eucharist.

Childcare in the Nursery, 6 mos - 4 yrs

Episc. Youth EYC: Resumes August 9.

Bible, Bread & Wine, 5:30 pm. Kelly Rm.

Wednesdays: Holy Eucharist w/ Healing, 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

Every Evening: Compline, between 9 & 9:15 pm. Live on St. Matt's Facebook.

SERVICE & FELLOWSHIP

Food Pantry & Free Medical Clinic:

Wednesdays: Welcome & Assist Clients, 9:30-11am
Contact Harvey Gloystein, 713-816-0112

Tuesdays: Setting Up for Wednesdays
Contact Heather Yevcak, 704-560-3905

Brotherhood of St. Matthew's: 2nd Tues./mo. 6:30 pm.

Women's Bible Study: 2nd Tues./mo. 6:30pm.

Morning Bible Study will resume in September.

Daughters of the King: 2nd Sat/mo. 2 pm.

Choir: Wednesday nights 7 - 8 pm.

Education for Ministry (EfM): Resumes in fall.

Vestry: 3rd Tues/mo. 6:30 pm, Library Conf. Rm.

Parish Prayer List

Alex Garmise
Betsy Tolley
Carol & Doug Wishard
Debbie Townsend
Debbye Edwards
Deborah Smith
Denise Cannon
Donnie Bird
Don Davis
Edith Webb
Ethel Tortorice
Florence Donnan
Gail Stellar
Gene Halford
Geoffrey Thomas
Glyn Shackelford
Hazel Cannon
Hester Martin
Jackie Bailey
Jandy Williams
Jerry Bowers
Juanita Thaxton
Karen Garber
Kathleen Bonner
Kate Price
Kathy Miller
Kathy Wood
Katie Ponder
Kim Cope
Lindsay Leaman
Louise Rambo
Louise Wickersheim
Lynn Kerfoot
Maria King
Marie Urquhart
Mary File
Max & Angie Painter
Neil Thomas
Peggy Ewing
Pete Hulett
Robin Hayden
Sandi Spanitz
Scott Garber
Shirley Gould
Susan Cherry-Casey

Expectant Mothers

Meredith Miller
Amy Beckler
Mary Geraldine

Babies & Families

Patrick Albert
Eliza Ruth, Deedee
& Graham Boyd

Wendel Sullens

Friends & Family

Al Hipp
Dr. Arturo Riojas
Bart Owens
Bill Kerfoot
Boone Brooks
Brian Yanaconne
Carlos Anthony Frias, Jr.
Father Charles Smith
Charlton Sy
Chelsea Smith
Chris Solem
Christopher Oxford
Chuck and Pat Piazza
Cindy Holtzman
Dale Pretulak
Danet Peterson
Danielle Anne Baum
David and Nancy Church
David Morgan
David Sanabria
David Wright
Deacon Samuel
Dee Wolfe
Detra Peyton
Elizabeth Greco
Emily Painter
Forest
Harriett Seabrook
Jerry
Jing S
John Dennis
Joyce Ford
Joyce TD
Justus Link
Lib Hughes
Lisa
Lourdes Go
Lourdes Loreto
Lynn Fields
Marianne Beck
Matthew Garrett
Maggie Elrod
Mary Nelle Beckler
Michael Szlepcsik
Mildred Pretulak
Nancy Butner
Nancy McCart
Patti Hart
Philip Watters
Rakim Jr.
Rich Turner
Richard Ziegler

Ricky Ford
Rob & Sandra Brown
Robert Baker
Rocio Navarro Linares
Roger Go
Ronny Thompson
Rylan Buckley
Satoya Means
Saydet Didert
Stacey Latronica
Steve Ford
Suzi King
Terry & Ronald Coleman
Thongbay Voravong
Tina Bain
Tom Archer
Tracie Powell Wilkin
Travis & Kimberly
Trish Wilson
Wayne Fisher
William Bracey
Yostina Abercrombie

Military/First Responders

LT Anna Lee Van Abel
CAPT Baxter Murray
SPC Clayton Cole
PVT Courtney S. Detwiler
Jack Bankhead, Firefighter
PVT James C. Garber
CPO John Watters
Jordan Bailey, Firefighter
LT Joshua Van Abel
CAPT Katie Donnan
SPC Katie Villatoro
LT Mason R. Beebe, IV
CAPT Pace Murray
Lt. Rebecca M. Beebe
Officer Robert Molina
2nd LT Trevor Owens
Will Townsend
Kozimor Family

Missions/Missionaries

Drs. Ryan & Chelsea Porter
Roberto & Cameron Vivanco
Laura & Jorge Estevez
Education = Hope
Food Pantry
Free Medical Clinic
GoForth Recovery
Kairos Prison Ministry
Safe Homes
St. Matthew's Preschool

