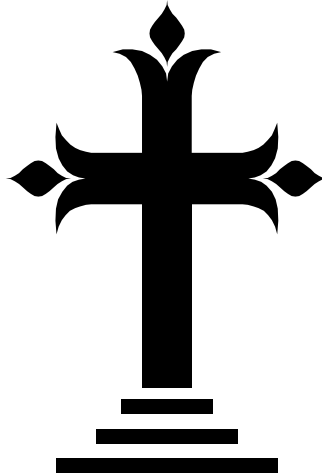


Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church



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.
Preceded by Christian Formation 9:00 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
Caitlin Roberts, Preschool Director
Michelle Pierce, Director of Communications
Jane Bird, Church Administrator
Anna Channavong & Melissa Pellin, Nursery**

The Feast of St. Matthew

September 20, 2026

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

The Word of God

Please talk to God in silence before the service; after the service talk to friends

Prelude

Processional

“By All Your Saints Still Striving”

Hymnal 232

Verse. 2: We praise You Lord, for Matthew, whose gospel words declare
That worldly gain forsaking, your path of life we share.
From all unrighteous mammon, O raise our eyes anew.
That we, what’ere our station, may rise and follow You.

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

The Celebrant says the Collect for Purity

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

S-280

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.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

We thank you, heavenly Father, for the witness of your apostle and evangelist Matthew to the Gospel of your Son our Savior; and we pray that, after his example, we may with ready wills and hearts obey the calling of our Lord to follow him; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Reading

Proverbs 3: 1-6

A Reading from the Book of Proverbs:

My child, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; for length of days and years of life and abundant welfare they will give you. Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them round your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favour and good repute in the sight of God and of people. Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 119:33-40 (In Unison)

33 Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, *
and I shall keep it to the end.

34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; *
I shall keep it with all my heart.

35 Make me go in the path of your commandments, *
for that is my desire.

36 Incline my heart to your decrees *
and not to unjust gain.

37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; *
give me life in your ways.

38 Fulfill your promise to your servant, *
which you make to those who fear you.

39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, *
because your judgments are good.

40 Behold, I long for your commandments; *
in your righteousness preserve my life.

The Second Reading

2 Timothy 3: 14-17

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy:

As for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: *Thanks be to God*

Gospel Hymn

"Come, Labor On"

Hymnal 541 (1-3)(4,5)

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 9: 9-13

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

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Sermon

"Jesus Loves Busy Bodies"

The Rev. Paul Abernathy

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

BCP 360

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

“May The Peoples Praise You!”

By Keith and Kristin Getty (2020, Getty Music Co.)

Offertory Hymn

The Doxology

Hymnal 380 (vs. 3)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

In-Gathering of Pledges

Everyone is invited to come to the altar and place their completed pledge cards in the box.

The Blessing of Our Pledges

O God, from the hand of your gracious heart of love comes every good gift; from your vibrant vineyards, grapes from which we make wine, from your fertile fields, grain from which we make bread, from our life's labors, money, as testament to our toil. And today, in gratitude, we bear and offer these our pledges of time, talent, and treasure to support the doing of your will on earth. Grant us your continued grace that we, your faithful servants, will fulfill these vows we make; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord and our brother. *Amen.*

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.

For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

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.

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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

Fraction Anthem

Hymnal S-154

This setting is not used in Lent.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

there - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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

“One Bread, One Body” by John Foley (1978, OCP)

Refrain: "One bread, one body, one Lord of all. One cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth. We are one body in this one Lord.

1. Gentile or Jew, servant or free. Woman or man, no more. (Refrain)
2. Many the gifts, many the works. One in the Lord of all. (Refrain)
3. Grain for the fields, scattered and grown. Gathered in one for all. (Refrain)

“O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee”

Hymnal 660

“My God, Accept My Heart”

Hymnal 697

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 *“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken!”* Hymnal 522

Announcements

Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People: *Thanks be to God.*

Today is St. Matthew’s Day! In-Gathering of Pledges and Celebration...

Let’s gather for a special celebration to mark St. Matthew’s Sunday. Everyone will be invited to come to the altar to place their completed pledge cards in a box that will be blessed by Father Paul. Following the service, we’ll all gather in the gym for food and drink to celebrate St. Matthew’s feast day!

(Need another pledge card? Contact Jane Bird in the church office.)

Servers

Eucharistic Minister (Vested):	Laura McGee
Eucharistic Minister:	Amy Holbein
Lector:	Kathy Miller
Crucifer:	Isaac Soto
Greeter:	Kathy Bloomfield, Grace Keller
Ushers:	Laura Timmons & Heather Yevcak
Streaming and Sound Tech Team:	Debbie Richardson, Parham Poost Faroosh, Shep Miller
Vestry of the Month:	Rob Rhoden

Birthdays and Anniversaries this week

20	Hank Lovelace	23	Mark Splawn
21	Kathy Bloomfield		Jerry Upton
	Hayden Simpson	24	Terry & Jeannette Ford (A)
22	Marie Kimball		Mari Caroline Giles
	John & Debbie Townsend (A)		Chuck & Murph Lustig (A)
23	Alexis Howlett	25	Tim Steinmetz
	Steve Spanitz		Joetta Moody
		26	Ronnie & Mary Owens (A)
			Rollin Tillie

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:

St. Matthew's, Spartanburg

The Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

SAVE THE DATE

September 20, 2026

- Sept 20 Sunday 9:00–9:45 Christian Formation:** Adults only - Andy Donnan in Kelly Room.
10:00 One Sunday Service, Blessing of the Pledge Cards
Feast of St. Matthew Luncheon today in the gym.
Bible, Bread & Wine w/ Father Paul at 5:30 pm in the Kelly Room.
- Sept 23 Wednesday Holy Eucharist w/Healing,** 6:30 pm.
- Sept 27 Sunday 9:00–9:45 Christian Formation: Preschool • Elementary • Teens • Adults**
10:00 One Sunday Service
Bible, Bread & Wine w/ Father Paul at 5:30 pm in the Kelly Room.
- Sept 29 Tuesday Women's Bible Studies,** 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 11am & 6:30pm, Library.
- Sept 30 Wednesday Evening Holy Eucharist w/Healing,** 6:30 pm.
- Oct 4 Sunday 9:00–9:45 Christian Formation: Preschool • Elementary • Teens • Adults**
10:00 One Sunday Service
11:30 Acolyte Training Sunday. A “light” lunch will be served!
Bible, Bread & Wine w/ Father Paul at 5:30 pm in the Kelly Room.
- Oct 7 Wednesday Holy Eucharist w/Healing,** 6:30 pm.
- Oct 11 Sunday 9:00–9:45 Christian Formation: Preschool • Elementary • Teens • Adults**
10:00 One Sunday Service
Bible, Bread & Wine w/ Father Paul at 5:30 pm in the Kelly Room.
- Oct 14 Wednesday Holy Eucharist w/Healing,** 6:30 pm.
- Oct 30 Trunk or Treat,** 6:00-8:30 pm. Decorate your car (see sign up sheet in hallway). Candy donations greatly appreciated!

WORSHIP

Sundays:

Holy Eucharist, 10:00 am ‘til October.

Christian Formation, 9 - 9:45 am.

Childcare in the Nursery, 6 mos - 4 yrs.

Episc. Youth EYC: 5:30 pm Youth Rm.

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

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

***Every Evening:* Compline,** 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 & 4th Tues/mo. At 11 am or
6:30 pm. Study guides provided. In the Library.

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

Choir: Wednesday nights 7 - 8 pm.

Education for Ministry (EfM): Monday evenings
‘till spring.

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



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)

Parish Prayer List

Alex Garmise
Betsy Tolley
Carol & Doug Wishard
Cheryl & Mike Jacobson
Debbie Townsend
Debbye Edwards
Deborah Smith
Denise Cannon
Donnie Bird
Don Davis
Edith Webb
Elizabeth Hulett
Ena Stapleton
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
Leesa and Phil Simmons
Lindsay Leaman
Louise Rambo
Louise Wickersheim
Lynn Kerfoot
Maria King
Mark Smith
Mary Uhler
Marie Urquhart
Mary File
Max & Angie Painter
Neil Thomas
Peggy Ewing
Robin Hayden
Scott Garber
Shirley Gould
Steve and Sandi Spanitz
Susan Cherry-Casey

Expectant Mothers

Amy Beckler

Mary Geraldine

Babies & Families

Louisa Miller Matys (grand-daughter of Shep & Kathy)

Wendel Sullens

Friends & Family

Al Hipp
Dr. Arturo Riojas
Bart Owens
Bill Kerfoot
Boone Brooks
Brian Yanaconne
Bruce Schneider
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
E J Thompson
Ed Bloomfield
Elizabeth Greco
Emily Painter
Forest
Hannah Holscher
Harriett Seabrook
Jackie Garcia
Jerry
Jing S
John Dennis
Joy Hope
Joyce Ford
Joyce TD
Justus Link
Lib Hughes
Lisa
Lourdes Go
Lourdes Loreto
Marianne Beck
Maryann Yevcak
Matthew Garrett
Maggie Elrod
Mary Nelle Beckler
Michael Szlepcsik
Mildred Pretulak
Nancy Butner
Nancy McCart
Nancy O
Patti Hart

Patrick Albert

Paul Jones

Philip Watters

Rakim Jr.

Rich Turner

Ricky Ford

Rob & Sandra Brown

Robert Baker

Rocio Navarro Linares

Roger Go

Ronny Thompson

Rylan Buckley

Satoya Means

Saydet Didert

Sterling Anderson

Steve Ford

Suzi King

Terry & Ronald Coleman

Thongbay Voravong

Tina Bain

Tom Archer

Tracie Powell Wilkin

Travis & Kimberly

Trish Wilson

Wayne Fisher

William Bracey

Military/First Responders

Evan Eleck

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