

*St. Matthias*  
Episcopal Church

**THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2026**  
**THE LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE**



Our Vision

*St. Matthias Church strives to love God with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength; and strives to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. (Mark 12:29-30)*

The Right Reverend Dr. Justin S. Holcomb, Bishop

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Mrs. Gina Mobley, M.A., Music Ministries Director

# WELCOME TO ST. MATTHIAS

*To all who need a Church home, to all who mourn and need comfort, to all who are lonely and need a friend, to all who know joy and want to share it, to all who are seeking a place to serve, to all who pray and to all who do not, to all who need a Savior, we welcome you in the Holy Name of Jesus.*

**First visit to St. Matthias?** We thank you for worshipping with us today. We strive to make St. Matthias Church a place where there are no strangers, only friends we have not yet met.

**Looking for a church home?** We invite you to fill out a Connection Card located in the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate.

Our worship is 'liturgical,' meaning our worship of God is the work of Christian people expressing the life of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. You might find switching between kneeling and standing a bit confusing, but in doing so you will be joining in a rhythm of worship between God and his people that has endured for decades.



*The service begins outside the church.*

*Fire is kindled; after which the Celebrant addresses the people in these words*

Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

*The Celebrant says the following prayer*

Let us pray.

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Paschal Candle is then lighted from the newly kindled fire, and the Deacon bearing the Candle, leads the procession to the chancel, pausing three times and singing or saying*

Appointed Person	The Light of Christ.
<b>People</b>	<b>Thanks be to God.</b>

*Candles are lighted from the Paschal Candle as the people enter the Church.*

*The Paschal Candle is placed in its stand.*

*Then the Deacon, or other person appointed, standing near the Candle, sings or says the Exsultet, as follows*

Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels,  
and let your trumpets shout Salvation  
for the victory of our mighty King.

Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth,  
bright with a glorious splendor,  
for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church,  
and let your holy courts, in radiant light,  
resound with the praises of your people.

All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame,  
pray with me to God the Almighty  
for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. *Amen.*

Appointed Person        The Lord be with you.

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

Appointed Person        Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*The Appointed Person continues*

It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise you, the invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people.

This is the night, when you brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life.

This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave. How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving-kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son.

How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord.

How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined and man is reconciled to God.

Holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning--he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

***The People Extinguish their Candles***

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*The Celebrant introduces the Scripture readings in these words.*

Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how he saved his people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

*The following Lessons are read, the congregation seated. After each Lesson, the Psalm or Canticle listed is sung or said. A period of silence is kept; and the appointed Collect is said.*

## **Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea:** Exodus 14:10-31, 15:20-21

Reader                    A reading from Exodus.

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers."

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As

the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

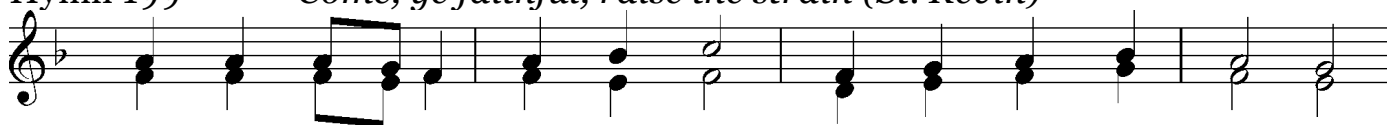
Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them:

“Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;  
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.”

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

Hymn 199           *Come, ye faithful, raise the strain (St. Kevin)*



1 Come, ye faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!  
2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ hath burst his pri - son,  
3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,  
4 Nei - ther might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,



God hath brought his Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness:  
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath ris - en;  
with the roy - al feast of feasts, comes its joy to ren - der;  
nor the watch - ers, nor the seal hold thee as a mor - tal:



loosed from Pha - raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,  
all the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing  
comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion  
but to - day a - midst thine own thou didst stand, be - stow - ing



led them with un - mois - tened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.  
from his light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.  
wel - comes in un - wear - ied strains Je - sus' re - sur - rec - tion.  
that thy peace which ev - er - more pass - eth hu - man know - ing.

The Collect

Celebrant            Let us pray.

*Silence*

**O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Salvation Offered Freely to All:** Isaiah 55:1-11

Reader                A reading from Isaiah.

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Reader                The Word of the Lord.

**People                Thanks be to God.**

Hymn                    The First Song of Isaiah (Jack Nobel White)

*The congregation is asked to join the choir singing this refrain after each verse is sung*

*Refrain*

**Surely, it is God who saves me;  
I will trust in him and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,  
and he will be my Savior.**

*Verse 1*

*Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing  
from the spring of salvation.  
And on that day you shall say,  
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;*

*Refrain*

*Verse 2*

*Make his deeds known among the peoples;  
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.  
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things,  
and this is known in all the world.*

*Refrain*

*Verse 3*

*Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion,  
ring out your joy,  
For the great one in the midst of you  
is the Holy One of Israel.*

*Refrain sung twice*

The Collect

Celebrant            Let us pray.

*Silence*

**O God, you have created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the earth by your Spirit: Give now the water of life to those who thirst for you, that they may bring forth abundant fruit in your glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **A New Heart and A New Spirit:** Ezekiel 36:24-28

Reader            A reading from Ezekiel.

Say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Reader            The Word of the Lord.

**People            Thanks be to God.**

Hymn            *Create in Me a Clean Heart (Unknown)*

*Refrain*

***Create in me a clean heart, Oh God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Create in me a clean heart, Oh God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.***

*Verse 1*

***Cast me not away from your presence, O Lord,  
and take not your holy spirit from me.  
Restore unto me, the joy of my salvation,  
and renew a right spirit within me.***

The Collect

Celebrant        Let us pray.

*Silence*

**O God, you have created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the earth by your Spirit: Give now the water of life to those who thirst for you, that they may bring forth abundant fruit in your glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.***

## **The Gathering of God's People: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

Reader                    A reading from Zephaniah.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

Reader                    The Word of the Lord.

**People                    Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 126 (*said in unison*)

**When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.  
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.  
Then they said among the nations,  
"The Lord has done great things for them."  
The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.  
Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses of the Negev.  
Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.  
Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

The Collect

Celebrant                Let us pray.

*Silence*

**O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.***

*The candles at the Altar may now be lighted from the Paschal Candle.*

Celebrant *Alleluia.* Christ is risen.

**People** **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*The People Joyously Ring Bells*

## THE WORD OF GOD

*The Celebrant says the following Collect.*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in security and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**THE EPISTLE:** Romans 6:3-11

Reader A reading from the Epistle of Paul to the Romans.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

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

**THE PSALM (said in unison):** Psalm 114

**Hallelujah!**

**When Israel came out of Egypt,  
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,  
Judah became God's sanctuary  
and Israel his dominion.**

**The sea beheld it and fled;  
Jordan turned and went back.**

**The mountains skipped like rams,  
and the little hills like young sheep.**

**What ailed you, O sea, that you fled?**

**O Jordan, that you turned back?**

**You mountains, that you skipped like rams?  
you little hills like young sheep?**

**Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,  
at the presence of the God of Jacob,**

**Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water  
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.**

**SEQUENCE HYMN 296** *We know that Christ is raised and dies no more*

*The people stand.*



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more. \_\_\_\_\_  
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death. \_\_\_\_\_  
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life. \_\_\_\_\_  
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows \_\_\_\_\_



Em - braced by death he broke its fear - ful hold; \_\_\_\_\_  
Re - born we share with him an Eas - ter life \_\_\_\_\_  
The Spi - rit's pow - er shakes the Church of God. \_\_\_\_\_  
as Christ's new bo - dy takes on flesh and blood. \_\_\_\_\_



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy. \_\_\_\_\_  
as liv - ing mem - bers of a liv - ing Christ. \_\_\_\_\_ Al - le -  
Bap - tized we live with God the Three in One. \_\_\_\_\_  
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing: \_\_\_\_\_



lu - ia! — Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

## **THE GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1-10**

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

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

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

*The People sit for the sermon.*

## **THE SERMON**

**FR. JIM DORN**

*To request a copy of the Sermon, please contact Fr. Jim at [jmdorn3@gmail.com](mailto:jmdorn3@gmail.com).*

## **Holy Baptism**

### **PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES**

*All Stand. The Celebrant says*

The Candidate(s) for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

*The Candidates, with their Parents and Godparents, come to the place of the baptisms.*

*Then the candidates unable to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Parents and Godparents, as follows*

*Parents and Godparents*

**I present Syble Lela Joy Klaas to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.**

*When all have been presented the Celebrant asks the parents and godparents*

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

*Parents and Godparents*

**I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant*

Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

*Parents and Godparents*

**I will, with God's help.**

*Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the candidates who can speak for themselves, and of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children.*

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

**Answer I renounce them.**

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

**Answer I renounce them.**

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

**Answer I renounce them.**

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

**Answer I do.**

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

**Answer I do.**

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

**Answer I do.**

*After all have been presented, the Celebrant addresses the congregation, saying*

Celebrant Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support *these persons* in their life in Christ?

**People We will.**

*The Celebrant then says these or similar words*

Let us join with *those* who *are* committing *themselves* to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

## **THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

**People I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?  
**People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?  
**People I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**People I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**People I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

**People I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

**People I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

**People I will, with God's help.**

## **PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATES**

*The Celebrant then says to the congregation*

Let us now pray for *this person* who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

*A Person appointed leads the following petitions*

Leader Deliver *her*, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

**People Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open *her* heart to your grace and truth.  
**People** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill *her* with your holy and life-giving Spirit.  
**People** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep *her* in the faith and communion of your holy Church.  
**People** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach *her* to love others in the power of the Spirit.  
**People** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send *her* into the world in witness to your love.  
**People** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring *her* to the fullness of your peace and glory.  
**People** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant says*

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER**

*The Celebrant blesses the water, first saying*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.  
**People** **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**People** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant*

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life. We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection.

Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water*

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE BAPTISM

*Each candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant, or to an assisting priest or deacon, who then immerses, or pours water upon, the candidate, saying*

Syble, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

*Then the Priest places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross, using Chrism and saying to each one*

Syble, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever.  
**Amen.**

*When this action has been completed for all candidates, the Bishop or Priest, at a place in full sight of the congregation, prays over them, saying*

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon *this* your *servant* the forgiveness of sin, and have raised *her* to the new life of grace. Sustain *her*, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give *her* an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

*When all have been baptized, the Celebrant says*

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

*Celebrant and People*

**We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

**THE PEACE** (BCP p. 360)

*All stand.*

**Celebrant** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

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

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

**OFFERTORY SENTENCE** (BCP p. 376)

*The Celebrant says*


Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.  
(Ephesians 5:2)

### Options for Giving:

1. Checks can be made payable to St. Matthias Church. All offerings can be placed in the offertory plate or wooden boxes at the back of the Church and the East Door.
2. Credit or Debit Card via the giving tab on our website [stmatthiasfl.com/online-giving/](http://stmatthiasfl.com/online-giving/).
3. Text-to-Give via your smart phone to 73256 with matthias & amount in body of text.  
Example: matthias \$25

### OFFERTORY HYMN 178 *Jesus is Lord of all the earth*

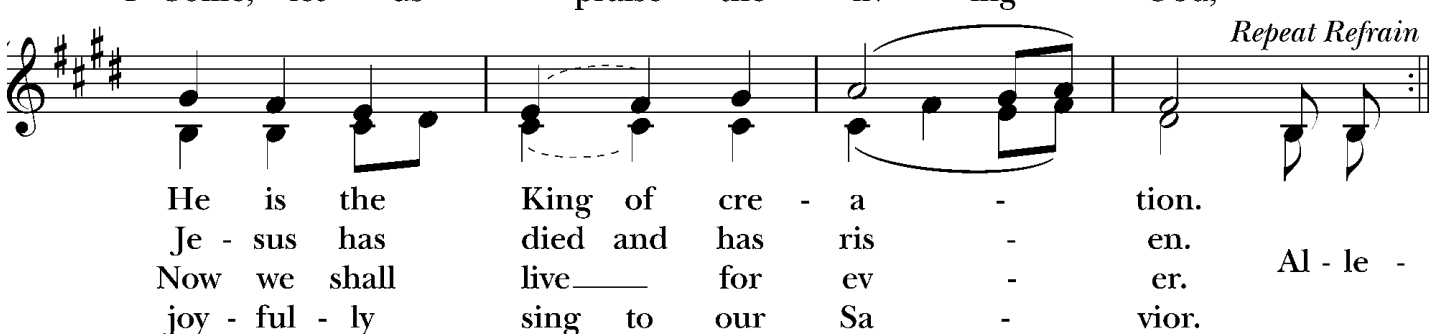
*Refrain*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the  
ris - en Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give  
Praise to his Name. Name.

1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.  
2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:  
3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.  
4 Come, let us praise the liv - ing God,

*Repeat Refrain*



He is the King of cre - a - tion.  
Je - sus has died and has ris - en. Al - le -  
Now we shall live — for ev - er.  
joy - ful - ly sing to our Sa - vior.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

#### *Celebrant and People*

**Dear God, who gives life and helps those in need, we make this offering as a token of our thanks, forgiveness for our mistakes, and dedication to serve you faithfully through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

# The Great Thanksgiving

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says*

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.**

*Then, facing the Holy Table, 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. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us 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 S-129** *Holy, holy, holy Lord (Powell)*

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

*The people stand or kneel as they are able.*

*Then 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.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

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 LORD'S PRAYER** (BCP p. 363)

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

*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, forever and ever. Amen.**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

## FRACTION ANTHEM (S-154) *Christ our Passover (Hurd)*

*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.

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

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.

### **DISTRIBUTION** (BCP p. 365)

*In the Episcopal Church, all baptized Christians, regardless of denomination or age, are welcome to receive the real and living presence of Christ in this Holy Communion. When it is your turn, please extend your hands upward, palms crossed to receive the bread (also called a wafer or host). When the cup of wine comes to you, either dip (also called intinction) the bread into the cup of wine and consume the bread or leave the bread in the palm of your hands, and the Eucharistic Minister will dip the bread into the cup of wine for you and place on your tongue. You may also choose to consume the bread without dipping it into the cup of wine.*

*Anyone may come forward for a prayer for God's blessings in lieu of receiving Communion. Please indicate your desire for a blessing by crossing your arms across your chest.*

*The Priest will gladly bring communion or provide a blessing to anyone unable to come forward for Communion, please, let one of the Ushers know if this is desired.*

**Ushers will direct the congregation to receive Communion.**

*The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.*

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words*

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN 174 *At the Lamb's high feast we sing (Salzburg)*



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our vic - to - rious King,  
2 Where the Pas - chal blood is poured, death's dark an - gel sheathes his sword;  
3 Might - y vic - tim from on high, hell's fierce powers be - neath thee lie;  
4 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy, these a - lone do sin de - stroy.



who hath washed us in the tide flow - ing from his pierc - ed side;  
Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go through the wave that drowns the foe.  
thou hast con - quered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light:  
From sin's power do thou set free souls new - born, O Lord, in thee.



praise we him, whose love di - vine gives his sa - cred Blood for wine,  
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal vic - tim, Pas - chal bread;  
now no more can death ap - pall, now no more the grave en - thrall;  
Hymns of glo - ry, songs of praise, Fa - ther, un - to thee we raise:



gives his Bo - dy for the feast, Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest.  
with sin - cer - i - ty and love eat we man - na from a - bove.  
thou hast o - pened par - a - dise, and in thee thy saints shall rise.  
ris - en Lord, all praise to thee with the Spi - rit ev - er be.

**COMMUNION HYMN 325** *Let us break bread together on our knees*



1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;\_\_\_\_\_

2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;\_\_\_\_\_



let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;\_\_\_\_\_

let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;\_\_\_\_\_

*Refrain*



when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,



O Lord, have mer-cy on me.\_\_\_\_\_



3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;\_\_\_\_\_



let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;\_\_\_\_\_

*Refrain*



when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,



O Lord, have mer-cy on me.\_\_\_\_\_

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*The People kneel as they are able.*

*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 EASTER BLESSING

*The Celebrant blesses the people*

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. **Amen.**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. **Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen.**

The blessing, mercy, and grace of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN 180 *He is risen, he is risen (Unser Herrscher)*

1 He is ris - en, he is ris - en! Tell it out with  
2 Come, ye sad and fear - ful - heart - ed, with glad smile and  
\*3 Come, with high and ho - ly hymn - ing, hail our Lord's tri -  
4 He is ris - en, he is ris - en! He hath o - pened  
joy - ful voice: he has burst his three days' pris - on;  
ra - dian't brow! Death's long sha - dows have de - part - ed;  
um - phant day; not one dark - some cloud is dim - ming  
hea - ven's gate: we are free from sin's dark pris - on,  
let the whole wide earth re - joice: death is con - quered,  
Je - sus' woes are o - ver now, and the pas - sion  
yon - der glo - rious morn - ing ray, break - ing o'er the  
ris - en to a ho - lier state; and a bright - er  
we are free, Christ has won the vic - to - ry.  
that he bore— sin and pain can vex no more.  
pur - ple east, sym - bol of our Eas - ter feast.  
Eas - ter beam on our long - ing eyes shall stream.

*The Celebrant dismisses the people with these words*

**Celebrant** Let us bless the Lord. *Alleluia, alleluia.*

**People** Thanks be to God. *Alleluia, alleluia.*