

**St. Matthew's Episcopal Church**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**March 14, 2021 – 9:30 AM**  
**The Holy Eucharist – Contemporary Service**



**919 Tennis Ave**  
**Maple Glen, PA 19002**  
**215-646-4092**  
**[saintmattsec.org](http://saintmattsec.org)**  
**Rev. Rodney Roehner**

**Prelude**    *The Father's House*    *by Ben Hastings, Cory Asbury, Ethan Hulse*

*Celebrant*    ✠ Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People*        **His mercy endures forever.**

*The Celebrant continues with the Collect of 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.**

### **The Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant*    The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant*    Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*People*        **Amen.**

### **The Lessons**    *Please be seated*

#### **Old Testament**

#### **Numbers 21:4-9**

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away

the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (read responsively by whole verse)**

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, \*  
and his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 **Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim \*  
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.**
- 3 He gathered them out of the lands; \*  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.
- 17 **Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; \*  
they were afflicted because of their sins.**
- 18 They abhorred all manner of food \*  
and drew near to death's door.
- 19 **Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, \*  
and he delivered them from their distress.**
- 20 He sent forth his word and healed them \*  
and saved them from the grave.
- 21 **Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy \*  
and the wonders he does for his children.**
- 22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving \*  
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

## New Testament

## Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

## Meditation

*The Lord Is My Light*

by **The Taize' Community**

## Gospel

**John 6:4-15**

✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a multitude was coming to him, Jesus said to Philip, "How are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" This he said to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what are they among so many?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place; so the men sat down, in number about five thousand. Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with

fragments from the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten. When the people saw the sign which he had done, they said, “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world!” Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon** (*seated*)

Rev. Rodney Roehner

**Faith Song**

*We Believe and Trust*

**by Marc Nelson**

## **The Prayers of the People**

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 Daniel our bishop, Rodney our priest, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for Joseph our President, Thomas our Governor, and 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, especially Terry, Carol, Edward, Dick, Karen, Lou, June, Margaret, Constance, Priscilla, Bob, Kathy, Joe, Mary, Doris, Jeryl and all those with the coronavirus;

**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed, especially Bill Iber, eternal rest.

**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for the Ever-blessed Virgin Mary, St. Matthew, our patron, and all 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. We pray for our church family and preschool; for all first responders, health care workers, law enforcement, and those who serve our nation in the armed forces, especially Steven, and their families; for those celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries. We also pray for the protection of persecuted Christians throughout the world, and that all may come to the knowledge and love of Christ. I invite your own prayers and intercessions.

## **General Confession**

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

*All* **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.**

*Celebrant* 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** *(all stand)*

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

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

## **Announcements**

**Offertory** *Amazing Grace* **arrg. by The Blind Boys of Alabama**

## **Eucharistic Prayer A**

*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 continues*

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

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

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* **by Larry Hampton**

*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.**

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

**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.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

*Celebrant* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

**Anthem**

*We Fall Down*

**by Twila Paris**

*The Celebrant then faces the People while elevating the Sacrament and says*

✠ The Gifts of God for the people of God.

**Spiritual Communion** – *for those watching online*

In union, dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of the Church where your Blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer you praise and

thanksgiving. I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot at this time receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my soul. I unite myself unto you, and embrace you with all the affections of my heart. Let me never be separated from you. Let me live and die in your Love. Amen.

**Communion Hymn** *What a Beautiful Name* by **Ben Fielding and Brooke Ligertwood**

### **Post-Communion Prayer**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*All* **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 Celebrant says the following blessing*

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, ☩ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Service Hymn**

*Rising*

**by Paul Baloche, Matt Redman**

### **Dismissal**

*Celebrant* Let us bless the Lord.

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

## **Welcome to St. Matthew's on Mothering Sunday!**

Mothering Sunday occurs on the 4th Sunday of Lent, but what is it? Beginning in the 16th century, people would make a journey to their 'mother' church once a year. This might have been their home church, their nearest cathedral or a major parish church in a bigger town. The service which took place at the 'mother' church symbolized the coming together of families. This would have represented a significant journey for many.

Another tradition was to allow those working in the fields on wealthy farms and estates in England to have the day off on the fourth Sunday of Lent to visit their mothers and possibly go to church too. This was a variation on the theme of visiting the 'mother' church and was a move towards a more family focused occasion. Before the days of cars and roads, family get-togethers were far more rare. In some ways this tradition is still alive today as grown up children often visit their parents on mothering Sunday.

## **Lenten Weekly Schedule (program details below the schedule)**

**Monday: 7:30 p.m.:** Bible Study on [Zoom](#), Mtg ID: 910-1184-9622 (3/8 & 3/22)

**Tuesday: 7:30 p.m.:** Prayer & Share Gathering on [Zoom](#), Mtg ID: 913-5830-9441

**Wednesday: 6:00 p.m.:** Holy Eucharist in the Sanctuary, in-person only.

**Thursday: 9:00 a.m.:** Morning Prayer on [Zoom](#), Mtg ID: 923-4782-3061

**7:00 p.m.:** Living the Lord's Prayer study group on [Zoom](#), Mtg ID: 989-3231-9987 (This week: Chapters 7, 8 & 9, Give us this day...who trespass against us)

**Friday: 7:00 p.m.:** Stations of the Cross on [Zoom](#), Mtg ID: 939-2242-4572

**Sunday: 8:00 a.m.:** The Holy Eucharist, Rite I Service (In-Person and [Livestream](#))\*

**9:30 a.m.:** The Holy Eucharist, Contemporary Service (In-Person and [Livestream](#)) \*

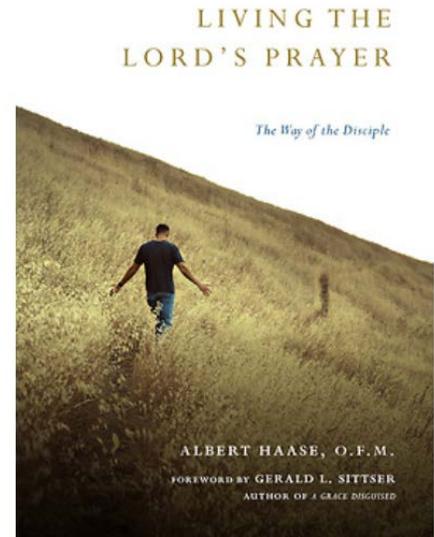
**11:00 a.m.:** Adult Lifelong Learning Forum, on [Zoom](#), Mtg ID: 983-7665-6289

\* Registration required: register [here](#)

**Thursdays, starting February 25 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**What does it mean to live what you pray? When you pray the Lord's prayer have you often thought about what the words really mean?**

Join us in reading the book Living the Lord's Prayer: The Way of the Disciple by Albert Haase, OFM. Father Haase teaches us to think about the words we pray and the meaning our prayers have for our spiritual formation and daily lives. Starting February 25th, we will begin a five-week session from 7 pm to no later than 8:30 pm via [Zoom](#). The book is available at Amazon. If you cannot purchase the book, but would like to attend, please contact the church office at 215-646-4092. Please consider joining us for this Lenten opportunity.



**Fridays, starting February 19 @ 7:00 p.m., Stations of the Cross via Zoom;**

**Sundays, 11:00 a.m., Adult Lifelong Learning Forum**

Sundays in Lent we will take a video pilgrimage together through the Holy Land. Offered by Saint George's College, Jerusalem, The Holy Land video series invites one to experience the beauty, wonder and inspiration of this most sacred region. You can view each week's video at your convenience at any point in the week, and then join us on Sundays via [Zoom](#) for conversation and fellowship. The first video in our series is titled: 'A River Through The Desert,' and will be released for viewing on February 15th. Our first Lenten forum will begin on Sunday, February 21 at 11:00 am. We look forward to our Journey with Christ together with you!

Jon Clark & Karen Randall, Adult LLL Leaders

## **Holy Week Service Schedule (all in-person except Good Friday Stations):**

- Palm Sunday (3/28/21) 7:45, 9:00, 10:30 a.m.
- Mon, Tue, Wed in Holy Week (3/29, 3/30, 3/31) 6:00 p.m.
- Maundy Thursday (4/1) 7:00 p.m
- Good Friday (4/2) 12:00 pm and Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m via Zoom
- Holy Saturday (4/3) 6:00 p.m.: Stay tuned for more information!
- Easter Sunday (4/4) 7:45, 9:00, 10:30 a.m.

## **Communion Under Special Circumstances**

Fr. Rodney will now be offering "Communion under Special Circumstances," which is based on the version found on pgs. 396-399 of the BCP. It is a brief service that enables those who are not ready to return to in-person worship to still come to church and receive Holy Communion. Things to know: this service is only between you and Fr. Rodney, all are masked, you will take the host as Fr. Rodney says the appropriate words, and it takes no longer than five minutes. Please contact Fr. Rodney at [rector@saintmattsec.org](mailto:rector@saintmattsec.org) to make an appointment or ask further questions. If you would like to learn more about this opportunity, please click this [link](#) for more information and a video.

## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

### **Youth Group Schedule: Mondays**

Youth Group is our monthly programming offering for both middle school and high school students. Join us on scheduled Monday evenings of each month for games, fun, fellowship, projects, and lively discussions about our faith. Our next meeting will occur on March 22nd at 6:00 PM. We are hoping to make Youth Group a bimonthly offering, and to make a transition toward outdoor meetings at Saint Matt's in late March or early April.

## *The Teenage Prayer Experiment*

What do you already know about prayer? Has the practice ever been helpful for you? I wonder . . . might there be different ways for us to connect with God than we're used to? Join the members of our Youth Group as we work through a series of ongoing *experiments* titled, **The Teenage Prayer Experiment**. Each chapter of the book introduces a prayer practice (using labyrinths, Lego Bible modelling, prayer beads, prayer walking) and includes comments by youth who have tried out the experiments for themselves. Of course there is space for you to record your own thoughts. Email Anthony at [anthony@saintmattsec.org](mailto:anthony@saintmattsec.org) to reserve your free copy for personal use, and for discussion in monthly Youth Group meetings.

## **Changes in the Sanctuary**

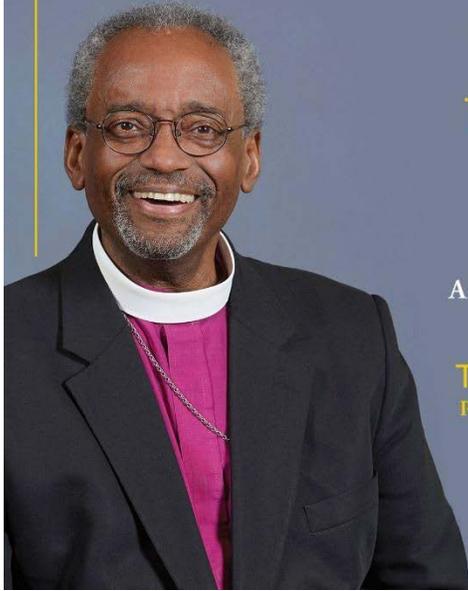
You may (or may not!) notice some additions in the sanctuary in the coming weeks. The vestry approved the purchase of upgraded audio and video equipment, including installed cameras. This will both allow St. Matthew's to continue to offer online worship services for those not able to attend in person with less disruption to those in the sanctuary, as well as improve the quality of that online experience.

## **Church Office**

Please note that the church office is **CLOSED** on **Mondays**. On the other weekdays, you can reach someone by phone (215.646.4092, press #1 for the Parish Manager) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. If you need to stop by the church for any reason, please call first to arrange a time, or to make sure that someone is on site to let you in. Thank you!

## **Prayers for Active Military**

You may have noticed a return recently to prayers for active military personnel. If you have a family member on active duty that you would like included in the Prayers for the People, please contact the church office at [parishmanager@saintmattsec.org](mailto:parishmanager@saintmattsec.org) or 215.646.4092.



THE ST. JAMES SCHOOL  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS CORDIALLY  
INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE

**10 YEARS OF FAITHFUL  
PARTNERSHIP**

6:30PM ON MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup> 2021

A VIRTUAL CELEBRATION OF ST. JAMES  
SCHOOL CHURCH PARTNERS WITH

**THE MOST REV. MICHAEL CURRY**  
PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

RSVP: [StJamesPhila.org/BishopCurry](https://StJamesPhila.org/BishopCurry)

## MINISTRY LEADERS

Rector	The Rev. Rodney Roehner	215-855-4723
Church Office Hours	8 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Tuesday thru Friday)	
Parish Manager	Carolyn Bedics	215-646-4092
Youth Ministry Coordinator	Anthony Carrella	732-599-8114
Life Long Learning	Anthony Carrella	732-599-8114
Nursery School Director	Jackie Anderson	215-646-4466
Bishop	The Rt. Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutierrez	215-627-6434
Sunday School Administrator	Linda Baier	215-672-3976
Altar Guild	Susan Ricciardi	215-917-6670
	Jane Baker	215-661-2824
Acolytes	The Rev. Rodney Roehner	215-855-4723
Ushers	Trent Coombs	215-706-0572
	Bill Reynolds	215-646-1483
Worship Leaders	Pam Lang	215-872-9686
	Melissa Brown	215-542-0529
Contemporary Music	Martha Reynolds	215-646-1483
	Anne Flood	215-641-4536
Traditional Music	Philip LeFevre	
Neighborhood Shepherds	Connie Dee	215-997-5538
Prayer Chain	Chris Strittmatter	215-412-3321
Pastoral Care Visitation	George Bishop	215-441-8056
	Treva McLaughlin	215-643-5609
Newcomers	Karen Becker	215-855-6473

## MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY

Rector's Warden	Chris Suhy
People's Warden	Bill Reynolds
People's Warden	Tim Walsh
Treasurer	Karen Randall
	Nancy Austin
	Marie Clark
	John Gill
	Mary Anne Noon
	Karen Sawyer