



# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

*Today Is December 7, 2025*

+ + +

*Second Sunday of Advent*



**ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

12351 All Saints Place

Woodbridge, Virginia 22192

## GATHERING

### WELCOME

#### PRELUDE

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

Johann Pachelbel

*The assembly stands.*

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

#### GATHERING HYMN

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

page 15

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** And also with you.

## KYRIE



**P:** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    **☩** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*



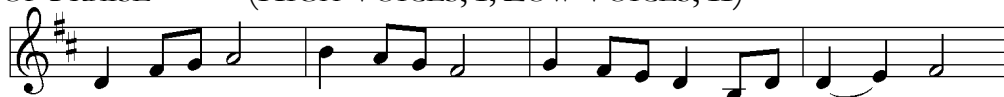
**P:** Chri - ste e - le - i - son:    **☩** Christ, have mer - cy.  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*



**P:** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    **☩** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

HYMN OF PRAISE

(HIGH VOICES, I; LOW VOICES, II)



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



☐ Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al-might- y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



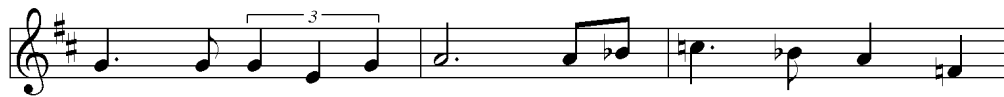
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re-ceive our prayer.

☒ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

I For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,  
II

you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly

Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther, A-men.

☒ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth,

and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

L: A reading from Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19

L: We pray the Psalm responsively.

Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;  
**that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**  
that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.

**Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.

**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**

In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel;  
you alone do wondrous deeds!**

And blessed be your glorious name forever,  
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

**Amen.**

SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-13

L: A reading from Romans.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name”; and again he says, “Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”; and again, “Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope.” May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**



*The assembly is seated.*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### SERMON

Pastor Stephen Bohannon

*The assembly stands.*

### HYMN OF THE DAY

***Comfort, Comfort Now My People***

page 16

### THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
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,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**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.**

**Amen.**

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*The pastor invites the assembly into prayer.*

**P:** In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

*(A brief silence is kept; each petition ends with the response.)*

**L:** God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

**C: Amen.**

## PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

*You are invited to greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say,  
"Peace be with you," or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

OFFERING

*Stir Up Our Hearts*  
Choir

Cherwien

*The assembly stands.*

OFFERTORY

### *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*



☐ Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were



sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we



of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,



Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

**C: Amen.**

## MEAL

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PROPER PREFACE

*Pastor begins, "It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you..." Here the pastor continues with the preface for the day, "...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:"*

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are placed below the corresponding notes.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P:** Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised. The body of Christ given for you; the blood of Christ shed for you.

**C: Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## LAMB OF GOD

**☐** Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*All who believe Jesus is present in this sacrament are invited to receive the bread and wine. Communion will be distributed at the altar rail; when invited by an usher, please come forward and kneel at the altar to receive the bread and wine. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. Know that if you only take the bread that you have fully communed. Whether you are receiving communion at in-person worship or if you are receiving communion at home, we extend to you:  
The body of Christ given for you; the blood of Christ shed for you.*

## COMMUNION HYMNS

***All Earth Is Hopeful: Toda la tierra  
There's a Voice in the Wilderness***

page 17  
page 18

*The assembly stands.*

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray. God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING

## BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*Prepare the Royal Highway*

page 19

## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Keep awake.

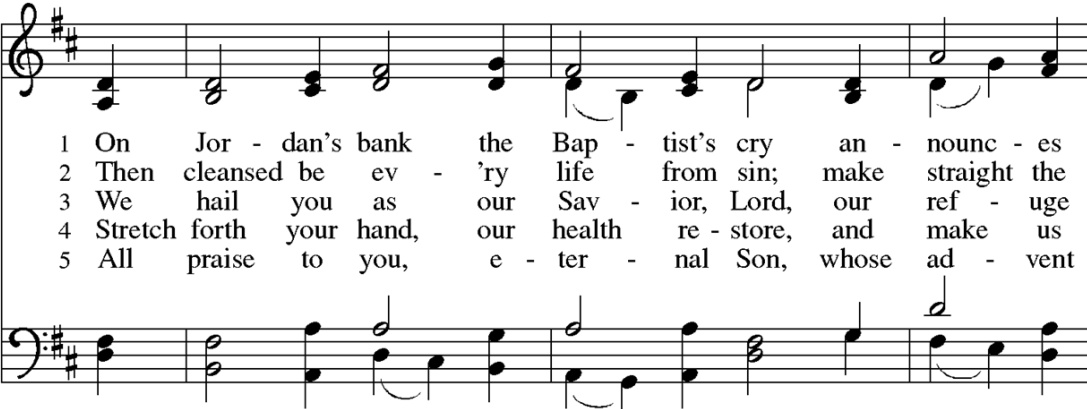
**C: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

Jan Bender

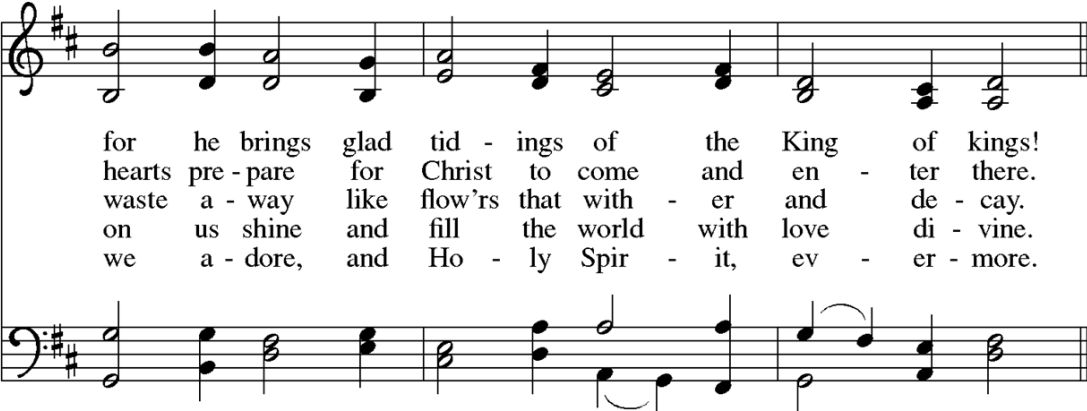
# *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry, ELW 249*



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 way for God with - in, and let us all our  
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People, ELW 256*



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.  
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.  
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!  
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.  
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.  
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.



COMMUNION HYMNS

*All Earth Is Hopeful: Toda la tierra, ELW 266*



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra\_al Sal - va - dor  
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!  
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:  
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;  
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y\_el sur - co\_a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el  
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the  
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -  
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most  
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -  
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how  
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -  
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All  
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.  
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.  
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.  
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!  
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

# *There's a Voice in the Wilderness, ELW 255*



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a  
 2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -  
 3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
 cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
 arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!  
 peo - ple the com - ing of their king.  
 na - tions and soon will right the wrong.



The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
 Like flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like  
 Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed  
 grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of  
 lambs so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now



plac - es where God, our God, may go!  
 na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.  
 lead them, and bring them to your fold.

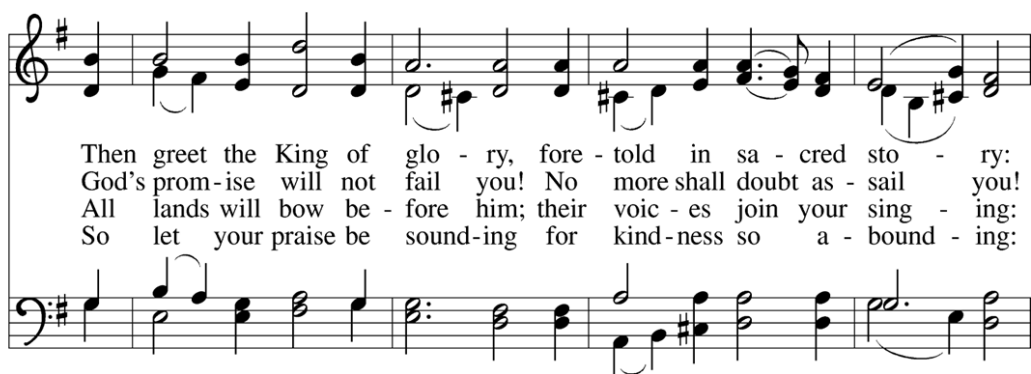
## *Prepare the Royal Highway, ELW 264*



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



*Refrain*  
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

## Introduction to the day:

*At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.*

The eternal candle for the month of December  
is sponsored by Corinne Doerr,  
*In memory of Douglas Doerr...*

The altar flowers are sponsored by  
Katherine Nelson-Tracey & William Tracey, III,  
*In honor of our four children...*

A memorial gift has been given by Shelley Amato,  
*In memory of my mom, Carolyn Eaton, on her birthday...*

## Ministers: ALL the People of St. Matthew's

Pastor: Stephen Bohannon	sbohannon@stmatthewsva.org
Director of Music: Kathy Lundgren	klundgren@stmatthewsva.org
Organist: Melvin Goodwyn	organist@stmatthewsva.org
Administrative Assistant: Patti Hinson	stmatthews@stmatthewsva.org
Congregation Council President: Dave Strand	councilpresident@stmatthewsva.org
Lector: Ron Trostel	
Altar Guild: Marcy & Dane Plaza	
Tech Volunteers: Joyce Forbes, Tom Meier, Chris Moessner	
Ushers: Dave Carr, Mike Fink, Mark Victorson, Eric Block	

*For upcoming events and announcements,  
please visit [www.stmatthewsva.org](http://www.stmatthewsva.org)*