

SAINT MATTHEW TODAY



A word from Max

Last Sunday, I shared two powerful conversion stories. One was Patrick Glynn, once an agnostic, who encountered

Raymond Moody's book *Life After Life* and suddenly realized he "had been wrong about everything." The second was David Rolfe, a filmmaker from the UK who set out to debunk the Shroud of Turin. Instead, after examining the evidence, he became convinced—and joined the church.

We're not doing play-like. Jesus is the real thing. We have a Savior, and life goes on forever.

As we walk with our Lord toward the cross this Lenten season, we are reminded each Sunday that even though life can be hard, it comes with a promise. We will make it. Nothing can stop us. Nothing can separate us from God's love.

Pastor's Class

We're having a good time in Pastor's Class—it's worth getting to church a little earlier. Every week, life looks a little better—and a lot more mysterious. Join us in our quest to better understand who God is, what God is doing in our lives, and who we are becoming. We meet at 9:45 a.m.

Breakfast

This Sunday is a "Winston Sunday." Feel free to lend a hand. Breakfast begins at 10:30 a.m., just before worship.

This Sunday — Lent Two

Mary will be preaching, and the choir will offer a beautiful anthem: *Arise, My Soul, Arise*.

One More Thing

In one month—on Palm Sunday, March 29—we'll gather for dinner to mark the beginning of Holy Week. We'll also celebrate Keith Butterfield's 99th birthday, making up for the dinner that had to be canceled when Keith became ill. So yes—let's order that birthday cake again.

This is a great season in the church.
See you Sunday.
God bless.



A word from Mary

Good Wednesday, dear St. Matthew friends and family,

I have just returned from a beautiful celebration of life for my Uncle Francis "Mule" Cox. I learned many things about him—some funny, some amazing—and I am so very grateful for the life he lived and for the impact he had on mine. My Aunt Juanita could use our prayers. After 58 years of marriage and serving as his primary caregiver for the past 10 years, she is feeling a bit lost right now. Thank you for your faithful prayers.

Judy Reeves is slowly getting stronger and returning to her usual self. Once she fully recovers from the insertion of her new pacemaker, she should feel much better. I've also heard that Charlotte Holder is up and around! She has left her wheelchair behind and is now moving about with a walker. You just cannot keep a good woman down. In all these things—and in the many blessings not listed here—we give thanks to God for the miracles of healing at work in our lives.

This week, I have been reflecting on what it means to be part of the family of God. When I think about St. Matthew and my history here, my heart overflows with love and joy. God has blessed me greatly by making me part of this church family. You humble me with your love and service to one another, and you sustain me with your prayers and support. I pray you receive my sincere thanks for being the people of God, planted in East Fort Worth to serve the community that gathers under our roof and the neighbors who have not yet stepped inside. My heart is compelled to bring our neighbors to the church and to bring our church to the neighbors.

Love to all of you,
Mary

Kids' News

The Easy Way or God's Way?

After Jesus was baptized, the Spirit led Him into the wilderness. For forty long days He fasted. No crowds. No miracles. Just rocks, wind, and hunger. Jesus was preparing for the work God had given Him to do.

That is when the devil came. He had a plan. If he could get Jesus to doubt who He was, or take the easy way, he might stop God's work before it even began.

"You're hungry," the devil said. "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."
Jesus answered, "It is written: One does not live by bread alone."

Then the devil took Him higher. "Throw yourself down. God will protect you."
Jesus replied, "It is written: Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

One more time the devil tried. "All the kingdoms of the world can be yours."
Jesus said firmly, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only Him" (Matthew 4:1-11).

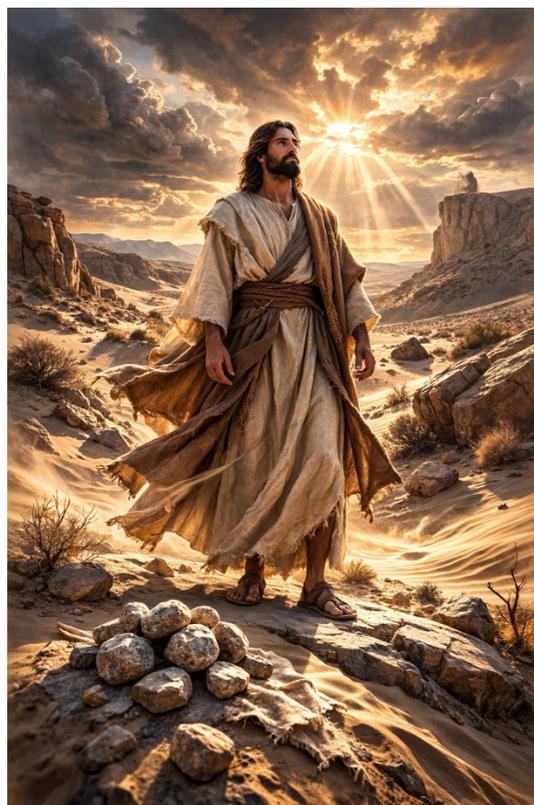
Jesus could have chosen the easy way. He could have shown His power. But He chose trust instead. And when the devil realized he could not turn Jesus away, he left.

During Lent, we remember that the easy way is not always God's way. What will you choose when the shortcut looks easier than the right path?

What We Learned

- ✓ Temptation often offers an easy way out.
- ✓ God's Word helps us make wise choices.
- ✓ Trust is stronger than shortcuts.
- ✓ Lent is a time to practice choosing God's way.

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THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE
DARKNESS, AND THE
DARKNESS CAN NEVER
EXTINGUISH IT.
JOHN 1:5