

# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



## Ascension of our Lord

May 12, 2024

*In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. We find the presence of Jesus among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.*

## Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW) Setting 3, Page 138

† Congregation stands as able

## GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof

†

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of +Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: **Amen**

Gathering Hymn

*"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"*

**ELW #392**

Kyrie

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Hymn of Praise

*"Glory to God in the Highest"*

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Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

# PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Geri Regnier

## First Reading

Daniel 7:9-14

<sup>9</sup>As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne, his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. <sup>10</sup>A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. <sup>11</sup>I watched then because of the noise of the arrogant words that the horn was speaking. And as I watched, the beast was put to death, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. <sup>12</sup>As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. <sup>13</sup>As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. <sup>14</sup>To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 68:15-20, 32-35

Tone 3

<sup>15</sup>O mighty mountain, O hill of Bashan!

O rugged mountain, O hill of Bashan!

<sup>16</sup>**Why do you look with envy, O rugged mountain, at the hill which God chose for a resting-place, where the LORD will reside forever?**

<sup>17</sup>The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thou-sands of thousands; the Lord comes in holiness from Sinai.

<sup>18</sup>**You have gone up on high and led captivity captive; you have received gifts from people, from those who rebel against the LORD God who dwells there.**

<sup>19</sup>Blessed be the Lord who bears us up day by day; God is our salvation.

<sup>20</sup>**This is our God, the God of our salvation; God is the LORD, by whom we escape death.**

<sup>32</sup>Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord.

<sup>33</sup>**You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens; you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.**

<sup>34</sup>Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.

<sup>35</sup>**How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel, giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!**

## Second Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so

that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints,<sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.<sup>20</sup> God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,<sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.<sup>22</sup> And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church,<sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

L: The word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

† Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia”

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**Gospel**

**Luke 24:44-53**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th Chapter.

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

<sup>44</sup> [Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." <sup>50</sup> Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; <sup>53</sup> and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

*Ascended... To Pour Out the Spirit*

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day

*"Borning Cry"*

**ELW #732**

Holy Baptism

Jackson Cameron Howes

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Apostle's Creed

Page 229

*You may sit, stand or kneel for the prayers.*

## Prayers of Intercession

A: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

A: We pray for the church and all ministers of the gospel, that the Spirit will empower them to be your witnesses throughout the earth. Keep all teachers and missionaries under your care and guide them as they proclaim your word to the world. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: For the well-being of creation and for all your creatures: for zoos, nature preserves, and conservation organizations, for endangered species, and for those who work to protect all that you have made. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: For the nations and those who govern: for all countries, regions, and people in crisis or at war. Bring your peace on earth, in our homes, and in our hearts. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: For all in any need: for exiles, refugees, and those fleeing war and poverty, for those who suffer from individual and institutionalized racism. For those who grieve, and for those near death. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: For this congregation and for its concerns: for visitors, for those who are absent, for those in prison, for the homebound, and for those who travel. Enliven our faith and invigorate our mission. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: For all those who have asked us to pray for them...

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: In thanksgiving for all the faithful departed who now rest in you especially Keandra Bashful, WJ Barrs, Eva Brown, Bishop Davis, and Joan Smith. Following the example of all those who have died in the faith, strengthen us to share your good news in the world. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**C: Amen**

# MEAL

Anthem                      “God Be in Our Hearts, Be in Our Homes”                      Choir  
Shannon Gardner, Soloist

*The gifts may be brought forward.*

Offering Prayer

A: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

**C: Amen**

† Great Thanksgiving                      Page 144

Holy, Holy, Holy                      Page 144

Anaphora                      Page 145

Amen                      Page 145

Lord's Prayer                      “Our Father, who...”                      Page 145

Lamb of God                      Page 146

## Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond Amen*

Table Blessing

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

**C: Amen**

† Prayer after Communion

A: Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

**C: Amen**

# SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn

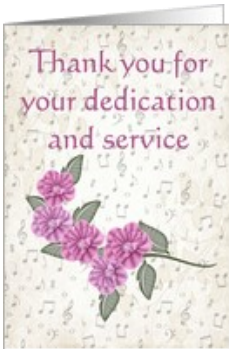
*“Crown him with many crowns”*

ELW #855

Dismissal

**A:** Alleluia! Go in peace. Serve the Risen Christ.

**C:** Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!



On behalf of the Church Council, we would like to thank Lisa Pettit for her excellent care for our buildings for the last year and a half. As you may know, Lisa's father-in-law, Tom Pettit, is moving in with the Pettit family, and Lisa will be his primary caregiver. Lisa will not be able to continue to be our Sexton. We need to find someone to fill the opening for Sexton. If you know of an individual that might be interested in this position, please ask them to contact me by email. My email

is [rose\\_m\\_johnson@bellsouth.net](mailto:rose_m_johnson@bellsouth.net) and I can send the interested individual the job description.

**READINGS AND PSALM  
SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2024**

Jeremiah 10:1-10a  
Psalm 108  
Romans 8:22-27  
John 15:26, 16:8-11



*“The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me.” —Martin Luther*

**May 5, 2024**

**6th Sunday of Easter**

ATTENDANCE — 67  
(IN-PERSON— 54 , YOUTUBE - 13)  
SUNDAY SCHOOL - 0

*Thankfully offered*

**OFFERING**

Benevolence	\$ 5,740.15
Building	\$ 200.00
Memorial	\$ 100.00
Other	\$ 110.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,150.15</b>

**The Memorial Book Is Open Today to the Glory of God**

**In Memory of:**

*Olse Wojciechowski, 2019*

**Serving May 12, 2024**

Opener/Closer	Allena Sperry
Worship Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Communion Assistant	Rose Johnson
Lector	Raymond Lawton
Ushers	Jim Sperry Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Nancy Gates, Donna Doughty, Geri Regnier
Live Streaming	Sean Jeffery/Jaxson Gardner

**Serving May 19, 2024**

Opener/Closer	Katherine Kelly
Worship Assistant	Donna Doughty
Communion Assistant	Liz McGouirk
Lector	Joyce Moore
Ushers	Amanda Jeffery Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Lisa Pettit Allena Sperry
Live Streaming	Cecil McGouirk/Jaxson Gardner



## *Pray Without Ceasing*



*“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*  
—1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

The Armed Forces,  
their families,  
and victims of war  
Persecuted Christians  
The ministries of  
St. Matthew  
Bishop Kevin  
Strickland  
Southeastern Synod  
Staff  
Pastor Taylor Burton  
Edwards  
Laura Alexander  
Carol Bingemann  
Dave Bonaker  
Pat Bonaker  
Betty Davidson  
Ken Hoag  
Myrna Hoag  
Bennie Jackson  
Mairetha Jackson  
Marga Miller  
Traudel Mosely  
Debby Owen  
Dorothy Redden  
Connie Sieg  
Carla Stickles  
Albert VanHousen II  
Margarete Walsh  
Monika Wright

Gary Anderson  
Judy Bultman  
George Capps  
Kyle Carter  
Jim Chappel  
Jean Clemmons  
Rich Curtis  
Xavier Danguilan  
Penny Davis & Family  
Brandy Garnett  
Becky Goldsmith  
Estrella Gonzales  
Doris Grier  
Petra Henderson  
Beverly Huckaby  
Norma Kilby  
Ken Korn  
Boyd Lester  
Laura Lester  
Valerie Karol Louder  
Robert Lowe  
Michelle Matthias  
Brady Meeks  
Tim Moore  
Gary Nearhoof  
Louie Niederhammer  
Kimberly O'Malley  
Michael Owen  
Angela Paul  
Vincent Pawlowski

Tom Pettit  
Beth Price  
Mark Purushotham  
Kenneth Ramming  
Dwight Redmond  
Tiffany Richardson  
Dayna Ryan  
Yulia Savitska  
Shirley Scott  
Ricky Skinner  
Betty Townsend  
Sandra Tuggle  
Charlie VanHousen  
Dawn VanHousen  
Martha Zimmerman

Maui  
Morrocco  
Israel  
Ukraine  
Gaza

Transformation Salon  
Family Worship Center  
Pathway Worship Center  
Bi-City Driving School  
Menzie Dance Company  
Sunset Finance

Deadline for bulletins is **Tuesday 10:00 a.m.** prior to the Sunday.  
Deadline for June newsletter is May 20.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Welcome to St. Matthew:** Jesus Christ offers himself to all. May you be blessed as we celebrate God's love for us. All the baptized are invited to feast with us at the Lord's Table. The wearing of a mask is optional during worship and social distancing is recommended. The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday.

**We invite you to join our congregation if you have not yet found a church home.** We are people of God that share a living, daring, confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person, questions, complexities and all. Join us, as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

**Nursery:** St. Matthew provides nursery service for children ages 6 and younger. All children are welcome to attend worship with their families. If a child needs a break during the service, they may sit with a parent/guardian in the Narthex.

## **Mission Outreach Opportunities:**

### **Mission Focus:**

St Anne's Outreach - collecting toiletries and Travel size toiletries. We always accept monetary donations.

- Lion's Club: Glasses, sunglasses and old cell phones
- Family House of West GA: Pop tabs
- Flags to Retire: Bring used American flags that you no longer want or need.
- St. Anne's: Personal hygiene products (travel size), toilet paper, and non-perishable food items

Leave donations in the labeled containers in the Narthex between bathrooms.

**Remembrance Gathering:** Please come to the Remembrance Gathering Tuesday, May 14th at 3:00 PM in the Church House. The gathering is an open invitation to members of our congregation to come together and share personal stories or recollections of someone else's life. We began with stories of World War II and our goal for 2024 is to expand our sharing to include all wars and conflicts.

**Growing in Grace:** Meets every Friday from 9:00-11:00 AM in the Church House. God's grace is freely given to us. Join the group to learn to cultivate an attitude of grace in your daily life by learning about and adopting habits to move into a state of grace. Contact Beth Hoag at 706-604-8110 for more information.



Please leave the handicapped parking spots available to those that have family members that are in wheelchairs and/or use walkers to aid in walking. Handicapped spots are also available on the side of the Fellowship Hall.

## ***Save the Date***

- **May 14th 3:00 PM** - Remembrance Gathering - Church House
- **May 15th 6:30 PM** - Interfaith Bible Study - Luther Hall
- **May 16th 5:00 PM** - Council Meeting - Church House
- **May 18th 10:00-12:00** - Yard Sale Drop-off in the Sieg Building
- **June 2nd**- Service at the Columbus Convention & Trade Center
- **June 9th** - 11:30 Birthday and Church Anniversary Celebration- Fellowship Hall
- **June 15th 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM** - Yard Sale

SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD  
**2024 Assembly**



**2024 Southeastern Synod Assembly**  
**May 31 - June 2, 2024**  
**Columbus Convention & Trade Center**

For more information, go to our website at:  
<https://www.stmatthewcolumbus.com/comeingevents>

Our interfaith Bible study in the Ten Commandments with Rabbi Beth Schwartz will meet May 15, at 6:30 PM in Luther Hall.



In our June newsletter, we would like to highlight our recent high school or college graduates. If you have a recent graduate, please contact Sonja Metcalf at (706)561-3406 or [office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com](mailto:office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com).



Thank you so much for the donations of snacks, juice boxes and coffee cart. We will be well stocked for a few months! If you can help bring goodies, help set and clean up the coffee cart, please sign up on the flyer on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Thank you in advance for your help!

# **St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Statement**



Reach in to grow in Christ  
Reach up to worship God  
Reach out to welcome and witness

## **ST. MATTHEW EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

4026 Macon Road, Columbus, Georgia 31907

(706) 561-3406 - Office Hours - Tues & Thurs 2:00-5:00 PM, Friday 9:00-1:00 PM

Pastor Taylor Burton Edwards Email: [twbe@liturgyfolks.com](mailto:twbe@liturgyfolks.com)

Office email: [office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com](mailto:office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com)

*A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,*

*Southeastern Synod*

[www.stmatthewcolumbusga.com](http://www.stmatthewcolumbusga.com)

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@st.matthewlutheranchurch4457/streams>

The Rev. Taylor Burton Edwards, Pastor

Sonja Metcalf, Parish Administrator

Lisa Pettit, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music

Penny Davis, Nursery Director