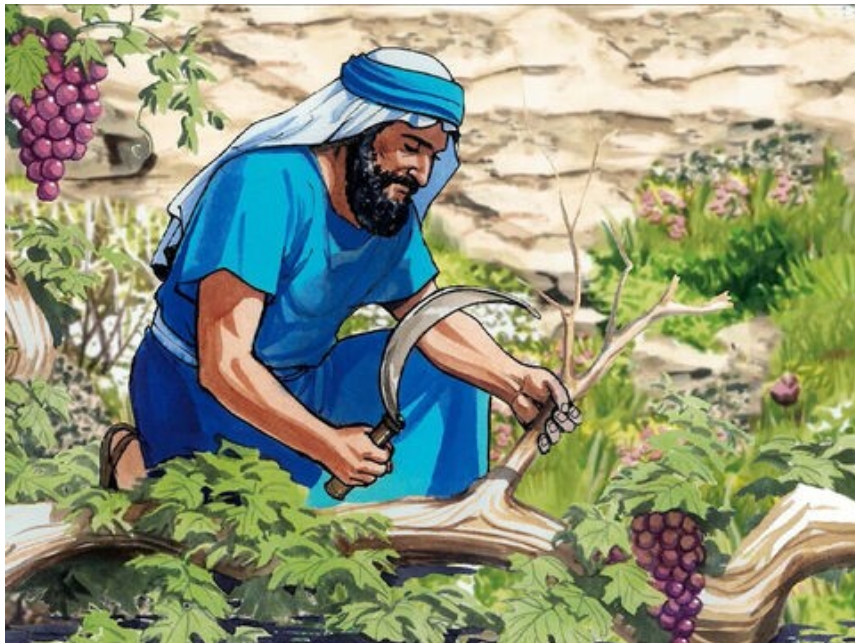


St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

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!**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

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

“Be thou my vision”

ELW #793

Kyrie

Page 138

Hymn of Praise

“Glory to God in the Highest”

Page 139

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior 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

Donna Doughty

First Reading

Exodus 19:1-6

¹On the third new moon after the Israelites had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day, they came into the wilderness of Sinai. ²They had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. ³Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: ⁴You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, ⁶but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites."

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 118:19-25

¹⁹Open for me the ¹ gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks ¹ to the LORD.
²⁰"**This is the gate ¹ of the LORD;**
here the righ- ¹ teous may enter."
²¹I give thanks to you, for you have ¹ answered me
and you have become ¹ my salvation.
²²**The stone that the build- ¹ ers rejected**
has become the chief ¹ cornerstone.
²³By the LORD has ¹ this been done;
it is marvelous ¹ in our eyes.
²⁴**This is the day that the ¹ LORD has made;**
let us rejoice and be ¹ glad in it.
²⁵Hosanna! ¹ O LORD, save us!
We pray to you, LORD, pros- ¹ per our days!

Second Reading

1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the

day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

† Gospel Acclamation

"Alleluia"

Page 142

Gospel

John 15:1-8

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *Resurrected... To Bear Fruit*

Reverend Rachel Zarnke

† Hymn of the Day

"Draw us in the Spirit's tether"

ELW #470

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;**

through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

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 around the world, for all ministers, and for the
mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your
care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always.
God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes,
streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the
face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national
leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international
organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment,
for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill
or suffering. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world.

God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

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

C: hear our prayer.

A: With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors especially Keandra Bashful, WJ Barrs, Eva Brown, Bishop Davis, and Joan Smith. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. 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

"Thy Holy Wings"

Choir

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: Shepherd 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

"Let all things now living"

ELW#881

Dismissal

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

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

The Memorial Book Is Open Today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Audrey Anderson, 2017

**READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024**

Genesis 35:9-15
Psalm 101
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17



“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

April 21, 2024

4th Sunday of Easter

ATTENDANCE — 56
(IN-PERSON— 48 , YOUTUBE - 8)
SUNDAY SCHOOL - 8

Thankfully offered

OFFERING

| | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Benevolence | \$ 9,195.00 |
| Building | \$ 160.00 |
| Memorial | \$ 100.00 |
| Other | \$ 200.00 |
| Total | \$ 9,655.00 |

Serving April 28, 2024

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Opener/Closer | Donna Doughty |
| Worship Assistant | Liz McGouirk/Raymond Lawton |
| Communion Assistant | Raymond Lawton |
| Lector | Cecil McGouirk |
| Ushers | Katherine Kelly |
| | Jim Sperry |
| Altar Guild | Debby Ullman |
| | Catherine Sayers |
| Live Streaming | Sean Jeffery/Matt Pettit |

Serving May 5, 2024

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Opener/Closer | Nancy Gates |
| Worship Assistant | Rose Johnson |
| Communion Assistant | Shannon Gardner |
| Lector | Randy Craven |
| Ushers | Sandy Craven |
| | Randy Craven |
| Altar Guild | Zach F, Rose Johnson |
| | Catherine Sayers |
| Live Streaming | Sean Jeffery/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
Mark Purushotham
Kenneth Ramming
Dwight Redmond
Tiffany Richardson
Dayna Ryan
Yuliia Savitska
Shirley Scott
Ricky Skinner
Betty Townsend
Sandra Tuggle
Charlie VanHousen
Dawn VanHousen
Martha Zimmerman

Maui
Morrocco
Israel
Ukraine
Gaza

Octapharma Plasma
Master-Kleen
Kamoree's Beauty Salon
Title Max
Broken Tarot Tattoo &
Piercing
JD Wings

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 4 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.



We had a great turnout for our spring gardens clean up. Thanks to all who came out and worked to beautify our gardens/grounds. It was greatly appreciated.

Save the Date

- **May 1st 6:30 PM** - Interfaith Bible Study - Luther Hall
- **May 5th 11:30 AM** - Birthday Celebration - Fellowship Hall
- **May 8th 6:30 PM** - Interfaith Bible Study - Luther Hall
- **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
- **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.stmatthewcolumbusga.com/comeingevents>



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.

Our interfaith Bible study in the Ten Commandments with Rabbi Beth Schwartz will meet May 1, 8, and 15, at 6:30 PM in Luther Hall.

We need your help with the worship service on Sundays in the areas of Live Streaming, Altar Guild, Ushers, Nursery Helper and Chairman for Coffee Cart. If you are interested in helping in any of these areas, please see Rose Johnson or Cecil McGouirk.

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

Office email: office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com

A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

Southeastern Synod

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