

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW) Setting 3, Page 138

† *Congregation stands as able*

GATHERING

Prelude

“Jesus Paid it All”

Handbell Choir

†

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

C: **Amen.**

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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Gathering Hymn

“Jesus Christ is ris’n today”

ELW #365

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,

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, 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

Shannon Gardner

First Reading

Isaiah 25:6-9

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

⁸he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day,

Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24**Tone 1**

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
 God's mercy endures forever.

²**Let Israel now declare,
 "God's mercy endures forever."**

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song,
 and has become my salvation.

¹⁵**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:
 "The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"**

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
 The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷**I shall not die, but live,
 and declare the works of the LORD.**

¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
 but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹**Open for me the gates of righteousness;
 I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰"This is the gate of the LORD;
 here the righteous may enter."

²¹**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
 and you have become my salvation.**

²²The stone that the builders rejected
 has become the chief cornerstone.

²³**By the LORD has this been done;
 it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
 let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Special Music*"The Day of Resurrection"*

Handbell Choir

Second Reading**1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

¹Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

✠ Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia”

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Gospel

John 20:1-18

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th Chapter.

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

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes. ¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

The Hardest Fact

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

✠ Hymn of the Day

"The strife is o'er, the battle done"

ELW #366

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: Holy God, we pray for the body of Christ, the church. Where the church is persecuted, protect it. Where the church is privileged, grant it humility. Where the church is fractured, heal it. Guide us all to embody Christ's love in the world. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Life-giving God, we pray for the earth, your good creation. Join our prayers with branches lifted in praise and roaring waters of new life, that together we may proclaim Easter hope. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Merciful God, we pray for all peoples and nations. Free oppressed communities from occupation, exploitation, and abuse. Teach leaders your way of justice. Empower peacemakers and all who work to end violence and strife. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Liberating God, we pray for people everywhere who long for good news. Roll away the stones that keep people from living with dignity and wholeness. Breathe new life and hope into people struggling to make it through each day. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Loving God, we pray for this community of faith and for your Spirit in our midst. Feed us at your Easter table and fill us with your wisdom, that we may serve and care for others. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

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

C: hear our prayer.

A: Eternal God, we remember those who have gone before us in death, especially Keandra Bashful, WJ Barrs and Eva Brown. Renew our trust in your promises, that we live with joyful courage and compassion. 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

"Now is Christ Risen from the Dead"

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

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Holy, Holy, Holy	Page 144
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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 *“That Easter day with joy was bright”* **ELW#384**

Special Music *“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”* Handbell Choir

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:

Kenneth Bingeman, 2008

**READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2024**

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1--15:47



“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

March 24 2024

Fourth Sunday of Lent

ATTENDANCE — 65
(IN-PERSON— 58 , YOUTUBE - 7)

Thankfully offered

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 1,770.00
Building	\$ 260.00
Memorial	\$ 200.00
Other	\$ 105.00
Total	\$ 2,335.00

**March 20, 2024
Mid-Week Lenten Service**

ATTENDANCE — 15

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 10.00
Memorial	\$ 100.00
Total	\$ 110.00

Handbell Choir members are:

Donna Doughty, Shannon Gardner, Cecil McGouirk, Elizabeth McGouirk, Anna Mion, Toni Mion.

Director: Sandra Nearhoof

Serving March 31, 2024

Opener/Closer	Donna Doughty
Worship Assistant	Matt Bonaker
Communion Assistant	Rose Johnson
Lector	Dave Bonaker
Ushers	Katherine Kelly Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Geri Regnier, Donna Doughty, Nancy Gates
Live Streaming	Cecil McGouirk, Sean Jeffery

Serving April 7, 2024

Opener/Closer	Zocia Barr
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Rachel Zarnke
Lector	Geri Regnier
Ushers	Sandy Craven Randy Craven
Altar Guild	Zach F., Rose Johnson, Catherine Sayers
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
Joan Smith
Carla Stickles

Albert VanHousen II
Margarete Walsh
Monika Wright
Gary Anderson
Judy Bultman
George Capps
Kyle Carter
Jim Chappel
Jean Clemmons
Xavier Danguilan
Brandy Garnett
Becky Goldsmith
Estrella Gonzales
Doris Grier
Petra Henderson
Beverly Huckaby
Norma Kilby
Ken Korn
Boyd Lester
Laura Lester
Valerie Carol Loudner
Robert Lowe
Michelle Matthias
Tim Moore
Gary Nearhoof
Louie Niedenhummer
Kimberly O'Malley
Michael Owen

Angela Paul
Vincent Pawlowski
Mark Purushotham
Dwight Redmond
Tiffany Richardson
Dayna Ryan
Yuliia Savitska
Shirley Scott
Ricky Skinner
Betty Townsend
Charlie VanHousen
Dawn VanHousen
Martha Zimmerman

Maui
Morrocco
Israel
Ukraine
Gaza

Mr. Pizza
Gold Teeth World
Quality Inn
Apparel King & More
Smoke Buddy's
Hollywood Barber Shop

Deadline for bulletins is **Tuesday 10:00 a.m.** prior to the Sunday.
Deadline for May newsletter is April 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, April 9th 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.

SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD
2024 Assembly

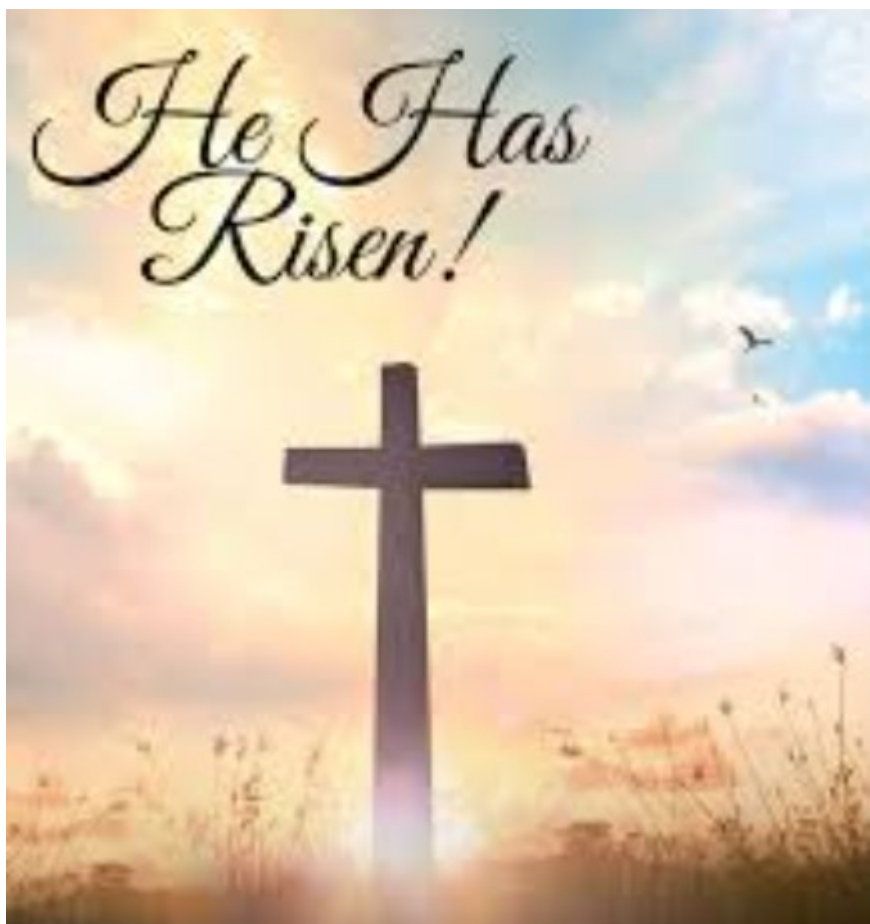


2024 Southeastern Synod Assembly
May 31 - June 2, 2024
Columbus Convention & Trade Center

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

Save the Date

- April 7th 11:00 AM - Birthday Celebration & Indoor Picnic
- April 8th 12:00 - Wynnton Neighborhood Network Board Meeting
- April 9th 3:00 PM - Remembrance Gathering - Church House
- April 13th 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM - Gardens Cleanup
- April 13th 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM - Yard Sale Drop-off
- April 20th 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM - Gardens Cleanup
- April 20th 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM - Yard Sale Drop-off
- June 15th 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM - Yard Sale



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