

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026

This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God's faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart Christ's resurrection and our hope in new creation.

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW Setting 3, page 138)

† Congregation stands as able

GATHERING

Prelude

“Hymns for Easter”

Handbell Choir

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia! (3X)

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

C: Amen.

P: Joined to Christ in the water of baptism, we are clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give thanks, O god, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea, you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace and love.

To you be the given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

ELW # 365

Kyrie

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This is the Feast

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Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

O God, by whose power our Lord Jesus was raised from the dead, stir us by your Spirit that we may fully abide in the risen life of Christ; 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

Katherine Kelly

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:1-6

¹ At that time, says the LORD, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. ² Thus says the LORD: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, ³ the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. ⁴ Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall adorn yourself with your tambourines and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers. ⁵ Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant and shall enjoy the fruit. ⁶ For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim: "Come, let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God."

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Tone 10

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;

God's mercy endures forever.

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

¹⁴ The 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!

¹⁶ The 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.**

¹⁸ The 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.

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

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

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

Second Reading

Colossians 3:1-4

¹ If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

"Easter Victory"

Handbell Choir

✠ Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel

John 20:1-18

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

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

¹ Early 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. ² So 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." ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes. ¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, ¹² and 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. ¹³ They 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." ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus 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." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus 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.'" ¹⁸ Mary 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.**



Reception of New Member Cheryl Hagen

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,
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: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

A: Risen Savior, you have conquered death and opened the gates of everlasting life. Dispel our doubts and fears and renew our faith and hope in you. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Life-giving God, the created world rejoices in Christ's victory over death. May all the earth be renewed by the light of Jesus' resurrection, and may we be faithful stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Sovereign God, let the nations acknowledge your reign of justice and truth. Where violence, oppression, and corruption hold sway, pour out your holy and life-giving Spirit to transform and redeem. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Gentle Shepherd, like the women at the empty tomb, many grieve or feel lost and afraid. Draw near to those who are ill or in pain. Reveal yourself to them as the Risen One. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Faithful God, we thank you for the living hope you give us through Christ's resurrection. Bless this community, that we may boldly proclaim Christ's victory over death in word and deed. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

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

C: receive our prayer.

A: Eternal One, we give thanks for all who have died and are now at rest in your keeping. Bring us, with them, to the unending feast of your victory. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C: Amen.

MEAL

Anthem

"Now is Christ Risen from the Dead"

Choir

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,

C: Amen.

† Great Thanksgiving

See Insert

Holy, Holy, Holy

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Lord's Prayer "Our Father, who..."

Page 145

Lamb of God

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Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

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: Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts., to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn

"Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!"

ELW #377

Dismissal

A: Go in peace

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Emma Nelson, 2004

Handbell Choir

Aidan Gardner

Liz McGouirk-Assistant Director

Jaxson Gardner

Anna Mion

Shannon Gardner

Toni Mion

Cecil McGouirk

Sandra Nearhoof-Director



**READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026**

Exodus 15:1-11, 19-21
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31



“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 29, 2026
Palm Sunday**

ATTENDANCE — 75
(IN-PERSON— 64, YOUTUBE - 11
2026 BUDGET-\$185,981

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$	3,146.00
Building	\$	210.00
Memorial	\$	180.00
Other	\$	30.00
Total	\$	3,566.00

Memorial gift acknowledgments will be sent/mailed quarterly.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church (ELCA) will not engage in any act or public statements to endorse or oppose any candidate for public office.

**March 25, 2026
Mid-week Lenten Service**

ATTENDANCE — 17

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$	175.00
Memorial	\$	50.00
Total	\$	225.00

Serving April 5, 2026

Opener/Closer	Allena Sperry
Worship Assistant	Dave Bonaker/Raymond Lawton
Communion Assistant	Rose Johnson
Lector	Shannon Gardner
Ushers	James Sperry Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Rose Johnson Terri Niederhammer
Live Streaming	Paul Hicks

Serving April 12, 2026

Opener/Closer	Bill Wallace
Worship Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Communion Assistant	Katherine Kelly
Lector	Toni Mion
Ushers	James Sperry Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Lisa Pettit Allena Sperry Jaxson Gardner
Live Streaming	Paul Hicks

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.”

5:16-18

—1 Thessalonians

The Armed Forces,
their families,
and victims of war

The ministries of
St. Matthew

Bishop Yehiel Curry

Bishop Kevin
Strickland

Southeastern Synod
Staff

Pastor Taylor Burton
Edwards

Pastor Rachel Zarnke
St Matthew

Congregational
Council

Laura Alexander

Carol Bingemann

Isabelle Clark

Randy Craven

Myrna & Ken Hoag

Marga Miller

Charlotte Moore

Traudel Mosely

Debby Owen

Dorothy Redden

Gary Anderson

Eric & Tinisha Bryant

Jean Clemmons

Nancy Edmundson

Lynne Funck

Brandy Garnett

Sandy Gibbs

Moses Glidden

Estrella Gonzales

Doris Grier

Laura Jett

Norma Kilby

Ken Korn

Emma Kump

Robert Lowe

David & John Lucas

Michelle Matthias

Brady Meeks

Lynne Meinhold

Tim Moore

Debi Nelson

Vincent Pawlowski

Beth Price

Mark Purushotham

Tiffany Richardson

Dayna Ryan

Shirley Scott

Dou Shizhen

Ricky Skinner

Amanda Steinagel

Sara Steinagel Sturgis

Fred Turpin

Charlie VanHousen

Dawn VanHousen

Martha Zimmerman

People of Iran

Venezuela

Gaza

Palestinian People

Israel

Ukraine

People of Russia

People of Minneapolis

Eastern Congo

People of Nigeria

Alexis Messenger

Family of Rachel Savage

Burger King

Animal General Hospital

Klose Kutz

Freedom Adult Day Center

Transformation Salon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to St. Matthew: Jesus Christ offers himself to all. All baptized Christians are invited to feast with us at the Lord's Table.

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:

- All unused all occasion and holiday cards
 - Lion's Club: Glasses, sunglasses and old cell phones
 - Family House of West GA: Pop tabs
 - Flags to Retire: Used flags to dispose of properly
 - Brown Bag: Travel size toiletries
 - SafeHouse/St. Benedict's Sealed plastic utensils (take-out meals)
- Leave donations in the labeled containers in the Narthex.

Bible Study: Please join us on Tuesdays at 10:15 in the Back Room of the Church House to review & discuss scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday.

Craf-Tea: This group will meet on the 4th Friday of each month at 10:00AM-12:00 PM in Luther Hall. If you enjoy crafts and tea, this group is for you! Please see Linnea Grosse for more information.

Chair Yoga: Meets every Monday at 11:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers.

HAPPY EASTER!

Save the Date

- April 6th - 11:00 AM - Chair Yoga - Fellowship Hall
- April 7th - 10:15 AM - Bible Study - Church House-Back Room
- April 11th - 10-12 - Lenten Challenge Drop-off - Sieg Building
- April 16th - 5:00 - Council Meeting - Fellowship Hall
- April 24th - 10:00 - Craf-Tea - Luther Hall



Lenten Challenge Drop-Off
Saturday, April 11th
10:00-12:00
Sieg Building

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Statement



Reach in to grow in Christ

Reach up to worship God

Reach out to welcome and witness



To give online, please scan the QR code to the left to be taken to the give.tithe.ly website form. You can just fill out the form and click the Give button. You can also go to our website and click on the ONLINE GIVING button.

ST. MATTHEW EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4026 Macon Road, Columbus, Georgia 31907

(706) 561-3406 - Office Hours - Tues & Thurs 2:30-5:00 PM, Friday 9:00-1:00 PM

Pastor Taylor Burton Edwards Email: twbe@liturgyfolks.com

Phone: (765) 602-1426

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