

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026

Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW Setting 3, page 138)

† Congregation stands as able

GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof



P: Alleluia! Christ is resurrected!

C: **He is resurrected indeed! Alleluia! (3X)**

P: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

P: Most merciful God,

C: **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. 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

"With High Delight Let Us Unite"

ELW # 368

Kyrie

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This is the Feast

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Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, 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

Rose Johnson

First Reading

Isaiah 51:1-6

¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug.

² Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah, who bore you, for he was but one

when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. ³ For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. ⁴ Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation, for a teaching will go out from me and my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly; my salvation has gone out, and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. ⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens and look at the earth beneath, for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats, but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 34:1-10

Tone 10

- ¹ I will bless the LORD¹ at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be¹ in my mouth.
- ² **I will glory¹ in the LORD;**
let the lowly hear¹ and rejoice.
- ³ Proclaim with me the greatness¹ of the LORD;
let us exalt God's¹ name together.
- ⁴ **I sought the LORD, who¹ answered me**
and delivered me from¹ all my terrors.
- ⁵ Look upon the LORD¹ and be radiant,
and let not your faces¹ be ashamed.
- ⁶ **I called in my affliction, and¹ the LORD heard me**
and saved me from¹ all my troubles.
- ⁷ The angel of the LORD encamps around those who¹ fear the LORD
and de-¹livers them.
- ⁸ **Taste and see that the¹ LORD is good;**
happy are they who take ref-¹uge in God!
- ⁹ Fear the LORD, you saints¹ of the LORD,
for those who fear the¹ LORD lack nothing.
- ¹⁰ **The lions are in want and¹ suffer hunger,**
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing¹ that is good.

Second Reading

1 Peter 1:17-23

¹⁷ If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸ You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰ He was known before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹ Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God. ²² Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³ You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

† Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel

Luke 24:13-35

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹ He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." ²⁵ Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. ²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

"Look to the Rock"

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

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.**

Stewardship Moment

Dave Bonaker

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: Living Savior, just as you journeyed with the disciples to Emmaus, accompany us on our journey of faith. Gather us at your table, that we recognize you in the breaking of the bread. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Almighty God, you provide for the needs of all creation. Bless the fields that are being prepared for planting, and send favorable weather so that the soil may yield an abundant harvest. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of justice, where leaders abuse power, confront them and call them to repentance. Where there is corruption, bring integrity; where there is violence, sow peace. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Healing Savior, your resurrection brings hope to a hurting world. Heal those who are sick. Strengthen the weary, give courage to the despairing, and comfort the dying. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Gracious One, you have made us your own through the gift of baptism. Unite us in genuine love for one another and uphold this community in your name. 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 Light, we give thanks for all who have nurtured your church's life in ages past. Bring us at last with them to the brightness of your glorious presence. 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

Offertory Hymn

"O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing"

ELW #386

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

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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

"This Joyful Eastertide"

ELW #391

Dismissal

A: Alleluia! Go forth in the power of the resurrected Christ.

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

The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Joan Smith, 2024

**READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026**

Ezekiel 34:7-15
Psalm 100
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10



“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 12, 2026
First Sunday of Easter**

ATTENDANCE — 55
(IN-PERSON— 42, YOUTUBE - 13
2026 BUDGET-\$185,981

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 2,280.00
Building	\$ 0.00
Memorial	\$ 50.00
Other	\$ 300.00
Total	\$ 2,630.00

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.

Serving April 19, 2026

Opener/Closer	Terri Niederhammer
Worship Assistant	Dave Bonaker/Raymond Lawton
Communion Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Lector	Amy Hoag
Ushers	James Sperry Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Lane Brown Nancy Gates/Jaxson Gardner
Live Streaming	Jaxson Gardner

Serving April 26, 2026

Opener/Closer	Dave Bonaker
Worship Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Communion Assistant	Amy Hoag
Lector	Toni Mion
Ushers	James Sperry Ron Ullman
Altar Guild	Debby Ullman Martha Vargas/Jaxson Gardner
Live Streaming	Matt Pettit

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

Gaza

Palestinian People

Israel

Ukraine

People of Russia

Eastern Congo

People of Nigeria

Sunset Finance

Diamond Kutz

Kee J's

Acceptance Auto

Phuong's Tailor Shop

Walgreen's

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.



The water main in front of the church has been repaired after 16 months of persistence by Jeff Gates, Property Chair. Please be patient as the water may be discolored for a while until the lines are cleared.



Save the Date

- April 21st - 10:15 AM - Bible Study - Church House-Back Room
- April 23rd -9:00 - WNN Care Bag Packing
- April 24th - 10:00 - Craf-Tea - Luther Hall
- April 30th - 5:30 - Men's Group - Deorio's

CARE BAG PACKING

WYNNNTON NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK



PLEASE JOIN US!

2100 HILTON AVE

APRIL 23, 9:00 AM

April Mission

We are collecting food and monetary donations for Wynnton Neighborhood Network!



Memorial brick orders will be taken until August 1, 2026. Order forms are available in the Narthex. Place order with payment attached and put into the offering plate or turn into the office. Bricks are \$50 each and will be dedicated in the Memorial Garden, All Saints Day, November 1, 2026.

MENS GROUP FELLOWSHIP

APRIL 30, 2026

5:30 PM



DEORIO'S

1931 AUBURN AVE



Blessings to everyone who made Lent & Easter a meaningful time at St. Matthew. Thank you to:

- Pastor Taylor for the thought provoking Lenten and Holy Week messages
- Sandra Nearhoof for music and all those who were a part of the handbells on Easter
- Altar Guild who served in so many ways and sanctuary look so beautiful with all the lilies
- Those that assisted with Easter breakfast and Egg Hunt
- Openers/Closers and Ushers during this season
- Sonja Metcalf for the many bulletins and Lenten service readings that were done

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