

# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Seventh Sunday after Pentecost  
July 16, 2023

*God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.*

## Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW) Setting 3, Page 138

† *Congregation stands as able*

## GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof

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P: The grace of our Lord +Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

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**

*"Open now thy gates of beauty"*

**ELW #533**

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, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

# PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Rose Johnson

## First Reading

Isaiah 55:10-13

<sup>10</sup>For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. <sup>12</sup>For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. <sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 65:9-13

<sup>9</sup>You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is <sup>1</sup> full of water.

You prepare the grain, for so you provide <sup>1</sup> for the earth.

<sup>10</sup>**You drench the furrows and smooth <sup>1</sup> out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground and <sup>1</sup> bless its increase.**

<sup>11</sup>You crown the year <sup>1</sup> with your goodness, and your paths over-<sup>1</sup> flow with plenty.

<sup>12</sup>**May the fields of the wilderness be <sup>1</sup> rich for grazing, and the hills be <sup>1</sup> clothed with joy.**

<sup>13</sup>May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak them-<sup>1</sup> selves with grain; let them shout for <sup>1</sup> joy and sing.

## Second Reading

Romans 8:1-11

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

<sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from

the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

† Gospel Acclamation

“ Alleluia ”

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**Gospel**

**Matthew 13:1-9**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th Chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

*Rachel Zarnke*

† Hymn of the Day

*“For the fruit of all creation”*

**ELW #679**

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen**

*Choose to stand, kneel, or sit for prayers.*

**Prayers of Intercession**

A: Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

A: Guide your church, O God, to sow seeds of forgiveness and righteousness on good soil. Direct your people to proclaim your love in this congregation and throughout the world. Hear us, O God,

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Sustain your creation, O God, by sending favorable weather, causing trees and fields to grow, protecting waterways from pollution, and instilling in all people the need to be good stewards. Hear us, O God,

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Maintain peace among all people, O God, and raise up lawyers to work for justice in the courts, advocates to speak for the downtrodden, and politicians to work on behalf of the common good. Hear us, O God,

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Heal those who are sick, O God. Guide health care workers to care for those who suffer, scientists to conduct lifesaving research, and counselors to care for victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. Hear us, O God,

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Answer the prayers of those gathered in worship, O God. Protect those who travel near and far, accompany visitors to this congregation, and nurture our faith. Hear us, O God,

**C: Your mercy is great.**

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

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Inspire us by the faithful departed, O God, examples of your embodied love, whose confidence in the resurrection guides us in living lives worthy of the gospel. We especially remember Joyce Garver-Messenger, Anneliese Schwarting, Hans Salheiser, Bobby Wright, Joe Stewart, and Christine Minor. Hear us, O God,

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen**

## MEAL

Anthem                    *"The word of God is source and seed"*                    Choir

*The gifts may be brought forward.*

Offering Prayer

A: God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

† Great Thanksgiving                    Page 144

Holy, Holy, Holy                    Page 144

Acclamation                    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: We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

## SENDING

**Blessing**

† **Sending Hymn**            *“On what has now been sown”*

**ELW #550**

**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:**

*Elfie Salheiser, 2016*

**READINGS AND PSALM**  
**SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2023**

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

Psalms 86:11-17

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:24-30



*"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*

**July 9, 2023**

**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

ATTENDANCE — 52

(IN-PERSON— 51 , ZOOM - 1 )

*Thankfully offered*

**OFFERING**

Benevolence	\$ 4,381.15
Building	\$ 196.00
Memorial	\$ 100.00
Other*	\$ 1,180.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,857.15</b>

\*Other is for Capital Improvements

**Serving today, July 16, 2023**

Opener/Closer	Donna Doughty
Crucifer	Ian Jeffery
Worship Assistants	Liz McGouirk & Raymond Lawton
Communion Assistant	Raymond Lawton
Lector	Cecil McGouirk
Offering-bearer	Duncan Jeffery
Ushers	Evelyn Pettit Matt Pettit
Altar Guild	Allena Sperry Lisa Pettit

**Servers for Sunday, July 23, 2023**

Opener/Closer	Lisa Pettit
Crucifer	Ian Jeffery
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Lector	Raymond Lawton
Offering-bearer	Duncan Jeffery
Ushers	Jim Sperry Matt Pettit
Altar Guild	Debby Ullman Catherine Sayers



## *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  
Presiding Bishop  
Elizabeth Eaton  
Bishop Kevin Strick-  
land  
Southeastern Synod  
Staff  
Seminarian,  
Brandon Konnow  
Laura Alexander  
Zocia Barr family  
Keandra Bashful  
Carol Bingemann  
Dave Bonaker  
Pat Bonaker  
Eva Brown  
Betty Davidson  
Ken Hoag  
Myrna Hoag  
Bennie Jackson  
Mairetha Jackson  
Marga Miller  
Traudel Mosely

Debby Owen  
Dorothy Redden  
Connie Sieg  
Joan Smith  
Jim Sperry  
Carla Stickle  
Albert VanHousen II  
Margarete Walsh  
Gary Anderson  
Judy Bultman  
Kyle Carter  
Jim Chappel  
Jean Clemmons  
Xavier Danguilan  
Brandy Garnett  
Becky Goldsmith  
Estrella Gonzales  
Doris Grier  
Beverly Huckaby  
Norma Kilby  
Ken Korn  
Robert Lowe  
Michelle Matthias  
Tim Moore  
Gary Nearhoof  
Kimberly O'Malley  
Michael Owen  
Angela Paul

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

Deadline for bulletins is **Tuesday 10:00 a.m.** prior to the Sunday.  
Deadline for August newsletter is July 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.

**The Tuesday morning Bible Study** meets in the Church House from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. This class reads and talks about the scriptures for the coming Sunday. Lisa Pettit is the contact person for this class.

## **Mission Outreach Opportunities:**

- Lion's Club: Glasses, sunglasses and old cell phones
- Ronald McDonald house: 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.  
July 1st - September 3.
- Paperbacks For soldiers

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

**Yard sale:** There will be no yard sale this year. If you have donations, please contact Allena Sperry at 706-563-3107 or email at [agsperry@bellsouth.net](mailto:agsperry@bellsouth.net) for more information.

**The Binding of Isaac: No Bible Study on July 19th due to Vacation Bible School.** Join us on Wednesday, July 26th at 6:30 PM, in Luther Hall for our continued study. Rabbi Beth Schwartz and Pastor Taylor are leading a study on the story of the binding of Isaac (Genesis 22) and its aftermath. This is an interfaith and ecumenical experience, with folks from St. Matthew, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, New Hope Presbyterian Church and the Jewish congregations in Columbus especially invited.

**Welcome:** We welcome Rachel Zarnke who is delivering our message today.

## St. Matthew Lutheran Glory To God Faithful Members

Memorial Garden Bricks:  
Purchase a commemorative brick to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or graduation. You can also purchase one in honor or memory of a loved

one. Each brick purchased will become part the St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Memorial Garden. See Allena Sperry for more details!

**DEADLINE TO ORDER IS SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**

### Vacation Bible School

God loves us and God loves everyone. We will be studying God's commandments to love God and love your neighbor, as well as the Lord's Prayer.

Monday July 17, Tuesday July 18, and Wednesday, July 19  
5:45 – 7:30 p.m.  
(5:45 p.m. – fun and games, 6:00 p.m. – Program begins)  
Fellowship Hall

Bible Lessons      Snacks      Crafts      Music  
Classes for children ages 4- 10. Parents are welcome to attend.



**Remembrance Gathering:** A remembrance gathering will be held at the church, August 8th at 3:00 PM at the Church House. We will be sharing your own or family stories related to World War II. Please feel free to invite others to attend! This gathering will happen the second Tuesday of every month. Questions or concerns, contact Zocia Barr at (706)330-1001.

**Dear Heavenly Father**, you will not leave us without a blessing. Wrestle with your church and renew it for the sake of the world. Preserve our life in you, so that we faithfully name you before the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

## **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.org](mailto:office@stmatthewcolumbusga.org)

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

*Southeastern Synod*

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

The Rev. Taylor Burton Edwards, Pastor

Kelly Peterson, Media Specialist

Lisa Pettit, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music

Sonja Metcalf, Parish Administrator

Penny Davis, Nursery Director