

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

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!**

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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

“Come, you faithful, raise the strain”

ELW #363

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, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, 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

Katherine Kelly

First Reading

Isaiah 65:17-25

¹⁷For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. ¹⁸But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. ¹⁹I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. ²⁰No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. ²¹They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²²They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. ²³They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD — and their descendants as well. ²⁴Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. ²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent — its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 3

¹LORD, how many I are my foes!
How many there are who rise I up against me!
²**How many there are who I say to me,**
“Your God I cannot help.”
³But you, O LORD, are a I shield about me;
you are my glory, the one who lifts I up my head.
⁴**I call aloud to I you, O LORD,**
and you answer me from your I holy hill;
⁵I lie down and I go to sleep;
I wake again, because I you sustain me.
⁶**I do not fear the multi- I tudes of people**
who set themselves against me I all around.
⁷Rise up, O LORD; set me free, I O my God;
surely, you will strike all my enemies across the face, you will break the
teeth I of the wicked.
⁸**Deliverance belongs I to the LORD.**
Your blessing be up- I on your people!

Second Reading

1 John 1:1--2:2

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you

also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

† Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia”

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Gospel

John 20:19-23

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Resurrected...To Forgive

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day

“O sons and daughters, let us sing”

ELW #387

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: Your church cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed and we witness to your love. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Your world cries out, O God, and you listen. Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, that no one may need to live in fear. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen. Renew pastors, deacons, musicians, and other staff, administrators, and volunteers who facilitated Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

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

C: hear our prayer.

A: Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you, especially Keandra Bashful, WJ Barrs and Eva Brown. Grant us your peace amid our fears. 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 the green blade rises"

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	
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: 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

“Thine is the glory”

ELW#376

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:

Lili Ritch, 2001

**READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024**

Isaiah 6:1-9a
Psalm 40:1-5
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:38b-48



“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 31 2024

Resurrection of our Lord

ATTENDANCE — 122
(IN-PERSON— 73 , YOUTUBE - 49)

Thankfully offered

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 2,307.00
Building	\$ 380.00
Memorial	\$ 100.00
Other	\$ 140.00
Total	\$ 2,927.00

**March 28, 2024
Maundy Thursday**

ATTENDANCE — 23

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 125.00
Memorial	\$ 0.00
Total	\$ 125.00

**March 29, 2024
Good Friday**

ATTENDANCE — 31

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 188.00
Memorial	\$ 0.00
Total	\$ 188.00

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 Fitzner, Rose Johnson, Catherine Sayers
Live Streaming	Cecil McGouirk, Jaxson Gardner

Serving April 14, 2024

Opener/Closer	Rose Johnson
Worship Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Communion Assistant	Katherine Kelly
Lector	Jaxson Gardner
Ushers	Jim Sperry Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Nancy Gates, Donna Doughty, Geri Regnier
Live Streaming	Cecil McGouirk, 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.”
—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
Brady Meeks
Tim Moore
Gary Nearhoof
Louie Niedenummer
Kimberly O'Malley

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

Maui
Morocco
Israel
Ukraine
Gaza

Days Inn
The Cell Plug
Enterprise
Plaza Furniture
Comfort Inn
Guthrie's

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 10th 6:30 PM - Ten Commandments Bible Study - Luther Hall
- April 13th 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM - Gardens Cleanup
- April 13th 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM - Yard Sale Drop-off
- April 14th 9:00 AM - Sunday School Class begins
- 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



Garden and grounds spring cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 13th & 20th from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Please bring tools you need for work. We will be trimming shrubs, weeding, plating flowers and placing pine straw. Please

contact Allena Sperry for questions at 706-563-3107
--The Garden Keepers

Our interfaith Bible study in the Ten Commandments with Rabbi Beth Schwartz resumes on April 10 at 6:30 p.m. in Luther Hall. We'll meet April 10 and 17, then May 8, 15, and 22.

We are previewing and launching a new 6 week Sunday School program beginning April 7 after worship as part of our Birthday Celebration and Indoor Picnic. Sunday School classes proper will begin April 14 at 9 a.m. We'll be focusing on the Small Catechism.

And on April 14, we'll also launch a study with our youth of the Social Statements and Messages of our Evangelical Lutheran Church.

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