

# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Fifth Sunday of Lent  
March 17, 2024

## Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

† Congregation stands as able

### GATHERING

†

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

*"I bind unto myself today"*

ELW #450

Kyrie

A: In peace, let us pray to the Lord

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

A: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

A: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

A: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

A: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: **Amen, amen.**

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, 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

Rose Johnson

## First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 51:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your <sup>1</sup>steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out <sup>1</sup>my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through <sup>1</sup>from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me <sup>1</sup>from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know <sup>1</sup>my offenses,  
and my sin is ev-<sup>1</sup>er before me.

<sup>4</sup>**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil <sup>1</sup>in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right <sup>1</sup>in your judgment.**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born <sup>1</sup>steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my <sup>1</sup>mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth <sup>1</sup>deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom <sup>1</sup>deep within.**

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I <sup>1</sup>shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be pur-<sup>1</sup>er than snow.

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear <sup>1</sup>joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken <sup>1</sup>may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face <sup>1</sup>from my sins,  
and blot out <sup>1</sup>all my wickedness.

<sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean <sup>1</sup>heart, O God,  
and renew a right spir-<sup>1</sup>it within me.**

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away <sup>1</sup>from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spir-<sup>1</sup>it from me.

<sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of <sup>1</sup>your salvation  
and sustain me with your boun-<sup>1</sup>tiful Spirit.**

## Second Reading

Hebrews 5:5-10

<sup>5</sup>So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

"You are my Son,

today I have begotten you";  
<sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place,  
"You are a priest forever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek."

<sup>7</sup>In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

L: The word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## †Gospel

**John 12:20-33**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 12th Chapter.

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

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. <sup>27</sup>"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon *Turn...and Embrace Jesus*

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

## Silence

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: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

A: God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship.  
Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children.  
Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation. Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill. 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: God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us , especially Keandra Bashful, WJ Barrs and Eva Brown. Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting love. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen**

## MEAL

*The gifts may be brought forward.*

Offering Prayer

A: Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

**C: Amen**

† Great Thanksgiving	Page 107
Holy, Holy, Holy-Spoken	Page 108
Anaphora	Page 111
Lord's Prayer "Our Father, who..."	Page 112

## Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
*and each person may respond Amen*

† Prayer after Communion

A: Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

C: Amen

## SENDING

### Blessing

Sending Hymn      *"Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy"*

See Insert

### Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C: Thanks be to God.



The Memorial Book Is Open Today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

*Delbert Paul, 2002*



**READINGS AND PSALM  
SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 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 10, 2024  
Fourth Sunday of Lent**

ATTENDANCE — 58  
(IN-PERSON— 49 , YOUTUBE - 9)

*Thankfully offered*

**OFFERING**

Benevolence	\$ 1,967.15
Building	\$ 240.00
Memorial	\$ 100.00
Other	\$ 75.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,382.15</b>

**March 6, 2024**

**Mid-Week Lenten Service**

ATTENDANCE — 18

**OFFERING**

Benevolence	\$ 230.00
Memorials	\$ 20.00
Other	\$ 100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 350.00</b>

**Serving March 17, 2024**

Opener/Closer	Rose Johnson
Worship Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Communion Assistant	Donna Doughty
Lector	Raymond Lawton
Ushers	Amanda Jeffery
	Sean Jeffery
Altar Guild	Allena Sperry
	Lisa Pettit
Live Streaming	Cecil McGouirk, Matt Pettit

**Serving March 24, 2024**

Opener/Closer	Nancy Gates
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Katherine Kelly
Lector	Sean Jeffery
Ushers	Jim Sperry
	Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Debby Ullman
	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  
Robert Lowe  
Michelle Matthias  
Tim Moore  
Gary Nearhoof  
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

Chevron  
Citgo  
Grace Apostolic Church  
Landmark  
#1 Nails  
McKibben Insurance

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

## *Save the Date*

- March 19th 10:30 AM - Bible Study - Church House
- March 20th 5:30 PM - Lenten Service
- March 21st 5:00 - Council Meeting - Church House
- March 22nd 9:00-11:00 - Growing in Grace - Church House
- March 28th 7:00 PM - Maundy Thursday Service
- March 29th 7:00 PM - Good Friday Service
- March 31st 9:00 AM - Easter breakfast & Egg Hunt
- 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



ordered.

It's time to order Easter Lilies for Easter. The Easter Lilies will decorate our sanctuary on Easter Sunday, March 31st. Please fill out the form you will find on the table in the Narthex. These forms need to be turned in by March 24th. It is \$15 per Easter Lily

### **Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt - Sunday, March 31st at 9:00**

**AM.:** Everyone is invited to attend the Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, March 31st. Please bring an Easter basket with you. If anyone has Easter baskets that they do not use anymore, please bring those and put in the baskets in the Narthex so we can have an Easter basket for anyone that doesn't bring one Easter morning. Please sign up on the list you will find on the bulletin board in the Narthex to bring something to share.

## *Lent Worship Schedule*

LENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP  
*EVENING PRAYER*

MARCH 20  
5:30 P.M.

MAUNDY THURSDAY  
MARCH 28  
7:00 P.M.

GOOD FRIDAY  
MARCH 29  
7:00 PM

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

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

*Southeastern Synod*

[www.stmatthewcolumbusga.com](http://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