St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Palm Sunday April 13, 2025

Today we follow Christ from triumphal entry to the cross, each waypoint of the journey marked by Jesus' compassion for those who would betray, mock, accuse, or do violence to him. Though persecuted and beaten, Jesus the Son of God is not disgraced; instead, he offers comfort to one of those crucified with him. We have walked the Lenten pathway these forty days, each of us invited through baptism to "let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." We enter this holy week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God's redeeming love.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW Setting 10, page 203)

† Congregation stands as able

GATHERING

Prelude Sandra Nearhoof

P. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

C. Hosanna in the highest.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

Luke 19:28-40

After he had said this, [Jesus] went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it." ³²So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴They said, "The Lord needs it." ³⁵Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸saying,

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"

³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." ⁴⁰He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

BLESSING OF PALMS

- P. The Lord be with you.
- C. And also with you.

P. Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen.

PROCESSION

A. Let us go forth in peace,

C. in the name of Christ. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN "All Glory, Laud and Honor"

ELW #344

P. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

C. Hosanna in the highest.

Anthem "Antiphonal Hosanna"

Choir

Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, 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

Amy Hoag

First Reading

Stain 50:4-9a

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my

sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

⁹It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

L: The word of the Lord C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31:9-16 Tone 9

⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I | am in trouble;

my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat | and my belly.

¹⁰For my life is wasted with grief, and my | years with sighing; my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones | are consumed.

¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to ¹ my acquaintances; when they see me in the street ¹ they avoid me.

¹²Like the dead I am forgotten, I out of mind;

I am as useless as a broken pot.

¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is ¹ all around; they put their heads together against me; they plot to ¹ take my life.

¹⁴But as for me, I have trusted in ¹ you, O LORD.

I have said, "You | are my God.

¹⁵My times are | in your hand;

rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who | persecute me.

16 Let your face shine up- on your servant; save me in your steadfast love."

Second Reading Philippians 2:5-11

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

L: The word of the Lord C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Page 205b

Gospel Luke 23:1-49

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 23rd Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. ²They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king." ³Then Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He answered, "You say so." ⁴Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no basis for an accusation against this man." ⁵But they were insistent and said, "He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place." When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. ⁷And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. ⁸When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. ⁹He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. 12That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies. ¹³Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, ¹⁴and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. 15 Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. 16 will therefore have him flogged and release him." 18 Then they all shouted out together, "Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!" 19 (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) ²⁰Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed

them again; ²¹but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" ²²A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him." ²³But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. ²⁴So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. ²⁵He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished. As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. ²⁸But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' ³⁰Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' ³¹For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?" ³²Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" 36The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." ³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" 40 But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." ⁴⁴It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. ⁴⁷When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was righteous." ⁴⁸And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. ⁴⁹But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these thinas.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon The Silence Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

Hymn of the Day "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" ELW #338

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

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.

dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

You may sit, stand or kneel for the prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

A: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

A: Guide your church this Holy Week as we follow in the servant way of Jesus. Protect those who face hostility or oppression for their faith. Humble those who would use faith to dominate others and reinforce their own power. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

- A: Make your creation a living witness to Christ's passion and resurrection: in waving palms, shouting stones, fragrant vineyards, murmuring wheat, and revealing fire. Make us attentive to your holy presence in the world, that we may care for the earth you love. God, in your mercy,
- C: receive our prayer.
- A: Let your face shine upon the leaders of nations and let the same mind be in them as was in Christ Jesus, so that those with the most power may humble themselves to serve the most vulnerable. God, in your mercy,
- C: receive our prayer.
- A: Sustain the weary with a word. Grant perseverance to political prisoners and to any who are exploited, unjustly accused, or wrongly convicted. Abide with all who are in jails, detention centers, or prisons. Console all who experience times of trial or suffering. God, in your mercy,
- C: receive our prayer.
- A: Give strength to those who will lead worship during Holy Week: pastors and deacons, altar guilds and sacristans, musicians and assisting ministers, ushers, and office staff. Instill in them awe and joy, that their service may reflect the love of Jesus. God, in your mercy,
- C: receive our prayer.
- A: For all those who have asked us to pray for them...
- C: receive our prayer.
- A: We give thanks to you for our beloved dead, especially Margarete Walsh, Patricia Bonaker, Betty Davidson, Mike Regnier and Boyd Lester, trusting that as the cross of Jesus led to the empty tomb, so you welcome those who have died into the paradise of your presence. God, in your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.
- P: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.
- C: Amen.

MEAL

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

- A: Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. .
- C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving Page 206

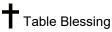
Holy, Holy, Holy Page 207

Lord's Prayer "Our Father, who..." Page 208

Lamb of God Page 208

Communion

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. Each person may respond, Amen.



P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Prayer after Communion

A: Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in your communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" EL

ELW #335

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Keep watch with Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God!

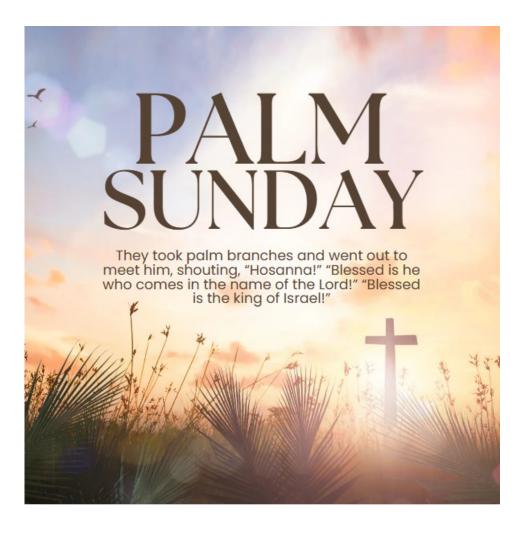
The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Agnes Mundy, 2008

A Statement on the Lectionary Readings from the Consultation on Common Texts

Throughout Christian history, references to "the Jews" in scripture-particularly in John and Acts--have been used to perpetuate negative stereotypes and falsely assign blame for the death of Jesus. These references gloss over significant distinctions among religious leaders, such as Pharisees, scribes, and Sadducees, and obscure the fact that Jesus and his disciples were themselves Jews. As Christians, we confess and lament the history of anti-Judaism associated with these texts. We renounce the evils of violence and discrimination against Jewish people. We strive for mutual understanding, respect, and partnership with Jewish neighbors and commit ourselves to the work of reconciliation among people of all faiths.





After using buildings please make sure doors are locked and alarm set. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our buildings secure.



Lent Worship Schedule

MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 17 7:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 18 7:00 PM

HOLY SATURDAY - APRIL 19 - 10:00 AM

READINGS AND PSALM SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2025

Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Luke 22:14--23:56



"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 6, 2025 5thSunday of Lent

ATTENDANCE — 62 (IN-PERSON— 49, YOUTUBE - 13)

OFFERING

\$ 2.660.00 Benevolence \$ Building 100.00 Memorial 0.00 \$ Other 205.00 Total 2.965.00

- **Save the Date**April 14th- 11:00 Chair Yoga Luther Hall
- April 15th 10:15 Bible Study (bring lunch) Church House
- April 17th 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service
- April 18th 10:00 Craf-Tea Luther Hall
- April 18th 7:00 Good Friday Service
- April 19th 10:00 Holy Saturday Service
- April 19th 6:30 Easter Vigil at St. Thomas Episcopal Church
- April 20th 9:15 Easter Breakfast FLC, Egg Hunt at 9:45
- April 24th 5:00 Men's Group at Mr. Pizza

Serving April 13, 2025

Opener/Closer Katherine Kelly Worship Assistant Lisa Pettit

Communion Assistant Raymond Lawton Lector Shannon Gardner

Ushers Jim Sperry Bill Wallace

Terri Niederhammer Altar Guild

Allena Sperry

Live Streaming Matt Pettit

Serving April 20, 2025

Opener/Closer Bill Wallace Worship Assistant Matt Bonaker Communion Assistant Clara Vargas Lector Dave Bonaker Ushers Jim Sperry

Bill Wallace

Altar Guild Nancy Gates

Rose Johnson

Paul Hicks Live Streaming

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 St Matthew Congregational Council Laura Alexander Carol Bingemann Dave Bonaker Matt Bonaker Craven Family **Davidson Family** Myrna & Ken Hoag Mairetha & Bennie Jackson Sean Jeffery Marga Miller Charlotte Moore Traudel Mosely

Terri Niederhammer

Debby Owen

Dorothy Redden

Regnier Family

Connie Sieg Allena Sperry Carla Stickles Harold Vinson Eric & Tinisha Bryant George Capps Chappel Family Jean Clemmons Xavier Danguilan Penny Davis & Family Nancy Edmundson Lynne Funck **Brandy Garnett** Mike Gewin Moses Glidden **Becky Goldsmith** Estrella Gonzales Sarah Goodman **Doris Grier** Petra & Franklin Henderson Norma Kilby Ken Korn Emma Kump Melissa Lancheros Laura Lester Robert Lowe Michelle Matthias Sandra McPeters **Brady Meeks** Tim Moore Moser Family

Nearhoof Family Angela Paul Vincent Pawlowski **Beth Price** Mark Purushotham Bill Rahm Tiffany Richardson Ruocco Family Dayna Ryan Shirley Scott Dou Shizhen Ricky Skinner Amanda Steinagel **Torrijos Family** Fred Turpin Charlie VanHousen Dawn VanHousen Molly Wright Pastor Rachel Zarnke Martha Zimmerman Israel Ukraine Gaza Lebanon Western North Carolina Los Angeles Octapharma Plasma

Kamoree's Beauty Salon

Broken Tarot Tattoo &

Piercing

Title Max

JD Wings

Master-Kleen

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 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 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:

Mission Focus: Wynnton Neighborhood Network

• 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: Feminine hygiene products, Personal

hygiene products (travel size),

toilet paper, and non-perishable food items

Safe House Sealed plastic utensils (take-out meals)
 Leave donations in the labeled containers in the Narthex between

bathrooms.

Craf-Tea: This group will meet Fridays 10:00-12:00 PM in Luther Hall. If you enjoy crafts and tea, this group is for you! Please see Beth Hoag for more information

Men's Group: This group will meet, Thursday, April 24th at 5:00 at Mr. Pizza.

Chair Yoga: We are meeting every Monday at 11:00 AM in Luther Hall. Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers.

April 2, 2025 Lenten Midweek Service

ATTENDANCE — 19 (IN-PERSON— 13, YOUTUBE - 6)

OFFERING

Benevolence \$ 100.00 Other \$ 15.00 **Total \$ 115.00**

We invite you to come to our Easter Breakfast at 9:15 Easter Sunday Morning. Following

the breakfast, we will have an Easter Egg Hunt at 9:45.



MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Wynnton Neighborhood Network is celebrating its 40th birthday in May! The network wants to share the celebration with the 555 clients that will be served food in May. They want to make a birthday celebration bag for each client.

Donations needed include:

Cake mix - white/yellow Birthday plates - 8-16 Birthday candles - 8-16 Tub Frosting - vanilla/chocolate Birthday Napkins - 8-16 Disposable cake pans - 1 9X13 or 2 9" round

Please place in Narthex. The collection deadline will be April 27th. Monetary donations accepted - please be sure to designate as WNN birthday bag. Thank you for helping WNN celebrate with our clients. If you have questions, contact Allena Sperry at 706-563-3107.





EASTER LILIES

We will be decorating our Sanctuary with Easter lilies for the Easter service, Sunday, April 20, 2025. You may purchase the lilies through the Altar Guild. Remembrances will be noted in our worship bulletin on Easter Sunday. If you wish to purchase a plant(s) for Easter, please complete this form and return to the Church Office or place in the offering plate. The cost of the plants is \$15.00 each. Make checks payable to the 'St. Matthew Altar Guild' and write 'lilies' on your check. Payment must be received at the time of the order. Orders are due by Sunday, April 13, 2025

DROP IN OFFERING PLATE OR RETURN TO OFFICE	
Easter lilies are given to the glory of God by: PRINT CLEARLY	
Name:	
In memory of:	
In honor of:	
Amount enclosed:(\$15.00 per plant)	

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

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