

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
February 2, 2025

Jesus begins by stating the title of his sermon. It sounds wonderful and it is, but it was not at all what his hometown audience wanted to hear. God does not act solely on behalf of those like us. In fact, God loves and saves our enemies.

Today, this scripture is fulfilled...in our hearing, too.

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW) Setting 4, page 147

† Congregation stands as able

GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof



P. Blessed be God, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit.

C. And blessed be God's kingdom now and forever. Amen.

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

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

ELW #705

Kyrie

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This Is the Feast

Page 149

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Katherine Kelly

First Reading

Jeremiah 1:4-10

⁴Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

⁵"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

⁶Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." ⁷But the LORD said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am only a boy';
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the LORD."

⁹Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,

"Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant."

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 71:1-6

Tone 5

¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame.

²**In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free;
incline your ear to me and save me.**

³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe;
you are my crag and my stronghold.

⁴**Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.**

⁵For you are my hope, O Lord GOD,
my confidence since I was young.

⁶**I have been sustained by you ever since I was born;
from my mother's womb you have been my strength;
my praise shall be all ways of you.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

¹If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. ⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I

know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

✠ Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel

Luke 4:21-30

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 4th Chapter.

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

²¹Then [Jesus] began to say to [all in the synagogue in Nazareth,] "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²²All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" ²³He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" ²⁴And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. ²⁵But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Setting the Stage 3: Privilege

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

✠ Hymn of the Day "O Word of God Incarnate"

ELW #514

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

You may sit, stand or kneel for the prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

A: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A: God of eternal wisdom, we pray for your church, which is being transformed by your word. Bless the church with your wisdom and guidance. Let us notice and take part in the new thing you are doing. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Your creation sustains us and all living creatures. Grant us humility to acknowledge the ways we bring harm to the earth. Grant us courage to make effective change so that all lands and living things prosper. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Embolden leaders of nations, corporations, and all in authority, that they may lovingly tend those in their charge. Help them to respond to all who cry out in need. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Provide for those whose hunger runs deep due to isolation, loneliness, or illness. Send your Spirit so that all are filled with your presence and experience welcome from their communities. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We pray for the young people in our congregations. May their voices be celebrated. Give youth a place of honor and value among us. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

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

C: hear our prayer.

A: We remember those who have gone on before us especially Margarete Walsh and Patricia Bonaker. Let their faithful example continue to bear witness to us all. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

C: **Amen.**

MEAL

Anthem *“Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song”*

Choir

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance of the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

C: **Amen.**

✝ Great Thanksgiving Page 152

Holy, Holy, Holy Page 153

Lord’s Prayer *“Our Father, who…”* Page 154

Lamb of God Page 154

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: Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn *“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”*

ELW #543

Dismissal

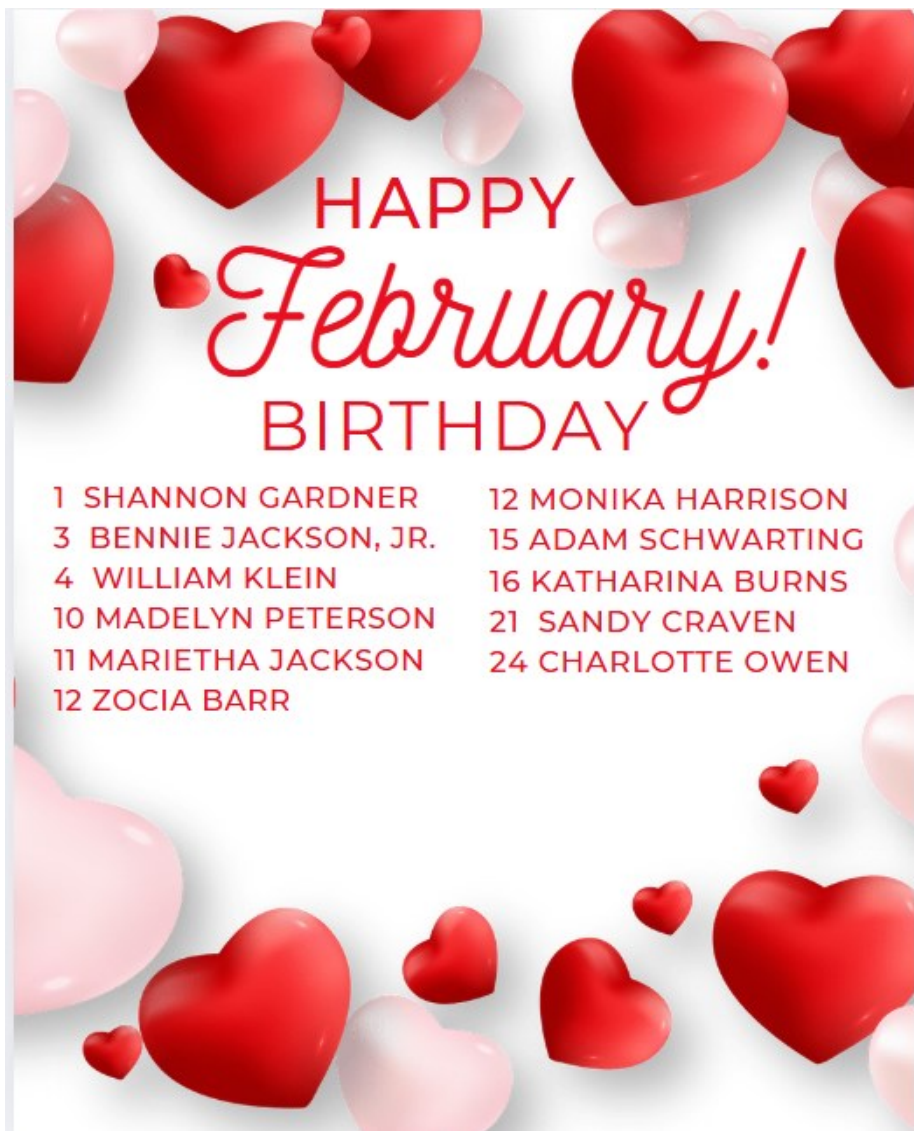
A: Go in peace. Christ is born!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Edith Klein, 2020



READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2025

Isaiah 6:1-13
 Psalm 138
 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
 Luke 5:1-11



*"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*

January 26, 2025
Third Sunday after Epiphany

ATTENDANCE —80

(IN-PERSON— 54, YOUTUBE - 26)

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$	6,310.00
Building	\$	100.00
Memorial	\$	475.00
Other	\$	100.00
Total	\$	6,985.00

Save the Date

- February 3rd - 11:00 - Chair Aerobics - Luther Hall
- February 4th - 10:15 - Bible Study - Church House
- February 5th - 6:00 - Interfaith Bible Study - Luther Hall
- February 7th - 10:00 - Craf-Tea - Luther Hall
- February 9th - 11:30 - Tackle Hunger - Luther Hall
- February 27th - 9:00 - WNN-Pack Care Bags at
 St. Thomas Episcopal Outreach Center

Serving February 2, 2025

Opener/Closer	Jeff & Nancy Gates
Worship Assistant	Liz McGouirk/Raymond Lawton
Communion Assistant	Raymond Lawton
Lector	Cecil McGouirk
Ushers	Sandy Craven Randy Craven
Altar Guild	Catherine Sayers Rose Johnson
Live Streaming	Jaxson Gardner

Serving February 9, 2025

Opener/Closer	Bill Wallace
Worship Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Communion Assistant	Katherine Kelly
Lector	Jaxson Gardner
Ushers	Jim Sperry Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Nancy Gates Terri Niederhammer
Live Streaming	Paul Hicks

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
Bonaker Family
Betty Davidson
Myrna & Ken Hoag
Mairetha & Bennie
Jackson
Sean Jeffery
Marga Miller
Charlotte Moore
Traudel Mosely
Terri Niederhammer
Debby Owen
Dorothy Redden
Connie Sieg
Allena Sperry

Carla Stickles
Albert VanHousen II
Harold Vinson
Eric & Tinisha Bryant
George Capps
Jim Chappel
Jean Clemmons
Xavier Danguilan
Penny Davis & Family
Brandy Garnett
Mike Gewin
Moses Glidden
Becky Goldsmith
Estrella Gonzales
Doris Grier
Petra & Franklin
Henderson
Norma Kilby
Ken Korn
Emma Kump
Melissa Lancheros
Laura & Boyd Lester
Robert Lowe
Michelle Matthias
Sandra McPeters
Brady Meeks
Tim Moore
Nearhoof Family
Angela Paul
Vincent Pawlowski
Beth Price
Mark Purushotham

Bill Rahm
Tiffany Richardson
Dayna Ryan
Shirley Scott
Dou Shizhen
Ricky Skinner
Amanda Steinagel
Torrijos Family
Fred Turpin
Charlie VanHousen
Dawn VanHousen
Martha Zimmerman

Israel
Ukraine
Gaza
Lebanon
Western North Carolina
New Orleans
Los Angeles

Freedom Adult Day Center
Transformation Salon
Pathway Worship Center
Xpert Tax Service
Family Worship Center
Bi-City Driving School

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: | 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.

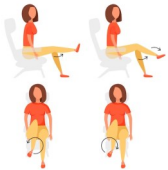
Remembrance Gathering: Our quarterly Remembrance Gathering will be held on Tuesday, April 8th at 3:00 pm in the Church House. This will be a time to come together and share personal stories or recollections of someone else's experience of any conflicts or wars. For more information, please contact Zocia Barr at 706-330-1001.

We had great participation and lots of fun at WNN care bag packing in January. We will be packing care bags at 9am, February 27, 2025 at St. Thomas Episcopal Church outreach center (back of church). Please let Allena Sperry know if you will be participating at agsperry@bellsouth.net or 706-563-3107.

New Men's group meeting the 4th Thursday of each month beginning February 27th at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you there!

TACKLE HUNGER

Sunday, February 9th, after the worship service, in Luther Hall.
Please donate non-perishable items to help us Tackle Hunger!



Chair Aerobics is here! We will be meeting every Monday starting February 3rd at 11:00 AM in Luther Hall. This will be led by Terri Neiderhammer. Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers. If you need transportation, please contact Zocia Barr at (706) 330-1001.



Interfaith Bible Study meeting on February 5th and meeting each Wednesday thru February 26th. Micah: Words of Judgment, Words of Hope - Jewish and Christian Understandings. We hope to see you at 6:00 in Luther Hall for this study with Pastor Taylor and Rabbi Beth Schwartz.

James Tissot: Prophet Micah, 1896.
Public Domain

**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