

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



1st Sunday of Lent
March 9, 2025

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW) Setting 10, page 203

† 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 *"Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church"* **ELW #321**

Kyrie

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Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, 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

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

¹When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the

place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Tone 2

¹You who dwell in the shelter of ¹the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of ¹the Almighty—
²**you will say to the LORD, "My refuge ¹and my stronghold,
my God in whom I ¹put my trust."**
⁹Because you have made the ¹LORD your refuge,
and the Most High your ¹habitation,
¹⁰**no evil ¹will befall you,
nor shall affliction come ¹near your dwelling.**
¹¹For God will give the angels charge ¹over you,
to guard you in ¹all your ways.
¹²**Upon their hands they will ¹bear you up,
lest you strike your foot a- ¹gainst a stone.**
¹³You will tread upon the lion ¹cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion ¹and the serpent.
¹⁴**I will deliver those who ¹cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they ¹know my name.**
¹⁵They will call me, and I will ¹answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and ¹honor them.
¹⁶**With long life will I ¹satisfy them,
and show them ¹my salvation.**

Second Reading

Romans 10:8b-13

^{8b}"The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the

mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel

Luke 4:1-13

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

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

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished.

³The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." ⁴Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" ⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.

⁶And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸Jesus answered him, "It is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'"

⁹Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,'

¹¹and

'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

¹²Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

The Groundwork

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards



Hymn of the Day

"The Glory of These Forty Days"

ELW #320

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: 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: Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus. God, in your mercy,

C: **receive our prayer.**

A: Mothering God, speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and instead preserve first fruits for future

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: 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

“I Want Jesus to Walk With Me”

ELW #325

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Resist evil in the strength of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Steven Davidson, 2022

READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2025

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
 Psalm 27
 Philippians 3:17--4:1
 Luke 13:31-35



*"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 2, 2025
Transfiguration Sunday

ATTENDANCE —56
 (IN-PERSON— 45, YOUTUBE - 11)

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$	3,415.00
Building	\$	120.00
Memorial	\$	600.00
Other	\$	100.00
Total	\$	4,235.00

Save the Date

- March 10th - 11:00 - Chair Yoga - Luther Hall
- March 11th - 10:15 - Bible Study (bring lunch) - Church House
- March 12th - 5:30 - Wednesday Lenten Service
- March 14th - 10:00 - Craf-Tea - Luther Hall
- March 15th - 10-12:00 - Yard Sale Drop-off dates
- March 20th - 5:00 - Council Meeting
- March 25th - 5:00 - Men's Group - Mr. Pizza

Serving March 9, 2025

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

Serving March 16, 2025

Opener/Closer	Terri Niederhammer
Worship Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Communion Assistant	Raymond Lawton
Lector	Jaxson Gardner
Ushers	Jim Sperry
	Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Rose Johnson
	Allena Sperry
Live Streaming	Cecil McGouirk

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

Davidson Family

Myrna & Ken Hoag

Mairetha & Bennie
Jackson

Sean Jeffery

Marga Miller

Charlotte Moore

Traudel Mosely

Terri Niederhammer

Debby Owen

Dorothy Redden

Mike & Geri Regnier

Connie Sieg

Allena Sperry

Carla Stickles

Harold Vinson

Eric & Tinisha Bryant

George Capps

Jim Chappel

Jean Clemmons

Xavier Danguilan

Penny Davis & Family

Lynne Funck

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

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

Martha Zimmerman

Israel

Ukraine

Gaza

Lebanon

Western North Carolina

New Orleans

Los Angeles

M. Bland Salon

Chevron

Bargain Furniture

Dollar General

Citgo

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:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| St Anne's | |
| • 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 usually meets the 4th Thursday of the month. However, in March, we will meet Tuesday, March 25th 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.

LENTEN CHALLENGE!

Lenten challenge begins Ash Wednesday! Here is your challenge: Each day of Lent, place an unwanted items in a box or bag for donation to our annual yard sale. Drop off dates for yard sale donations at the Sieg building from 10-noon are:

March 15th, April 12th, May 17th and June 7th.

Thank you for participating and good luck on the challenge!



Happy March Birthday



- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 8 Aidan Gardner | 17 Callie Gardner |
| 9 Eileen Barrs | 18 Debbie Owen |
| 9 Jon Hoag | 24 Joseph Steinagel |
| 14 Erin Thies | 26 Evelyn Seames |
| 15 Brandon Hoag | 27 Rev. Grace Burton Edwards |



Garden & Grounds: Thanks to Anna Mion & Paul Hicks for trimming the Rose bushes and placing pine straw in the meditation garden area. Thanks to Matt & Lisa Pettit for trimming the crepe myrtles.

Lent Worship Schedule

LENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP

EVENING PRAYER

MARCH 12, 19, 26
APRIL 2, 9
5:30 PM

MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 17
7:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 18
7:00 PM

HOLY SATURDAY - APRIL 19 - 10:00 AM

**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