

LARGE PRINT

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2026

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW Setting 3, page 138)

† *Congregation stands as able*

GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof



P; Alleluia! Christ is resurrected!

C: He is resurrected indeed! Alleluia! (3X)

P: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

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

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

ELW #834

Kyrie

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This is the Feast

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Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, 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

Ezekiel 43:1-7a

¹ Then he brought me to the gate, the gate facing east. ² And there the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the east; the sound was like the sound of mighty waters, and the earth shone with his glory. ³ The vision I saw was like the vision that I had seen when he came to destroy the city and like the vision that I had seen by the River Chebar, and I fell upon my face. ⁴ As the glory of the LORD entered the temple by the gate facing east, ⁵ the spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. ⁶ While the man was standing beside me, I heard someone speaking to me out of the temple. ^{7a} He said to me: “Mortal, this is the place of my throne and the place for the soles of my

feet, where I will reside among the people of Israel forever.”

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 115

Tone 10

¹ Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your ¹ name give glory;

because of your steadfast ¹ love and faithfulness.

² **Why should the ¹ nations say,
"Where then ¹ is their God?"**

³ Our God ¹ is in heaven;
whatever God ¹ wills, God does.

⁴ **Their idols are sil- ¹ ver and gold,
the work of ¹ human hands.**

⁵ They have mouths, but they ¹ cannot speak;
eyes they have, but they ¹ cannot see;

⁶ **they have ears but they ¹ cannot hear;
noses, but they ¹ cannot smell;**

⁷ they have hands, but they cannot feel; feet, but they ¹ cannot walk;

they make no sound ¹ with their throat.

⁸ **Those who make ¹ them are like them,
and so are all who put their ¹ trust in them.**

⁹ O Israel, trust ¹ in the LORD,
who is your help ¹ and your shield.

¹⁰ **O house of Aaron, trust ¹ in the LORD,
who is your help ¹ and your shield.**

¹¹ You that fear the LORD, trust ¹ in the LORD,
who is your help ¹ and your shield.

¹² **The LORD has been mindful of us, ¹ and will bless us;**

the LORD will bless the house of Israel and the ¹ house of Aaron;

¹³ those who fear the LORD^l will be blessed,
both small and^l great together.
¹⁴ **May the LORD increase you^l more and more,
you and your^l children after you.**
¹⁵ May you be blessed^l by the LORD,
the maker of heav-^len and earth.
¹⁶ **Heaven is the heaven^l of the LORD,
but the earth God entrusted^l to its peoples.**
¹⁷ The dead do not^l praise the LORD,
nor all those who go down^l into silence;
¹⁸ **but we will^l bless the LORD,
from this time forth forevermore.^l Hallelujah!**

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³ Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to

God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

† Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel

John 14:15-21

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:]¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever.¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.¹⁸ “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

“The Spirit With Us”

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

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,
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 the power of Christ's resurrection to heal
and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the
needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

A: God of new life, you call us through the waters of
baptism to be in relationship with you and one
another. Guide the church and its leaders to proclaim
Christ's righteousness throughout the world.
Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You create the world and all that is in it. Shelter
budding plants and young animals, provide
unpolluted habitats and clean water, and raise up
stewards for the environment. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You set civil servants in the places where we live. Instill truth and equity among judges and lawyers, gentleness and courage among first responders, and peace among leaders of towns and nations. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You provide comfort in times of trouble. Heal those who are sick, shelter any who are unhoused, feed those undernourished, and accompany and console all who are lonely, bereaved, anxious, or ill. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You are love and you desire that we love one another. As a mother hen cares for her chicks, bless all who provide motherly care in our lives, and inspire us to care for one another. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

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

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of new life, your steadfast love endures forever. Inspire us by the example of the faithful departed, who clung to your promises of life, forgiveness of sins, and salvation. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C: Amen.

MEAL

Special Music

Flute Solo

Jordi Banitt

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,

C: Amen.

† Great Thanksgiving

See Insert

Holy, Holy, Holy

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

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Lamb of God

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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: Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn

“Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart” **ELW #800**

Dismissal

A: Alleluia! Go forth in the power of the resurrected Christ.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Ellen Bass, 2008



**READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026**

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
Psalm 24:7-10
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53



“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

**May 3, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Easter**

ATTENDANCE — 60
(IN-PERSON— 44, YOUTUBE - 16
2026 BUDGET-\$185,981

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$	1,345.00
Building	\$	100.00
Memorial	\$	150.00
70 for 70	\$	0.00
Total	\$	1,595.00

Memorial gift acknowledgments will be sent/mailed quarterly.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church (ELCA) will not engage in any act or public statements to endorse or oppose any candidate for public office.

Serving May 10, 2026

Opener/Closer	Lisa & Matt Pettit
Worship Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Communion Assistant	Katherine Kelly
Lector	Jaxson Gardner
Ushers	James Sperry Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Lisa Pettit Allena Sperry/Jaxson Gardner
Live Streaming	Cecil McGouirk

Serving May 17, 2026

Opener/Closer	Nancy & Jeff Gates
Worship Assistant	Dave Bonaker/Shannon Gardner
Communion Assistant	Allena Sperry
Lector	Toni Mion
Ushers	James Sperry Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Nancy Gardner Rose Johnson/Jaxson Gardner
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.”

5:16-18

—1 Thessalonians

The Armed Forces,
their families,
and victims of war
The ministries of
St. Matthew
Bishop Yehiel Curry
Bishop Kevin
Strickland
Southeastern Synod
Staff
Pastor Taylor Burton
Edwards
Pastor Rachel Zarnke
St Matthew
Congregational
Council
Laura Alexander
Carol Bingemann
Isabelle Clark
Randy Craven
Myrna & Ken Hoag
Marga Miller
Charlotte Moore
Traudel Mosely
Debby Owen
Dorothy Redden
Gary Anderson
Eric & Tinisha Bryant
Jean Clemmons
Nancy Edmundson
Lynne Funck
Brandy Garnett

Sandy Gibbs
Moses Glidden
Estrella Gonzales
Doris Grier
Laura Jett
Norma Kilby
Ken Korn
Emma Kump
Robert Lowe
David & John Lucas
Michelle Matthias
Brady Meeks
Lynne Meinhold
Tim Moore
Debi Nelson
Vincent Pawlowski
Beth Price
Mark Purushotham
Tiffany Richardson
Phyllis Roan
Dayna Ryan
Shirley Scott
Dou Shizhen
Ricky Skinner
Fred Turpin
Charlie VanHousen
Dawn VanHousen
Lisa Vieira
Martha Zimmerman

Chuck Golden

People of Lebanon
People of Iran
Gaza
Palestinian People
Israel
Ukraine
People of Russia
Eastern Congo
People of Nigeria

E & S Clothing
One Financial
Tasha's Dance & Prep
M. Bland Salon
Chevron

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to St. Matthew: Jesus Christ offers himself to all. All baptized Christians are invited to feast with us at the Lord's Table.

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:

- All unused all occasion and holiday cards
 - Lion's Club: Glasses, sunglasses and old cell phones
 - Family House of West GA: Pop tabs
 - Flags to Retire: Used flags to dispose of properly
 - Brown Bag: Travel size toiletries
 - SafeHouse/St. Benedict's Sealed plastic utensils (take-out meals)
- Leave donations in the labeled containers in the Narthex.

Bible Study: Please join us on Tuesdays at 10:15 in the Back Room of the Church House to review & discuss scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday.



Save the Date

- May 12th - 10:15 AM - Bible Study - Church House-Back Room
- May 14th - 5:30 - Choir Practice
- May 15th - 10:00 - Craf-Tea - Luther Hall
- May 17th - 11:30 - Hoag Anniversary Celebration - Fellowship Hall
- May 21st - 5:00 - Council Meeting - Fellowship Hall
- May 24th - 11:30 - Memorial Committee Meeting - Fellowship Hall
- May 28th - 5:00 - Men's Group - Deorio's
- May 31st - 12:00-Hello Summer Potluck - Luther Hall

YARD SALE 2027

If you have donations, please contact Allena Sperry at 706-563-3107 or asperry@bellsouth.net to coordinate drop off at your earliest convenience.

We are collecting food and monetary donations for Wynnton Neighborhood Network!



Memorial brick orders will be taken until August 1, 2026. Order forms are available in the Narthex. Place order with payment attached and put into the offering plate or turn into the office. Bricks are \$50 each and will be dedicated in the Memorial Garden, All Saints Day, November 1, 2026.



Voices of the Valley Children's Chorus Spring Concert: *Peace Seekers*

May 10 at 2 pm Legacy Hall at the River-Center for the Performing Arts, Columbus, GA.

The St. Thomas choir under the direction of Director of Music, Debbie Anderson will join the VoV students for these concerts. This concert will feature a piece that VoV had commissioned that uses words the children wrote about Rick McKnight as the lyrics for

the song. And the St. Thomas Choir, will sing a song that Philip Wilby wrote in honor of Rick and the Choir.

Admission is free and open to all. Seats fill fast, so arrive early.

HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAY

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Carla Stickles 7 Liz McGouirk 10 Red Mosley 12 David Vargas 18 Matthew Pettit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24 Carol Bingemann 24 Linnea Grosse 25 Myrna Hoag 27 Jaxson Gardner 27 Henry James 25 Scott Sieg
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St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Statement



Reach in to grow in Christ

Reach up to worship God

Reach out to welcome and witness



To give online, please scan the QR code to the left to be taken to the give.tithe.ly website form. You can just fill out the form and click the Give button. You can also go to our website and click on the ONLINE GIVING button.

ST. MATTHEW EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4026 Macon Road, Columbus, Georgia 31907

(706) 561-3406 - Office Hours - Tues & Thurs 2:30-5:00 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

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music

Penny Davis, Nursery Director