

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 27, 2023**

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW) Setting 3, Page 138

† *Congregation stands as able*

GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof

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P: The grace of our Lord +Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

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 *"Christ is made the sure foundation"*

ELW #645

Kyrie

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Hymn of Praise

"Glory to God in the Highest"

Page 139

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Rachel Zarnke

First Reading

Isaiah 51:1-6

¹Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. ²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. ³For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. ⁴Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. ⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 138

Tone 9

¹I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with ¹ my whole heart;
before the gods I will ¹ sing your praise.
²**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your steadfast ¹ love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word
a- ¹bove all things.**
³When I called, you ¹ answered me;
you increased my ¹ strength within me.
⁴**All the rulers of the earth will praise ¹ you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words ¹ of your mouth.**
⁵They will sing of the ways ¹ of the LORD,
that great is the glory ¹ of the LORD.
⁶**The LORD is high, yet cares ¹ for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty ¹ from afar.**
⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you ¹ keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right ¹ hand shall save me.
⁸**You will make good your pur- ¹pose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever;
do not abandon the works ¹ of your hands.**

Second Reading

Romans 12:1-8

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of

God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

† Gospel Acclamation

“ Alleluia”

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Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 16th Chapter.

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

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

“Waiting and Waiting”

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

† **Hymn of the Day**

“The church’s one foundation”

ELW #654

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**

Choose to stand, kneel, or sit for prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

A: Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A: God of Sarah and Abraham, inspire your church to pursue righteousness in its ministry. Equip us to share your compassion that unites us as one family of faith. Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Remind us that from the beginning of creation, you knit together a world meant for harmony. Protect and restore the wasted places to joy and gladness. Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Stir the leaders of nations and towns, militaries and courts, to respond to your teachings. Let your call for justice reach all people and bring deliverance where there is oppression. Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Show your steadfast love and faithfulness to those in despair. Increase their strength, care for all who feel low, keep safe any in the midst of trouble, and protect vulnerable people from harm. Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Encourage those who offer their gifts and talents in service to your church. Energize this congregation's rostered and lay leaders, musicians, teachers, greeters, and administrators so they may be transformed in sharing your grace. 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 all the saints, death is overcome in Christ's resurrection. We rejoice with the faithful departed especially Joyce Garver-Messenger, Anneliese Schwarting, Hans Salheiser, Bobby Wright, Joe Stewart, Christine Minor, and Rolene Stewart. Sustain us in hope until we come at last to our heavenly home. Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen

MEAL

Anthem *"This is my Father's World"* Choir

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

† Great Thanksgiving Page 144

Holy, Holy, Holy Page 144

Acclamation Page 145

Amen Page 145

Lord's Prayer "Our Father, who..." Page 145

Lamb of God Page 146

Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and 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: We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen**

SENDING

Blessing

† Sending Hymn

"We all are one in mission"

ELW #576

Dismissal

A: Alleluia! Go in peace. Serve the Risen Christ.

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

The Memorial Book Is Open Today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Margrit Lawton, 2022

READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

Jeremiah 15:15-21
Psalm 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28



*"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*

August 20, 2023

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

ATTENDANCE — 40
(IN-PERSON— 39, ZOOM - 1)

Thankfully offered

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 1,902.00
Building	\$ 242.00
Memorial	\$ 50.00
Other	\$ 100.00
Total	\$ 2,294.00

Serving today, August 27, 2023

Opener/Closer	Bill Wallace
Crucifer	Ian Jeffery
Worship Assistants	Matt Bonaker
Communion Assistant	Rachel Zarnke
Lector	Dave Bonaker
Offering-bearer	Duncan Jeffery
Ushers	Katherine Kelly Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Debby Ullman Catherine Sayers

Servers for Sunday, September 3, 2023

Opener/Closer	Donna Doughty
Crucifer	Ian Jeffery
Worship Assistant	Donna Doughty
Communion Assistant	Raymond Lawton
Lector	Randy Craven
Offering-bearer	Duncan Jeffery
Ushers	Sandy Craven Randy Craven
Altar Guild	Allena Sperry Catherine Sayers

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
Presiding Bishop
Elizabeth Eaton
Bishop Kevin Strick-
land
Southeastern Synod
Staff
Seminarian,
Brandon Konnow
Laura Alexander
Zocia Barr family
Keandra Bashful
Carol Bingemann
Dave Bonaker
Pat Bonaker
Eva Brown
Betty Davidson
Ken Hoag
Myrna Hoag
Bennie Jackson
Mairetha Jackson
Marga Miller
Traudel Mosely

Debby Owen
Dorothy Redden
Connie Sieg
Joan Smith
Jim Sperry
Carla Stickle
Albert VanHousen II
Margarete Walsh
Gary Anderson
Judy Bultman
Kyle Carter
Jim Chappel
Jean Clemmons
Xavier Danguilan
Brandy Garnett
Becky Goldsmith
Estrella Gonzales
Doris Grier
Beverly Huckaby
Norma Kilby
Ken Korn
Laura Lester
Robert Lowe
Michelle Matthias
Tim Moore
Gary Nearhoof
Kimberly O'Malley
Michael Owen

Angela Paul
Vincent Pawlowski
Dwight Redmond
Tiffany Richardson
Dayna Ryan
Yuliia Savitska
Shirley Scott
Ricky Skinner
Betty Townsend
Charlie VanHousen
Dawn VanHousen
Martha Zimmerman

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

The Tuesday morning Bible Study meets in the Church House from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. This class reads and talks about the scriptures for the coming Sunday. Lisa Pettit is the contact person for this class.

Mission Outreach Opportunities:

- Lion's Club: Glasses, sunglasses and old cell phones
- Ronald McDonald house: 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.
July 1st - September 3.
- Paperbacks For soldiers

Leave donations in the labeled containers in the Narthex between bathrooms.

Athanasian Creed: Join us on Tuesdays, beginning September 5th at 6:00 PM at Mr. Pizza to study the Athanasian Creed and its meaning.

Remembrance Gathering: A remembrance gathering will be held in the Church House, September 12th at 3:00 PM. We will be sharing your own or family stories related to World War II. Please feel free to invite others to attend! This gathering will happen the second Tuesday of every month. Questions or concerns, contact Zocia Barr at (706) 330-1001.

If you have a prayer request, please visit our website: <https://www.stmatthewcolumbusga.com> to enter that request. You will see the red button on the top right of the webpage. Click that button to be taken to a form where you would submit your prayer request.



- We will have a potluck chicken dinner provided in Luther Hall with a work session following. We supply the chicken, you supply the sides & desserts!
- There will be a SPECIAL SURPRISE during the morning service.
- We need paperback books for soldiers and items for St. Anne’s Outreach to make this project a success!

**St. Matthew Lutheran
Glory To God
Faithful Members**

Memorial Garden Bricks:
Purchase a commemorative brick to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or graduation. You can also purchase one in honor or memory of a loved one. Each brick purchased will become part the St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Memorial Garden. \$50 per brick. See Allena Sperry for more details! **DEADLINE TO ORDER IS SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**

Dear Heavenly Father, you will not leave us without a blessing. Wrestle with your church and renew it for the sake of the world. Preserve our life in you, so that we faithfully name you before the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

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

Office email: office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com

A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

Southeastern Synod

www.stmatthewcolumbusga.com

The Rev. Taylor Burton Edwards, Pastor

Kelly Peterson, Media Specialist

Lisa Pettit, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music

Sonja Metcalf, Parish Administrator

Penny Davis, Nursery Director