

LARGE PRINT

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 03, 2026

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

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

“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

ELW #645

Kyrie

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This is the Feast

Page 140

Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he 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

Proverbs 4:10-18

- ¹⁰ Hear, my child, and accept my words,
that the years of your life may be many.
- ¹¹ I have taught you the way of wisdom;
I have led you in the paths of uprightness.
- ¹² When you walk, your step will not be hampered,
and if you run, you will not stumble.
- ¹³ Keep hold of instruction; do not let go;
guard her, for she is your life.
- ¹⁴ Do not enter the path of the wicked,
and do not walk in the way of evildoers.
- ¹⁵ Avoid it; do not go on it;
turn away from it and pass on.
- ¹⁶ For they cannot sleep unless they have done wrong;
they are robbed of sleep unless they have made
someone stumble.

¹⁷ For they eat the bread of wickedness
and drink the wine of violence.

¹⁸ But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn,
which shines brighter and brighter until full day.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:25-32

Tone 10

²⁵ My soul cleaves ^l to the dust;
give me life according ^l to your word.

²⁶ **I have recounted my ways, and you ^l answered me;
instruct me ^l in your statutes.**

²⁷ Make me understand the way of ^l your
commandments,
that I may meditate on your ^l marvelous works.

²⁸ **My soul melts a- ^l way from sorrow;
sustain me according ^l to your word.**

²⁹ Take from me the ^l way of lying;
let me find grace ^l through your teaching.

³⁰ **I have chosen the ^l way of faithfulness;
I have set your judg- ^l ments before me.**

³¹ I hold fast to ^l your decrees;
O LORD, do not put ^l me to shame.

³² **I will run the way of ^l your commandments,
for you increase my ^l heart's capacity.**

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so
that by it you may grow into salvation ³ if indeed you
have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴ Come to him, a living
stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and
precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living stones let
yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy
priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God

through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever trusts in it will not be put to shame.” ⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” ⁸ and “A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they set themselves up to do. ⁹ And you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, and now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, and now you have received mercy.

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

† Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel

John 14:1-7

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we

know the way?"⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon "*The Way*" Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day "*You Are the Way*" **ELW #758**

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 glory, you have built your church on Christ the
cornerstone. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, pastors,
and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your
steadfast love to all whom they encounter.
Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of mercy, you intend governments and social service agencies to be instruments of peace and justice. Guide political leaders and organizations to be agents of compassion, and raise up advocates for those who seek refuge and assistance. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort those who are sick. Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of community, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today. 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 eternal life, you have prepared dwelling places for your people, so that we are never separated from you. We give you thanks for the faithful departed who witnessed to your mighty acts in word and deed. 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

Anthem “*The Chief Cornerstone*” Choir

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 Page 144

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.
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

"The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done"

ELW #366

Dismissal

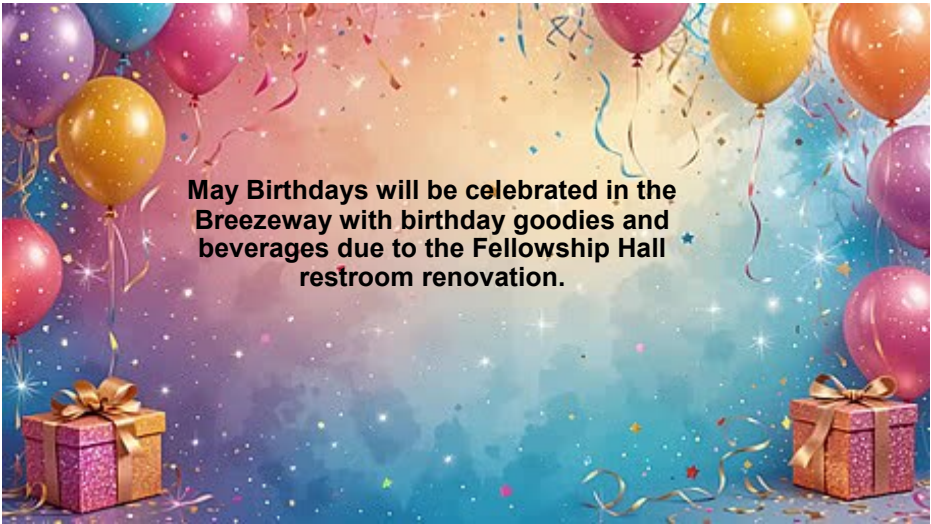
A: Alleluia! Go forth in the power of the resurrected Christ.

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

The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Roman Wojciechowski, 2013

A festive birthday banner with a colorful background of purple, blue, and yellow. The banner is decorated with numerous colorful balloons (purple, blue, yellow, orange, pink, red), confetti, and streamers. Two gift boxes with gold ribbons are positioned at the bottom corners. The text is centered in the middle of the banner.

May Birthdays will be celebrated in the Breezeway with birthday goodies and beverages due to the Fellowship Hall restroom renovation.

**READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2026**

Ezekiel 43:1-7a
Psalm 115
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21



"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 26, 2026
Fourth Sunday of Easter**

ATTENDANCE — 55
(IN-PERSON — 46, YOUTUBE - 9
2026 BUDGET-\$185,981

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 3,375.00
Building	\$ 230.00
Memorial	\$ 150.00
Other	\$ 570.00
Total	\$ 4,325.00

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 3, 2026

Opener/Closer	Katherine Kelly
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Raymond Lawton
Lector	Amy Hoag
Ushers	Randy Craven Sandy Craven
Altar Guild	Lane Brown Rose Johnson/Jaxson Gardner
Live Streaming	Jaxson Gardner

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

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

Amanda Steinagel

Sara Steinagel Sturgis

Fred Turpin

Charlie VanHousen

Dawn VanHousen

Lisa Vieira

Martha Zimmerman

People of Lebanon

People of Iran

Gaza

Palestinian People

Israel

Ukraine

People of Russia

Eastern Congo

People of Nigeria

Beauty Queen

Brewster's

Waffle House

Vance Brooks Funeral
Service

Striffler Hamby Funeral
Service

El Carrizo

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.

Craf-Tea: This group will meet on the 3rd Friday of each month at 10:00AM-12:00 PM in Luther Hall. If you enjoy crafts and tea, this group is for you! Please see Linnea Grosse for more information.



Please report any building repairs needed to Jeff Gates by phone at 404-788-8944 or email at jgatesi@aol.com so that all repairs can be done in one service call which saves money.

Save the Date

- May 5th - 10:15 AM - Bible Study - Church House-Back Room
- May 21st - 5:00 - Council Meeting - Fellowship Hall
- May 22nd - 10:00 - Craf-Tea - Luther Hall
- May 24th - 11:30 - Memorial Committee Meeting - Fellowship Hall
- May 28th - 5:00 - Men's Group - Deorio's

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 9 at 7 pm and May 10 at 2 pm Legacy Hall at the RiverCenter 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 Stickle 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

Lisa Pettit, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music

Penny Davis, Nursery Director