

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Second Sunday of Lent March 16, 2025

Abram believed God had failed to keep God's promises. In the midst of Abram's darkness, God demonstrated God's commitment to fulfill them.

The promise of God sometimes seems to be far off or not fulfilled at all. Yet, our Lord Jesus has assured us God's kingdom has drawn near. How are we perceiving it? And, how is our vision dimmed?

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 *"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"*

ELW #834

Kyrie

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Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, 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

Rose Johnson

First Reading

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no

offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness. ⁷Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. ¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. ¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 27

Tone 2

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then ¹ shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I ¹ be afraid?

²**When evildoers close in against me to de-¹ vour my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies, will stum-¹ ble and fall.**

³Though an army encamp against me, my heart ¹ will not fear.
Though war rise up against me, my trust will ¹ not be shaken.

⁴**One thing I ask of the LORD; one ¹ thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God ¹ in the
temple.**

⁵For in the day of trouble God will ¹ give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up-¹
on a rock.

⁶**Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies ¹ who surround me.
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of
rejoicing; I will sing and make music ¹ to the LORD.**

⁷Hear my voice, O LORD, ¹ when I call;
have mercy on me and ¹ answer me.

⁸**My heart speaks your message— ¹ "Seek my face."
Your face, O LORD, ¹ I will seek.**

⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser-¹ vant in anger.
Cast me not away—you have been my helper;
forsake me not, O God of ¹ my salvation.

¹⁰**Though my father and my moth-¹ er forsake me,
the LORD will ¹ take me in.**

¹¹Teach me your ¹ way, O LORD;
lead me on a level path, because of ¹ my oppressors.

**¹²Subject me not to the will ¹ of my foes,
for they rise up against me, false witnesses ¹ breathing violence.**

**¹³This I believe—that I will see the goodness ¹ of the LORD
in the land ¹ of the living!**

**¹⁴Wait for the LORD ¹ and be strong.
Take heart and wait ¹ for the LORD!**

Second Reading

Philippians 3:17-4:1

¹⁷Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1}Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.



Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel

Luke 13:31-35

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 13th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³²He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Sustaining

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards



Hymn of the Day

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

ELW #733

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: Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Holy God, you give shelter to living things as numerous as the stars. Strengthen the voice of prophets who call humanity to faithful care for the planet, that they would not be silenced but heeded as your messengers. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai, and Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your promises. Guide today's leaders to work for justice and safeguard the world for future generations. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life. Care tenderly for those who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need. May all know they are not alone. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Holy God, you offer us citizenship in heaven. Unite communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

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

C: receive our prayer.

A: Holy God, you are our light and our salvation. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us especially Margarete Walsh, Patricia Bonaker, Betty Davidson, and Mike Regnier. Help us to trust in you as they did and to live according to their example. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

C: Amen.

MEAL

Anthem

"Thy Holy Wings"

Choir

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. .

C: Amen.

† Great Thanksgiving

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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: 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

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

ELW #656

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:

Frederic Sieq, 2019

READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025

Isaiah 55:1-9
 Psalm 63:1-8
 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
 Luke 13:1-9



*"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 9, 2025
1st Sunday of Lent

ATTENDANCE — 60
 (IN-PERSON— 42, YOUTUBE - 18)

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$	1,065.00
Building	\$	100.00
Memorial	\$	100.00
Other	\$	70.00
Total	\$	1,335.00

Save the Date

- March 17th - 11:00 - Chair Yoga - Luther Hall
- March 18th - 10:15 - Bible Study (bring lunch) - Church House
- March 19th - 5:30 - Wednesday Lenten Service
- March 21th - 10:00 - Craf-Tea - Luther Hall
- March 20th - 4:00 - Finance Committee Meeting
- March 20th - 5:00 - Council Meeting
- March 22nd - 9:00-12:00 - Garden & Grounds Cleanup
- March 25th - 5:00 - Men's Group - Mr. Pizza

Serving March 16, 2025

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

Serving March 23, 2025

Opener/Closer	Lisa Pettit
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Terri Niederhammer
Lector	Katherine Kelly
Ushers	Jim Sperry Ron Ullman
Altar Guild	Debby Ullman Martha Vargas
Live Streaming	Matt Pettit

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

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

Regnier Family

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

Los Angeles

Grace Apostolic Church

#1 Nails

Landmark

McKibben Insurance

Rooster's Beer & Wine

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.

March 5, 2025		
Ash Wednesday		
ATTENDANCE — 51		
(IN-PERSON — 30, YOUTUBE - 21)		
OFFERING		
Benevolence	\$	315.00
Total	\$	315.00



Garden & Grounds cleanup--March 22nd - 9:00 - 12:00. Bring all tools, battery packs and extension cords needed to clean up the Gardens and grounds

of our church.



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 |



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:
 April 12th, May 17th and June 7th.
 Thank you for participating and good luck on the challenge!

Lent Worship Schedule

LENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP

EVENING PRAYER

MARCH 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