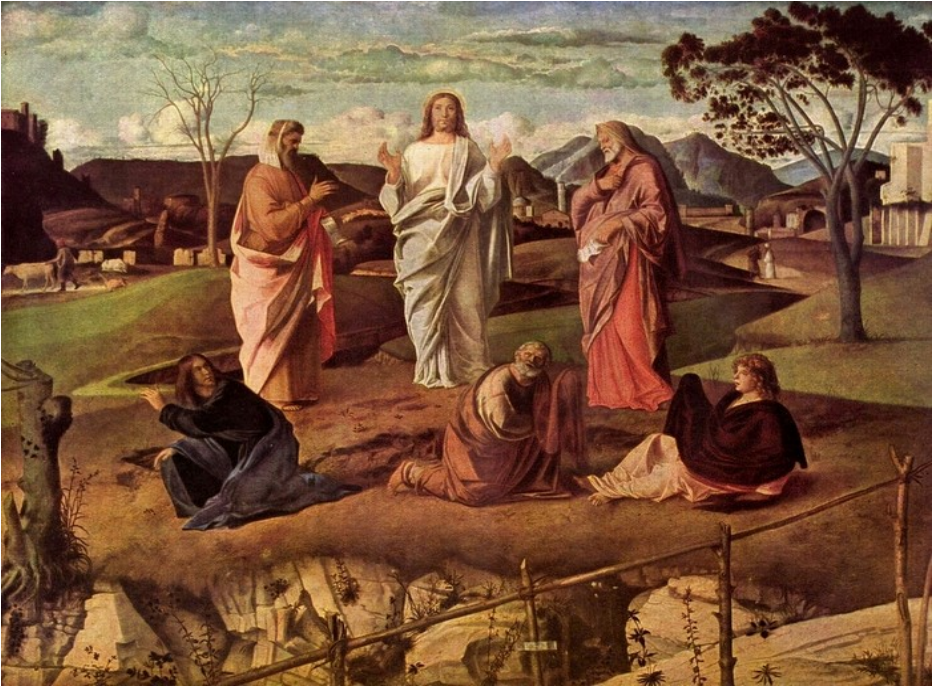


St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Transfiguration of our Lord

February 11, 2024

The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW) Setting 10, Page 203

† Congregation stands as able

GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof

†

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

C: **Amen**

P: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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

"How good, Lord, to be here"

ELW #315

Kyrie

Page 203

Gloria in Excelsis

Page 204

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Geri Regnier

First Reading

2 Kings 2:1-12

¹Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and

said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." ⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent." ⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. ⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." ¹⁰He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 50:1-6

Tone 10

¹The mighty one, God the | LORD, has spoken;
calling the earth from the rising of the sun | to its setting.

²**Out of Zion, perfect | in its beauty,
God shines | forth in glory.**

³Our God will come and will | not keep silence;
with a consuming flame before, and round about a | raging storm.

⁴**God calls the heavens and the earth | from above
to witness the judgment | of the people.**

⁵"Gather before me my | loyal followers,
those who have made a covenant with me
and sealed | it with sacrifice."

⁶**The heavens declare the rightness | of God's cause,
for it is God | who is judge.**

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

³Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

† Gospel Acclamation

“ Alleluia”

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Gospel

Mark 9:2-9

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 9th Chapter.

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

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved listen to him!" ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

The Silence

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

†**Hymn of the Day** *"How clear is our vocation, Lord"*

ELW #580

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

Choose to stand, kneel, or sit for prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

A: As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A: We pray for the church, that the transformational power of God enters the hearts of all people. May its leaders serve as examples of your grace and healing across time and space. God of grace.

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for the creation, that we will humbly observe the swirl of wind and the heat of the bright sun. Teach us to honor all you have made and to care for the animals, plants, air, and bodies of water of this planet. God of grace.

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for those charged with leadership, lawmaking, and governance of our towns, states, and countries, that they will strive for goodness and justice all the days of their lives and callings. God of grace.

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for any who are sick and suffering. Guide us to offer hospitality, shelter, friendship, and care to any in need. God of grace.

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for this congregation and its ministry in the wider community. May we share the transforming beauty and love of God in ways that honor the dignity of all whom we encounter. God of grace.

C: receive our prayer.

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

C: receive our prayer.

A: Trusting that all the saints, prophets, and those who die in faith are held in your care, we remember in thanksgiving those who have died especially WJ Barrs and Eva Brown. Grant us your gift of salvation as we await your coming again in glory. God of grace.

C: receive our prayer.

P: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ .

C: Amen

MEAL

Hymn

“Beautiful Savior”

ELW #838

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen

† Great Thanksgiving

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Holy, Holy, Holy

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Acclamation

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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.

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: Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

C: Amen

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn

"Shine, Jesus, shine"

ELW #671

Dismissal

A: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



The Memorial Book Is Open Today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Robert Jay Young, Sr., 2020



READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024

Genesis 9:8-17
 Psalm 25:1-10
 1 Peter 3:18-22
 Mark 1:9-15



“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

February 4, 2024

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

ATTENDANCE — 67

(IN-PERSON— 44 , YOUTUBE - 23)

Thankfully offered

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 2,705.00
Building	\$ 190.00
Memorial	\$ 100.00
Other	\$ 50.00
Total	\$ 3,045.00

Serving February 11, 2024

Opener/Closer	Nancy Gates
Worship Assistant	Donna Doughty
Communion Assistant	Rachel Zarnke
Lector	Jaxson Gardner
Ushers	Matt Pettit
	Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Geri Regnier
	Lisa Pettit
Live Streaming	Cecil McGouirk

Serving February 18, 2024

Opener/Closer	Zocia Barr
Worship Assistant	Liz McGouirk/Raymond Lawton
Communion Assistant	Raymond Lawton
Lector	Cecil McGouirk
Ushers	Bill Wallace
	Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Donna Doughty
	Catherine Sayers
Live Streaming	Jaxson Gardner/Rose Johnson

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
Laura Alexander
Keandra Bashful
Carol Bingemann
Dave Bonaker
Pat Bonaker
Betty Davidson
Ken Hoag
Myrna Hoag
Bennie Jackson
Mairetha Jackson
Marga Miller
Traudel Mosely
Debby Owen
Dorothy Redden
Connie Sieg
Joan Smith

Carla Stickle
Albert VanHousen II
Margarete Walsh
Monika Wright
Gary Anderson
Judy Bultman
George Capps
Kyle Carter
Jim Chappel
Jean Clemmons
Xavier Danguilan
Brandy Garnett
Becky Goldsmith
Estrella Gonzales
Doris Grier
Petra Henderson
Beverly Huckaby
Norma Kilby
Ken Korn
Boyd Lester
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

Maui
Morrocco
Israel
Ukraine
Gaza

Pathway Worship Center
Bi-City Driving School
Menzie Dance Company
Sunset Finance
Frankie's Hair Design
Diamond Kutz

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

Mission Outreach Opportunities:

- **Mission Focus:** Tackle Hunger - collecting canned goods for Brown Bag of Columbus which provides supplemental groceries to low income elderly age 62 or over.
- 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

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

Remembrance Gathering: Please come to the Remembrance Gathering Tuesday, February 13th at 3:00 PM in the Church House. The gathering is an open invitation to members of our congregation to come together and share personal stories or recollections of someone else's life. We began with stories of World War II and our goal for 2024 is to expand our sharing to include all wars and conflicts.

Growing in Grace: Meets every Friday from 9:00-11:00 AM in the Church House. God's grace is freely given to us. Join the group to learn to cultivate an attitude of grace in your daily life by learning about and adopting habits to move into a state of grace. Contact Beth Hoag at 706-604-8110 for more information.

Save the Date

- February 14th 7:30 PM - Ash Wednesday Service
- February 16th 9:00-11:00 AM - Growing in Grace - Church House
- February 16th 6:00-9:30 PM - Reach In retreat - St. Thomas
- February 17th 8:00-4:30 PM - Reach In retreat - St. Thomas
- February 18th 12:00 PM - Tackle Hunger - Luther Hall
- February 21st 5:30 PM - Lenten Service

Please see Zocia Barr in the Narthex, before or after the service, to ensure that the information we have for you in the Directory is correct. We would like to validate name, address, phone number and email. Thank you for your help in keeping our records current.



TACKLE HUNGER AT THE SOUPER BOWL!

FEBRUARY 18, 2024 12:00 PM
FOLLOWING CHURCH IN LUTHER HALL

PLEASE DONATE YOUR NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS TO HELP US TACKLE HUNGER! LET'S GET TO THE END ZONE!

St Matthew's Lutheran Church Invites You To

Reach In

A Lenten Discipleship Retreat

You are wholeheartedly invited to attend a two-day retreat of education, introspection and conversation. Together, we'll explore seven aspects of discipleship, reflecting on our own growth as disciples, and prayerfully reflect on how we can grow in these dimensions of our lives.

Who: All interested participants, from St Matthew's and beyond!
What: Lenten retreat focusing on individual discipleship and growth
Where: St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Columbus GA
When: 6:00-9:00 PM on Friday, 16 February and 9 am -4:30 pm on Saturday, 17 February
Why: To begin our Lenten journey in introspection and prayer
What to bring: Your own lunch for Saturday

To register, e-mail office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com or go to website at <https://forms.wix.com/r/7154127640259985731> to fill out registration form. You can also scan this QR code to register:

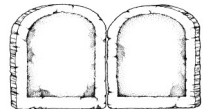


Questions? Please feel free to reach out to Rachel Zarnke: rzarnke@gmail.com or 815-708-4039

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind... Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. Ephesians 4:14-15



The Ten Commandments Bible Study will NOT meet until after Easter. As soon as we have a date to restart the study, we will let you know.



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
Sonja Metcalf, Parish Administrator
Lisa Pettit, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music
Penny Davis, Nursery Director