

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 15, 2026

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

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: **And also with you.**

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

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

"Shine, Jesus, Shine"

ELW #671

Kyrie

Page 203

Gloria

Page 204

Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you have spoken of our adoption as your children. So make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, 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

Rose Johnson

First Reading

Exodus 24:12-18

¹² The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." ¹³ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. ¹⁴ To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them." ¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 2

Tone 9

¹ Why are the nations ¹ in an uproar?

Why do the peoples mutter ¹ empty threats?

² **Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes ¹ plot together,**

against the LORD and against the ¹ LORD's anointed?

³ "Let us break their ¹ yoke," they say;

"let us cast off their ¹ bonds from us."

⁴ **God whose throne is in heav- ¹ en is laughing;**
the LORD holds them ¹ in derision.

⁵ Then in wrath God ¹ speaks to them,
and in rage fills ¹ them with terror.

⁶ **"As for me, I have anoint- ¹ ed my king**
upon Zion, my ¹ holy mountain."

⁷ Let me announce the decree ¹ of the LORD,
who said to me, "You are my son; this day have I be- ¹ gotten you.

⁸ **Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for ¹ your inheritance**
and the ends of the earth for ¹ your possession.

⁹ You shall crush them with an ¹ iron rod
and shatter them like a ¹ piece of pottery."

¹⁰ **And now, you ¹ kings, be wise;**
be warned, you rulers ¹ of the earth.

¹¹ Submit to the ¹ LORD with fear,
and with trembling ¹ bow in worship;

¹² **lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden ¹ blaze of wrath.**
Happy are all who take ref- ¹ uge in God!

Second Reading

2 Peter 1:16-19

¹⁶ We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice come

from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

† Gospel Acclamation

Page 205

Gospel

Matthew 17:1-9

P: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." ⁸ And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. ⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon "Christ's Future and Ours"

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day

"Beautiful Savior"

ELW #838

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: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

A: Revealing God, your Spirit sustains the church. Strengthen the faithful with the revelation of Christ transfigured, that we may joyfully follow him in the way of the cross. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Life-giving God, creation is full of your majesty. Nurture in us a deep respect for the interdependence of all life, and make us wise and vigilant stewards of your good earth. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Peacemaking God, the nations are in turmoil. We pray for an end to violent conflict. Give wisdom to negotiators and sanctuary to refugees. Defend any who are in danger. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Healing God, you desire wholeness for all people. Bring healing to any who are experiencing illness, chronic pain, or mental anguish. Comfort the dying and those who grieve. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Holy God, in our worship we glimpse your glory, hear your voice, and receive assurance of your love. Inspire all who prepare, lead, and participate in worship to serve you with reverence and joy. 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: Transforming God, you bring life from death. We give thanks for the witness of those who have died in faith, and we praise you for the hope we have in Christ, our Morning Star. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

C: Amen.

MEAL

Anthem

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

Choir

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

 Great Thanksgiving	Page 206	
Holy, Holy, Holy	Page 207	
Lord's Prayer	"Our Father, who..."	Page 208
Lamb of God	Page 208	

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: Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn

“Alleluia, Song of Gladness”

ELW #318

Dismissal

A: Go forth to love and serve God and every neighbor.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Rodger Dean Johnson, 2015

THANK YOU!

Tackle hunger lunch was enjoyed by 33 attendees and \$195.00 was collected. Monetary contributions and food will be collected the month of February. All food and monetary donations benefit Brown Bag of Columbus.

READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7
 Psalm 32
 Romans 5:12-19
 Matthew 4:1-11



"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 8, 2026
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

ATTENDANCE — 71
 (IN-PERSON— 46, YOUTUBE - 25
 2026 BUDGET-\$185,981

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$	2,380.00
Building	\$	100.00
Memorial	\$	50.00
Other	\$	370.00
Total	\$	2,900.00

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

Serving February 18, 2026 (Ash Wednesday)

Opener/Closer	Allena Sperry	Ushers:	Katherine Kelly
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson		James Sperry
Communion Assistant	Raymond Lawton	Altar Guild:	Nancy Gates
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson		Rose Johnson
Lector	Dave Bonaker		Allena Sperry

Serving February 15, 2026

Opener/Closer	Terri Niederhammer
Worship Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Communion Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Lector	Terri Niederhammer
Ushers	Matt Pettit
	James Sperry
Altar Guild	Lisa Pettit
	Allena Sperry
	Catherine Sayers
Live Streaming	Jaxson Gardner

Serving February 22, 2026

Opener/Closer	Dave Bonaker
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Lector	Jaxson Gardner
Ushers	James Sperry
	Ron Ullman
Altar Guild	Debby Ullman
	Martha Vargas
	Catherine Sayers
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.”

—1 Thessalonians

5:16-18

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

Grigsby Family

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

Dayna Ryan

Shirley Scott

Dou Shizhen

Ricky Skinner

Amanda Steinagel

Sara Steinagel Sturgis

Fred Turpin

Charlie VanHousen

Dawn VanHousen

Martha Zimmerman

Venezuela

Gaza

Palestinian People

Israel

Ukraine

People of Russia

Somali Refugees

Jewish community in
Australia

People of Minneapolis

Beth Israel Congregation in
Jackson, Mississippi

Eastern Congo

People of Nigeria

Family of Alex Pretti

Family of Renee Good

Family of Rachel Savage

Vance Brooks Funeral
Service

Striffler Hamby Funeral
Service

El Carrizo

E& S Clothing

One Financial

Tasha's Dance & Prep

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 Church House to review and discuss the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday.

Craf-Tea: This group will meet on the 4th 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.

Chair Yoga: Meets every Monday at 11:00 AM in Luther Hall. Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers.

Save the Date

- February 15th - 5:00 - Contemplative Service @ St. Thomas
- February 16th - 11:00 - Chair Yoga - Luther Hall
- February 17th - 10:15 - Bible Study - Church House
- February 17th - 5:30 - Shrove Tuesday at St Thomas
- February 18th - 5:30 - Ash Wednesday Service
- February 19th - 5:00 - Council Meeting
- February 25th - 5:30 - Midweek Lenten Service
- February 25th - 6:00 - Choir Rehearsal
- February 27th - 10:00 - Craf-Tea - Luther Hall

LENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

18
FEBRUARY

ASH WEDNESDAY
5:30 PM

25
FEBRUARY

MIDWEEK LENT SERVICE
5:30 PM

4,11,
18,25
MARCH

MIDWEEK LENT SERVICE
5:30 PM

2
APRIL

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE
7:00 PM

3
APRIL

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
7:00 PM

4
APRIL

HOLY SATURDAY SERVICE
10:00 AM



ST MATTHEW EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
4026 MACON ROAD
COLUMBUS, GA 31907

CONTEMPLATIVE
WORSHIP



Join us at St Thomas
Episcopal Church
2100 Hilton Ave
Columbus, GA

February 15th
Contemplative
Worship Service at 5:00
pm

February 17th
Shrove Tuesday
at 5:30 pm -Please call
or email office if you
plan to attend as we
have to provide a count
to St. Thomas.

Shrove Tuesday



St Thomas Episcopal Church
5:30 PM, FEBRUARY 17, 2025

February BIRTHDAYS

1 SHANNON GARDNER
20 MATT BONAKER
21 SANDRA CRAVEN
21 ISABELLE CLARK
24 CHARLOTTE OWEN
28 PENNY DAVIS

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