

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 21, 2024

As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

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 "You have come down to the lakeshore"

ELW #817

Kyrie

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Gloria in Excelsis

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Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service.

Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Rose Johnson

First Reading

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you. ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they

proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 62:5-12

Tone 10

⁵For God alone I wait in silence;
truly, my hope is in God.

⁶**God alone is my rock and my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.**

⁷In God is my deliverance and my honor;
God is my strong rock and my refuge.

⁸**Put your trust in God always, O people,
pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.**

⁹Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath;
those of low estate cannot be trusted.

Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

¹⁰**Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride;
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.**

¹¹God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,
that power belongs to God.

¹²**Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord,
for you repay all according to their deeds.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

† Gospel Acclamation

“ Alleluia ”

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Gospel

Mark 1:14-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near, repent, and believe in the good news."

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother

Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon *Getting Right with the Time* Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day

"Abide with me"

ELW #629

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: 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: God our rock and deliverance, do not let your church be shaken. We trust you never abandon your promises to the most vulnerable among us. Give your church wisdom and empathy in its varied ministries. God of grace.

C: **receive our prayer.**

A: God our hope and refuge, you placed the fish in the sea. Guide our care of oceans and all creatures that live in them. Hold us accountable for actions that endanger water sources and the people who depend on them.
God of grace.

C: receive our prayer.

A: God who proclaims judgement and offers mercy, be a model to the leaders of our nation and the world. As they lead, may they follow in your way of justice and truth. God of grace.

C: receive our prayer.

A: God who cares for the suffering, care for survivors of assault and sexual abuse and sustain all who minister to them. Keep safe any who live under threat of violence, those living in poverty, and any among us who are ill or in pain. God of grace.

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of resurrection and new life, as the first disciples shared the good news, empower us and this faith community to be open to your call. When we are uncertain of your call, assure us. When we have strayed from your ways, redirect us. God of grace.

C: receive our prayer.

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

C: receive our prayer.

A: God who holds the saints against your tender bosom, we trust you welcome them into your care especially WJ Barrs. Comfort those who grieve, even as we place our hope in your salvation. 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

Anthem *“Arise, Shine; for Your Light Has Come”*

Choir

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 "O Jesus, I have promised"

ELW #810

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:

Patrea Ann "Hulsbak" Bonaker, 2014

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 PM - 9:00 PM on Friday, February 16th

9:00 AM - 4:30 PM on Saturday, February 17th

Why: To begin our Lenten journey in introspection and prayer

What to bring: Tasty dish to pass for Saturday's lunch

To register, e-mail office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com

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



Note: These dates are different than what is in the newsletter. Please use these dates for the retreat dates.

READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
 Psalm 111
 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
 Mark 1:21-28



“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

January 14, 2024
Second Sunday after Epiphany

ATTENDANCE — 51
 (IN-PERSON— 50 , ZOOM - 1)

Thankfully offered

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 6,055.00
Building	\$ 60.00
Memorial	\$ 0.00
Other	\$ 260.00
Total	\$ 6,375.00

Serving January 21, 2024

Opener/Closer	Lisa Pettit
Worship Assistant	Rachel Zarnke
Communion Assistant	Geri Regnier
Lector	Shannon Gardner
Ushers	Bill Wallace Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Allena Sperry Donna Doughty

Serving January 28, 2024

Opener/Closer	Katherine Kelly
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Rachel Zarnke
Lector	Katherine Kelly
Ushers	Bill Wallace Katherine Kelly
Altar Guild	Debby Ullman 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
Strickland
Southeastern Synod
Staff
Pastor Taylor Burton
Edwards
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 Stickles
Albert VanHousen II
Margarete Walsh
Monika Wright
Gary Anderson
Judy Bultman
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

Libya
Maui
Morrocco
Israel
Ukraine
Gaza

Comfort Inn
Guthrie's
Octapharma Plasma
Master-Kleen
Kamoree's Beauty Salon
Title Max

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.

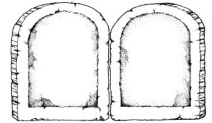
Spending Plan: Our Spending Plan for 2024 isn't fully funded yet. If you haven't made a commitment yet, please pick up a green pledge card in the Narthex and return to the basket. Your generous commitment to support the ministries of St. Matthew in 2024, is appreciated no matter how large or small.

Time and Talent Sheet: It's a New Year and you may be wondering how you can be involved in church activities? Pick up a Time and Talent sheet in the Narthex, fill it out, and return it to the church in the offering plate. There is no age requirement or limit for being involved!

Save the Date

- January 24th 6:00 PM-Ten Commandments Study-Luther Hall
- January 26th 9:00 AM - Growing in Grace
- February 4th 11:30 AM - Birthday Celebration
- February 16th 6:00-9:30 PM - Reach In retreat - St. Thomas
- February 17th 8:00-4:30 PM - Reach In retreat - St. Thomas

Please come join us for a study of the Ten Commandments led by Rabbi Beth Schwartz and Pastor Taylor. This study is on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM in Luther Hall. We would love to have you join us!



**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!***

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