

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's saving work.

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW Setting 9, page 193)

† *Congregation stands as able*

GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof



P: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord..

C: **Hosanna in the highest.**

Children's Choir

"Shout Hosanna"

Gospel

Matthew 21:1-11

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

⁵"Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

BLESSING OF PALMS

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen.

PROCESSION

- A. Let us go forth in peace,
C. **in the name of Christ. Amen.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN “All Glory, Laud and Honor”

See Insert

- P. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
C. **Hosanna in the highest.**

Anthem

“Antiphonal Hosanna”

Choir

Prayer of the Day:

- P. Let us pray,
O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, 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

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The Lord GOD has given me a trained tongue, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens, wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand in court together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 31:9-16

Tone 8

- ⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.
¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**
¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances;
when they see me in the street they avoid me.
¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;
I am as useless as a broken pot.**
¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.
¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.
I have said, “You are my God.**

¹⁵ My times are ^l in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who ^l persecute
me.

¹⁶ **Let your face shine up- ^l on your servant;
save me in your ^l steadfast love.”**

Second Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

✝ Gospel Acclamation

Page 198b

Gospel Matthew 26:14--27:61 Jaxson Gardner, Shannon Gardner, Toni Mion

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

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

See Insert for Gospel Reading

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon “*Emptied and Humbled*” Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

✝ Hymn of the Day

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

ELW #338

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: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray
for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

A: O God, you announce words of grace and truth. Give wisdom to all
preachers in your church both globally and locally. Open our hearts to
encounter the infinite life you offer in Jesus. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You hold the whole universe. Gather sun and moon, clouds and stars, land
and sea, and plants and animals around the cross, so that all creation bears
witness to your saving love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Your power is sure. Destroy inequity and division in every place, and build
your beloved community among all people. Guide judges, attorneys, and
juries so that they act with justice and fairness. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Your heart breaks open at our pain. Send healing and vindication to all who,
like Jesus, know the sting of betrayal, denial, abuse, or false accusations.
Be with those experiencing pain or loss this day. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Your ways show compassion. Let this same mind be in us as we enter Holy Week. Bless those here who will lead worship and tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: For all those who have asked us to pray for them....Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: O God, your embrace is eternal. Praise and thanks to you for all the faithful departed who rest in your mercy. Deliver us all from death's power and raise us to life in you. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

C: Amen.

MEAL

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

† Great Thanksgiving	See Insert
Holy, Holy, Holy	Page 200
Lord's Prayer "Our Father, who..."	Page 201
Lamb of God	Page 201

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: God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for your mission. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

Dismissal

A: Go in peace

C: Thanks be to God.

The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Hans Salheiser, 2023

**READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026**

Jeremiah 31:1-6
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Acts 10:34-43
John 20:1-18



*“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 22, 2026
Fifth Sunday in Lent**

ATTENDANCE — 63
(IN-PERSON— 52, YOUTUBE - 11
2026 BUDGET-\$185,981

OFFERING	
Benevolence	\$ 1,935.00
Building	\$ 30.00
Memorial	\$ 250.00
Other	\$ 195.00
Total	\$ 2,410.00

*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.*

**March 18, 2026
Mid-week Lenten Service**

ATTENDANCE — 9

OFFERING	
Benevolence	\$ 0.00
Memorial	\$ 0.00
Total	\$ 0.00

Serving March 29, 2026

Opener/Closer	Rose Johnson
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Katherine Kelly
Lector	Amy Hoag
Ushers	James Sperry Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Lane Brown Rose Johnson
Live Streaming	Paul Hicks

Serving April 5, 2026

Opener/Closer	Allena Sperry
Worship Assistant	Dave Bonaker/Raymond Lawton
Communion Assistant	Rose Johnson
Lector	Shannon Gardner
Ushers	James Sperry Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Rose Johnson Terri Niederhammer
Live Streaming	Paul Hicks

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

Dayna Ryan

Shirley Scott

Dou Shizhen

Ricky Skinner

Amanda Steinagel

Sara Steinagel Sturgis

Fred Turpin

Charlie VanHousen

Dawn VanHousen

Martha Zimmerman

People of Iran

Venezuela

Gaza

Palestinian People

Israel

Ukraine

People of Russia

People of Minneapolis

Eastern Congo

People of Nigeria

Family of Rachel Savage

Family of Jerry Johnson

Master-Kleen

Title Max

JD Wings

Beaute' Matric

5 Fourteen

DQ

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 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 the Fellowship Hall. Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers.

It is time to order Easter Lilies in honor and/or memory of someone. You can take these home after the service on Easter Sunday. Deadline to order is Sunday, March 22nd. Please fill out the insert and place in the offering plate or return to the church office. Cost is \$15 each lily.

Save the Date

- March 30th - 11:00 AM - Chair Yoga - Fellowship Hall
- March 31st - 10:15 AM - Bible Study - Church House-Back Room
- April 2nd - 7:00 PM - Maundy Thursday Service
- April 3rd - 7:00 PM - Good Friday Service
- April 4th - 10:00 AM - Holy Saturday Service
- April 4th - 6:30 PM - Easter Vigil at St Thomas Episcopal
- April 11th - 10-12 - Lenten Challenge Drop-off

CELEBRATE THE
RESURRECTION WITH US

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE

He is Risen



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

APRIL 5, 2026

EASTER BREAKFAST 9:15 AM	EASTER EGG HUNT 9:45 AM	EASTER SERVICE 10:30 AM
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FELLOWSHIP HALL

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

2 MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE
APRIL 7:00 PM

3 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
APRIL 7:00 PM



4 HOLY SATURDAY SERVICE
APRIL 10:00 AM

4 EASTER VIGIL
APRIL 6:30 PM-ST THOMAS EPISCOPAL


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

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