

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

We rejoice today, filled with hope for tomorrow and today. Christ has come to free us from the power of sin. And Christ will come to judge the living and the dead and make all things new.

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. 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.

P. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

Gathering Hymn

"O come O come Emmanuel"
(verses 1-4)

ELW#257

Kyrie

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Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Donna Doughty

First Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody: Luke 1:46b-55

Tone 3

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness ¹ of the Lord,
⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in ¹ God my Savior,

⁴⁸**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your ¹ lowly servant.**
From this day all generations will ¹ call me blessed:

⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great ¹ things for me
and holy ¹ is your name.

⁵⁰**You have mercy on ¹ those who fear you,**
from generation to ¹ generation.

⁵¹You have shown strength ¹ with your arm
and scattered the proud in ¹ their conceit,

⁵²**casting down the mighty ¹ from their thrones**
and lifting ¹ up the lowly.

⁵³You have filled the hungry ¹ with good things
and sent the rich ¹ away empty.

⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your ¹ servant Israel,**
to remember the prom- ¹ ise of mercy,

⁵⁵the promise made ¹ to our forebears,
to Abraham and his chil- ¹ dren forever.

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

⁸When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in
sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered
according to the law), ⁹then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He
abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God's will that
we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once
for all.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Luke 1:39-45

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Rejoice

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

✠ Hymn of the Day *"My soul proclaims your greatness"*

ELW #251

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: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence. .

A brief silence.

A: God our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities. Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

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

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. In gratitude for those who have died, especially Margarete Walsh, we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

MEAL

Anthem

“Advent Joy”

Choir

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our 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.

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: Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn

"O come, O come Emmanuel"
(verses 5-8)

ELW #257

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Charlotte O Osterburg, 2008



READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
 Psalm 148
 Colossians 3:12-17
 Luke 2:41-52



*“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*

December 22, 2024
Third Sunday of Advent

ATTENDANCE — 63
 (IN-PERSON— 43, YOUTUBE - 20)

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$	3,185.00
Building	\$	0.00
Memorial	\$	0.00
Other	\$	740.00
Total	\$	3,925.00

Offering for 12/11/24: 35.00
Attendance for 12/11/24: 21

Save the Date

- December 24 - 7:00 - Christmas Eve Service
- December 29 - 12:00 - Winter Wonderland

Serving December 22, 2024

Opener/Closer	Lisa Pettit
Worship Assistant	Donna Doughty
Communion Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Lector	Bill Wallace
Ushers	Bill Wallace Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Debby Ullman Catherine Sayers
Live Streaming	Matt Pettit

Serving December 29, 2024

Opener/Closer	Zocia Barr/Rose Johnson
Worship Assistant	Matt Bonaker
Communion Assistant	Cecil McGouirk
Lector	Dave Bonaker
Ushers	Katherine Kelly Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Debby Ullman Terri Niederhammer
Live Streaming	Jaxson Gardner

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
Carol Bingemann
Dave Bonaker
Pat Bonaker
Betty Davidson
Ken Hoag
Myrna Hoag
Bennie Jackson
Mairetha Jackson
Sean Jeffery
Marga Miller
Charlotte Moore
Traudel Mosely
Terri Niederhammer
Debby Owen
Dorothy Redden
Connie Sieg
Carla Stuckles

Albert VanHousen II
Harold Vinson
James Anderson
Roger Anderson
Eric & Tinisha Bryant
George Capps
Jim Chappel
Jean Clemmons
Xavier Danguilan
Penny Davis & Family
Brandy Garnett
Mike Gewin
Moses Glidden
Becky Goldsmith
Estrella Gonzales
Doris Grier
Petra Henderson
Norma Kilby
Ken Korn
Emma Kump
Melissa Lancheros
Boyd Lester
Laura Lester
Robert Lowe
Michelle Matthias
Sandra McPeters
Brady Meeks
Tim Moore
Nearhoof Family
Angela Paul

Vincent Pawlowski
Beth Price
Mark Purushotham
Bill Rahm
Tiffany Richardson
Dayna Ryan
Shirley Scott
Dou Shizhen
Ricky Skinner
Amanda Steinagel
Betty Townsend
Charlie VanHousen
Dawn VanHousen
Martha Zimmerman

Israel
Ukraine
Gaza
Lebanon
Western North Carolina

Grace Apostolic Church
#1 Nails
Valley Rescue Donation
Center
Landmark
McKibben Insurance
Rooster's Beer & Wine

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

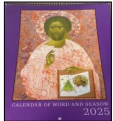
Mission Focus:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| | Warming Tree |
| • 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: | 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.

Remembrance Gathering: Our monthly Remembrance Gathering will be starting back up on Tuesday, January 14th at 3:00 pm in the Church House. This will be a time to come together and share personal stories or recollections of someone else's experience of any conflicts or wars. For more information, please contact Zocia Barr at 706-330-1001.



The 2025 Calendars are now available for \$10 each from Altar Guild members. Proceeds from the calendar sales will support purchases of worship supplies, including everything from communion wafers to palms for Palm Sunday.

New service opportunity at Wynnton Neighborhood Network. We will be packing care bags at 9am, January 9 and February 27, 2025 at St. Thomas Episcopal Church outreach center (back of church). Please let Allena Sperry know if you will be participating at agsperry@bellsouth.net or 706-563-3107.

January Mission Focus

January is our assigned Wynnton Neighborhood Network food collection month. We are collecting for WNN the following items:

- Canned Veggies: Sweet peas, corn, carrots, green beans, black beans
- Canned Meat: Chicken, ham, tuna
- Canned Fruit
- Spaghetti sauce and noodles
- Macaroni and cheese
- Canned tomato products
- Peanut butter and Jelly
- Soup
- Rice
- Cereals
- Monetary donations



**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: (615) 742-5427

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