

# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost  
July 23, 2023**

*It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day when all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.*

## Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW) Setting 3, Page 138

† *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: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done**

**and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;**

**we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,**

**have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**

**so that we may delight in your will**

**and walk in your ways,**

**to the glory of your holy name. 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**

*"Oh, worship the King"*

**ELW #842**

Kyrie

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Hymn of Praise

"Glory to God in the Highest"

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Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

# PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Donna Doughty

## First Reading

Isaiah 44:6-8

<sup>6</sup>Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. <sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be.

<sup>8</sup>Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 86:11-17

<sup>11</sup>Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk <sup>1</sup> in your truth; give me an undivided heart to re- <sup>1</sup> vere your name.

<sup>12</sup>**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with <sup>1</sup> all my heart, and glorify your name for- <sup>1</sup> evermore.**

<sup>13</sup>For great is your <sup>1</sup> love toward me; you have delivered me from the <sup>1</sup> pit of death.

<sup>14</sup>**The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people <sup>1</sup> seeks my life; they have not set you be- <sup>1</sup> fore their eyes.**

<sup>15</sup>But you, O Lord, are gracious and full <sup>1</sup> of compassion, slow to anger, and full of kind- <sup>1</sup> ness and truth.

<sup>16</sup>**Turn to me and have mer- <sup>1</sup> cy on me; give your strength to your servant, and save the child <sup>1</sup> of your handmaid.**

<sup>17</sup>Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be <sup>1</sup> put to shame; because you, Lord, have helped me and com- <sup>1</sup> forted me.

## Second Reading

Romans 8:12-26

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. <sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole

creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. who are in the flesh cannot please God.

L: The word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**



Gospel Acclamation

“ Alleluia”

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**Gospel**

**Matthew 13:24-30**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th Chapter.

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

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; <sup>25</sup>but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup>And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' <sup>28</sup>He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' <sup>29</sup>But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

“Mercy”

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards



**Hymn of the Day**

*“Come, ye thankful people, come”*

**ELW #693**

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: Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

A: O God, you call your church to announce the gospel of reconciliation and truth both near and far. Guide your church as it seeks your wisdom and shares it, trusting your Spirit bearing witness among us. Hear us, O God,

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You brought forth all creation and called it good. Direct policymakers to protect lands and seas. Bring rain to sun-parched fields and protect areas impacted by natural disasters. Hear us, O God,

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You desire peace among nations and peoples. Guard our neighborhoods from hatred, watch over police officers and firefighters, and teach us to advocate for those who live in fear. Hear us, O God,

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You are gracious and merciful, comforting those who suffer any affliction. Sustain your people living with HIV/AIDS, provide shelter for all who are unhoused, and release any who are unjustly imprisoned. Hear us, O God,

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You name each of us as your children. Guide our hospitality ministry to welcome all, our education ministry to equip us for faithful living, and our social ministry to enact the gospel in our community. Hear us, O God,

**C: Your mercy is great.**

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

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You send faithful people to proclaim freedom from bondage and to renew your church. Encourage us by the witness of the faithful departed including Joyce Garver-Messenger, Anneliese Schwarting, Hans Salheiser, Bobby Wright, Joe Stewart, and Christine Minor, so that we live into that same hope. Hear us, O God,

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen**

## MEAL

Anthem "Borning Cry" Soloist - Dave Bonaker

*The gifts may be brought forward.*

Offering Prayer

A: God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

† Great Thanksgiving	Page 144
Holy, Holy, Holy	Page 144
Acclamation	Page 145
Amen	Page 145
Lord's Prayer "Our Father, who..."	Page 145
Lamb of God	Page 146

## 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: We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

## SENDING

Blessing

† Sending Hymn

*“Father, we thank you”*

ELW #478

Dismissal

A: Alleluia! Go in peace. Serve the Risen Christ.

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

The Memorial Book Is Open Today to the Glory of God  
In Memory of:

*Richard Garver, 2011*

**READINGS AND PSALM**  
**SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2023**

1 Kings 3:5-12

Psalms 119:129-136

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33,44-46,51-52



*"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*

**July 16, 2023**

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

ATTENDANCE — 45

(IN-PERSON— 45, ZOOM - 0)

*Thankfully offered*

**OFFERING**

Benevolence	\$ 1,857.50
Building	\$ 167.50
Memorial	\$ 100.00
Other	\$ 300.00
Capital	
Improvement	\$ 100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,525.00</b>

**Serving today, July 23, 2023**

Opener/Closer	Lisa Pettit
Crucifer	Ian Jeffery
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Lector	Raymond Lawton
Offering-bearer	Duncan Jeffery
Ushers	Jim Sperry Matt Pettit
Altar Guild	Debby Ullman Catherine Sayers

**Servers for Sunday, July 30, 2023**

Opener/Closer	Beth Hoag
Crucifer	Ian Jeffery
Worship Assistant	Donna Doughty
Communion Assistant	Geri Regnier
Lector	Amy Hoag
Offering-bearer	Duncan Jeffery
Ushers	Connie Sieg Katherine Kelly
Altar Guild	Rose Johnson 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 Strick-  
land  
Southeastern Synod  
Staff  
Seminarian,  
Brandon Konnow  
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 Stickle  
Albert VanHousen II  
Margarete Walsh  
Gary Anderson  
Judy Bultman  
Kyle Carter  
Jim Chappel  
Jean Clemmons  
Xavier Danguilan  
Brandy Garnett  
Becky Goldsmith  
Estrella Gonzales  
Doris Grier  
Beverly Huckaby  
Norma Kilby  
Ken Korn  
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

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

**The Tuesday morning Bible Study** meets in the Church House from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. This class reads and talks about the scriptures for the coming Sunday. Lisa Pettit is the contact person for this class.

## **Mission Outreach Opportunities:**

- 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.  
July 1st - September 3.
- Paperbacks For soldiers

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

**Yard sale:** There will be no yard sale this year. If you have donations, please contact Allena Sperry at 706-563-3107 or email at [agsperry@bellsouth.net](mailto:agsperry@bellsouth.net) for more information.

**The Binding of Isaac:** Join us on Wednesday, July 26th at 6:30 PM, in Luther Hall for our continued study. Rabbi Beth Schwartz and Pastor Taylor are leading a study on the story of the binding of Isaac (Genesis 22) and its aftermath. This is an interfaith and ecumenical experience, with folks from St. Matthew, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, New Hope Presbyterian Church and the Jewish congregations in Columbus especially invited.

**St. Matthew Lutheran  
Glory To God  
Faithful Members**

Memorial Garden Bricks:  
Purchase a commemorative brick to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or graduation. You can also purchase one in honor or memory of a loved

one. Each brick purchased will become part the St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Memorial Garden. See Allena Sperry for more details!

**DEADLINE TO ORDER IS SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**



**Remembrance Gathering:** A remembrance gathering will be held at the church, August 8th at 3:00 PM at the Church House. We will be sharing your own or family stories related to World War II. Please feel free to invite others to attend! This gathering will happen the second Tuesday of every month. Questions or concerns, contact Zocia Barr at (706)330-1001.



Thank you to all the volunteers, parents, and children who made our Vacation Bible School a great success! We are still filling our wagon with non-perishable food items. Please bring a donation and help us show that we love our neighbors!

**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](mailto:twbe@liturgyfolks.com)

Office email: [office@stmatthewcolumbusga.org](mailto:office@stmatthewcolumbusga.org)

*A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,*

*Southeastern Synod*

[www.stmatthewcolumbusga.org](http://www.stmatthewcolumbusga.org)

The Rev. Taylor Burton Edwards, Pastor

Kelly Peterson, Media Specialist

Lisa Pettit, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music

Sonja Metcalf, Parish Administrator

Penny Davis, Nursery Director