

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Christ the King Sunday

November 23, 2025

Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with terrorists. This appears for all the world as most unkingly. Yet it shows exactly the kind of kingdom Jesus proclaimed.

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW Setting 1, page 94)

† Congregation stands as able

GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof



P: In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

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: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of +Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

C: **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn *"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"*

ELW #634

Kyrie

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Gloria

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Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy.

We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory.

Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, 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

Donna Doughty

First Reading

Jeremiah 23:1-6

¹Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. ²Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to

you for your evil doings, says the LORD. ³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

⁵The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody: Luke 1:68-79

Tone 7

⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the ¹ God of Israel,
you have come to your people and ¹ set them free.

⁶⁹**You have raised up for us a ¹ mighty savior,
born of the house of your ¹ servant David.**

⁷⁰Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us ¹ from our enemies,

⁷¹from the hands of ¹ all who hate us,
⁷²**to show mercy ¹ to our forebears,
and to remember your ¹ holy covenant.**

⁷³This was the oath you swore to our ¹ father Abraham:
⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our ¹ enemies,

**free to worship you ¹ without fear,
⁷⁵holy and righteous before you, all the days ¹ of our life.**

⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of ¹ the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to pre- ¹ pare the way,

⁷⁷**to give his people knowledge ¹ of salvation
by the forgiveness ¹ of their sins.**

⁷⁸In the tender compassion ¹ of our God
the dawn from on high shall ¹ break upon us,

⁷⁹**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shad- ¹ ow of death,
and to guide our feet into the ¹ way of peace.**

Second Reading

Colossians 1:11-20

¹¹May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he

might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

† Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel

Luke 23:33-43

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *"The End of Jesus as They Knew Him"*

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: Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A: We pray for the church in the world, its leaders, and its mission to share the good news of healing and restoration. Inspire us to embody the beloved community in ways that faithfully witness to the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We pray for the trembling mountains and glad streams of creation. Preserve and renew your coastlines, deep seas, forests, and grasslands. Guide all who tend flocks or care for creatures of all kinds. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We pray for leaders and advocates in government, civic life, and public safety. Support equity across the globe, and heal division with accountability and truth. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We pray for any who are hungry, living in poverty or desperation, weary in body or spirit, or sick. Comfort all in need of your tender care.
Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We pray for this part of the body of Christ gathered around word and sacrament. Bring us into authentic community where all ages are valued and experience God's faithfulness together. 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: We give thanks for all who have died in faith. May we remember them faithfully until we are gathered with you in the resurrection of the dead.
Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

MEAL

Anthem

"We All Are One in Mission"

Choir

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts.
Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever.

C: Amen.

✠ Great Thanksgiving Page 107

Holy, Holy, Holy Page 108

Lord's Prayer "Our Father, who..." Page 112

Lamb of God Page 112

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 field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

ELW #855

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:

Julia Luhring, 2014



READINGS AND PSALM **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025**

Isaiah 2:1-5
 Psalm 122
 Romans 13:11-14
 Matthew 24:36-44



*"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*

November 16, 2025 **Twenty-third Sunday** **after Pentecost**

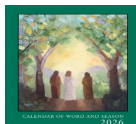
ATTENDANCE — 53

(IN-PERSON — 41, YOUTUBE - 12

2025 BUDGET-\$177,962

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 2,470.06
Building	\$ 130.00
Memorial	\$ 325.00
Other	\$ 60.00
Total	\$ 2,985.06



2026 Calendar of Word and Season is now on sale thru the end of the year. Please see Allena Sperry if you want to purchase a calendar for \$13. Please make checks payable to St. Matthew.

Serving November 23, 2025

Opener/Closer	Terri Niederhammer
Worship Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Communion Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Lector	Bill Wallace
Ushers	Jim Sperry
	Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Allena Sperry
	Martha Vargas
	Catherine Sayers-Clean-up
Live Streaming	Cecil McGouirk

Serving November 30, 2025

Opener/Closer	Nancy & Jeff Gates
Worship Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Communion Assistant	Katherine Kelly
Lector	Jaxson Gardner
Ushers	Jim Sperry
	Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Nancy Gates
	Rose Johnson
	Catherine Sayers-Clean-up
Live Streaming	Matt Pettit

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

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

Grigsby Family

Laura Jett

Norma Kilby

Ken Korn

Emma Kump

Robert Lowe

David & John Lucas

Michelle Matthias

Brady Meeks

Tim Moore

Debi Nelson

Vincent Pawlowski

Terry Pendergraff

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

Gaza

Palestinian People

Israel

Ukraine

People of Russia

Kerr County, Texas

Jamaica

Philippines

Wynnton Neighborhood
Network

Church of the Annunciation

Vance Brooks Funeral
Home

Striffler Hamby Funeral
Home

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:

Mission Focus:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| | Operation Christmas Child |
| • 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 |
| • St. Anne's: | Feminine hygiene products, Personal hygiene products (travel size) |
| • SafeHouse/St. Benedict's | Sealed plastic utensils (take-out meals) |
- Leave donations in the labeled containers in the Narthex.

Craf-Tea: This group will meet December 19th 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: We will resume meeting on Monday at 11:00 AM in Luther Hall in the new year. Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers.



The response to Operation Christmas Child and Wynnton Neighborhood Network was overwhelming. Thanks for your generosity to those in need near and far.



Save the Date

- November 23rd - After worship - Congregational Meeting
- November 27th - THANKSGIVING - Office Closed
- December 1st - 12:00-1:00 - Advent lunch at St. Thomas
- December 3rd - 5:30 Midweek Advent Service
- December 4th - 9:00 - WNN Care Packing
- December 6th - 3:00-5:30-Open House at Pastor Taylor's.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Midweek Worship

Wednesday 5:30 PM

December 3, 10, 17



Weinachts Service

Sunday, December 14

3:00 PM

Christmas Eve

Holy Communion Service

Wednesday, December 24

7:00 PM



Help the Church Get
Ready for
Christmas!

*Chrismon Tree
Decorating*

December 6th, 2025
at 10 AM



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 2:00-5:00 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