

# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 4, 2024

*In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.*

## 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**

*"How firm a foundation"*

**ELW #796**

Kyrie

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Gloria in Excelsis

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Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

## PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Katherine Kelly

**First Reading**

**Isaiah 40:21-31**

<sup>21</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

<sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,  
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;  
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,

and spreads them like a tent to live in;  
 23 who brings princes to naught,  
 and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.  
 24 Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,  
 scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,  
 when he blows upon them, and they wither,  
 and the tempest carries them off like stubble.  
 25 To whom then will you compare me,  
 or who is my equal? says the Holy One.  
 26 Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
 Who created these?  
 He who brings out their host and numbers them,  
 calling them all by name;  
 because he is great in strength,  
 mighty in power,  
 not one is missing.  
 27 Why do you say, O Jacob,  
 and speak, O Israel,  
 "My way is hidden from the LORD,  
 and my right is disregarded by my God"?  
 28 Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
 The LORD is the everlasting God,  
 the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
 He does not faint or grow weary;  
 his understanding is unsearchable.  
 29 He gives power to the faint,  
 and strengthens the powerless.  
 30 Even youths will faint and be weary,  
 and the young will fall exhausted;  
 31 but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,  
 they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
 they shall run and not be weary,  
 they shall walk and not faint.

L: The word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 147:1-11, 20c**

**Tone 6**

1 Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises <sup>1</sup> to our God!  
 How pleasant it is to honor <sup>1</sup> God with praise!

2 **The LORD re- <sup>1</sup> builds Jerusalem,  
 and gathers the ex- <sup>1</sup> iles of Israel.**

3 The LORD heals the <sup>1</sup> brokenhearted  
 and binds <sup>1</sup> up their wounds.

4 **The LORD counts the number <sup>1</sup> of the stars  
 and calls them all <sup>1</sup> by their names.**

5 Great is our LORD and might- <sup>1</sup> y in power;  
 there is no limit <sup>1</sup> to God's wisdom.

6 **The LORD lifts <sup>1</sup> up the lowly,  
 but casts the wicked <sup>1</sup> to the ground.**

<sup>7</sup>Sing to the LORD <sup>1</sup> with thanksgiving;  
 make music upon the harp <sup>1</sup> to our God,  
<sup>8</sup>**who covers the heav- <sup>1</sup>ens with clouds  
 and prepares rain for the earth,  
 making grass to grow up- <sup>1</sup>on the mountains.**  
<sup>9</sup>God provides food <sup>1</sup> for the cattle  
 and for the young ravens <sup>1</sup> when they cry.  
<sup>10</sup>**God is not impressed by the might <sup>1</sup> of a horse,  
 and has no pleasure in the speed <sup>1</sup> of a runner,**  
<sup>11</sup>but finds pleasure in those who <sup>1</sup> fear the LORD,  
 in those who await God's steadfast love.<sup>20c</sup> <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah!

## Second Reading

## 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

<sup>16</sup>If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! <sup>17</sup>For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. <sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. <sup>19</sup>For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

L: The word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

† Gospel Acclamation

“ Alleluia ”

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## Gospel

## Mark 1:29-39

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

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

<sup>29</sup>As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. <sup>32</sup>That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. <sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." <sup>38</sup>He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may

proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon     *Getting Right with Our Mission*     Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

† **Hymn of the Day**     *"Gracious Spirit, heed our pleading"*

**ELW #401**

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: Everlasting God, you bring your healing power to the church. Give your church a spirit of unity and prayer, that we discern your way for us in the world. God of grace.

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Creator of the ends of the earth, you make the grass grow and send rain for the soil. Bring your creation into harmony and balance. Give animals their food and provide healthy shelter for your people. Inspire us to honor the miraculous beauty of all you have made. God of grace.

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: God without equal, your steadfast love endures forever. Bring the leaders, elected officials, and peacekeepers of our towns and countries into understanding and unity. Guide them to serve with compassion and understanding. God of grace.

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: God who strengthens, you lift up with your hand any who are suffering. Heal those who are brokenhearted and strengthen the weak and all in need. God of grace.

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: God who gives power to the faint, challenge us to share the faith stories of what God has done in our lives. Open us to receive the unique ways God is at work in your people, especially those whose perspectives challenge our own. 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 calls each star by name, we remember all who have died especially WJ Barrs. Shelter all who mourn with your mercy and care, and give us hope in your promised 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**

*"When You Break the Bread"*

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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**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**

*"Songs of thankfulness and praise"*

**ELW #310**

**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:**

*Sarah Garrett, 2021*

**READINGS AND PSALM**  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024**

2 Kings 2:1-12  
 Psalm 50:1-6  
 2 Corinthians 4:3-6  
 Mark 19:2-9



*“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 28, 2024**

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

ATTENDANCE — 69

(IN-PERSON— 44 , YOUTUBE - 25)

*Thankfully offered*

**OFFERING**

Benevolence	\$ 3,715.00
Building	\$ 180.00
Memorial	\$ 300.00
Other	\$ 400.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,595.00</b>

**Serving February 4, 2024**

Opener/Closer	Donna Doughty
Worship Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Communion Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Lector	Shannon Gardner
Ushers	Sandy Craven
	Randy Craven
Altar Guild	Rose Johnson
	Catherine Sayers
Live Streaming	Jaxson Gardner

**Serving February 11, 2024**

Opener/Closer	Nancy Gates
Worship Assistant	Donna Doughty
Communion Assistant	Rachel Zarnke
Lector	Jaxson Gardner
Ushers	Matt Pettit
	Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Geri Regnier
	Lisa Pettit
Live Streaming	Cecil McGouirk



# *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  
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  
Carla Stickle  
Albert VanHousen II  
Margarete Walsh  
Monika Wright  
Gary Anderson  
Judy Bultman  
George Capps  
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

Maui  
Morrocco  
Israel  
Ukraine  
Gaza

DQ  
Klose Kutz  
Freedom Adult Day Center  
Xpert Tax Service  
Transformation Salon  
Family Worship Center

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.

**Growing in Grace:** Meets every Friday from 9:00-11:00 AM in the Church House. God's grace is freely given to us. Join the group to learn to cultivate an attitude of grace in your daily life by learning about and adopting habits to move into a state of grace. Contact Beth Hoag at 706-604-8110 for more information.

## Save the Date

- February 7th 6:00 PM-Ten Commandments Study-Luther Hall
- February 9th 9:00 AM - Growing in Grace
- February 14th 7:30 PM - Ash Wednesday Service
- February 16th 6:00-9:30 PM - Reach In retreat - St. Thomas
- February 17th 8:00-4:30 PM - Reach In retreat - St. Thomas
- February 18th 12:00 PM - Tackle Hunger Souper Bowl - Luther Hall
- February 21st 5:30 PM - Lenten Service

Please see Zocia Barr in the Narthex, before or after the service, to ensure that the information we have for you in the Directory is correct. We would like to validate name, address, phone number and email. Thank you for your help in keeping our records current.



### 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!*

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:** 6:00-9:00 PM on Friday, 16 February and 9 am -4:30 pm on Saturday, 17 February  
**Why:** To begin our Lenten journey in introspection and prayer  
**What to bring:** Your own lunch for Saturday

To register, e-mail [office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com](mailto:office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com) or go to website at <https://forms.wix.com/r/7154127640259985731> to fill out registration form. You can also scan this QR code to register:

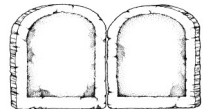


Questions? Please feel free to reach out to Rachel Zarnke: [rzarnke@gmail.com](mailto:rzarnke@gmail.com) or 815-708-4039

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



Please come join us for a study of the Ten Commandments led by Rabbi Beth Schwartz and Pastor Taylor. February 7th at 6:00 in Luther Hall will be the last meeting of this study until after Easter.



**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.com](mailto:office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com)

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

*Southeastern Synod*

[www.stmatthewcolumbusga.com](http://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