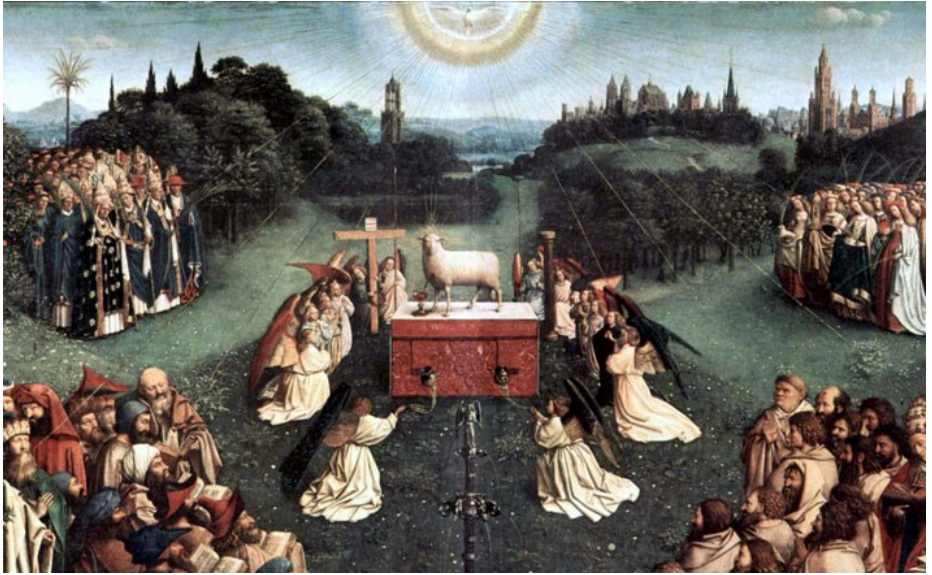


St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 11, 2025

"Salvation belongs to the One seated upon the throne and to the Lamb." These countless, robed in white, are the chorus of those "who have come out of the great ordeal" but now have palm branches in their hands, a sign of victory and honor, and serve at the throne of God. This is what resurrection means for them. What will it mean for you?

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW Setting 3, page 138)

† Congregation stands as able

GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof



P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

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

"Shall We Gather at the River"

ELW #423

Kyrie

Page 138

Gloria

Page 139

Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, 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

Amy Hoag

First Reading

Isaiah 53:1-6

Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant and like a root out of dry ground. He had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity, and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases, yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded because of our transgressions, crushed by our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we were healed.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 114

Tone 1

¹Hallelujah! When Israel came ¹ out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people ¹ of strange speech,

²**Judah became God's ¹ sanctuary and Israel ¹ God's dominion.**

³The sea beheld ¹ it and fled; Jordan turned ¹ and went back.

⁴**The mountains ¹ skipped like rams, and the little hills ¹ like young sheep.**

⁵What ailed you, O sea, ¹ that you fled, O Jordan, that ¹ you turned back,

⁶**you mountains, that you ¹ skipped like rams, you little hills ¹ like young sheep?**

⁷Tremble, O earth, at the presence ¹ of the Lord, at the presence of the ¹ God of Jacob,

⁸**who turned the hard rock into a ¹ pool of water and flint-stone into a ¹ flowing spring.**

Second Reading

Revelation 7:9-17

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!"

¹¹ And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might

be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴ I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ For this reason they are before the throne of God and worship him day

and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.¹⁶ They will hunger no more and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat, ¹⁷ for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.



Gospel Acclamation

Page 142

Gospel

John 10:22-30

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²²At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the leaders gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." ²⁵Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; ²⁶but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

With all the Saints in Glory

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards



Hymn of the Day

"Sing with All the Saints in Glory"

ELW #426

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: God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A: You guide your people to the waters of life. Make your church a nourishing place for all who are thirsty for hope and healing. Renew us in the waters of baptism, and send us forth as signs of your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You tend to the earth, sustaining life in all places. Revive fragile ecosystems and restore species in danger of extinction. Teach us new ways of living in balance and harmony with our non-human neighbors. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You lead all peoples along right pathways. Grant wisdom and compassion to judges, lawyers, mediators, and legal advocates. Dismantle systems of mass incarceration, empower processes of restorative justice, and encourage all who strive for healing in our communities. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You wipe the tears from every eye. Tend to all who struggle with anxiety or depression, loneliness, or despair. Enfold all who are in any need in your shepherd care. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: This Mother's Day, bless mothers, grandmothers, and all who offer mothering care. Come close to those whose relationships with their families are difficult, and console all who grieve the loss of mother figures or the loss of children. 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 are the source of everlasting life. In deep gratitude for all your saints, especially Margarete Walsh, Patricia Bonaker, Betty Davidson, Mike Regnier and Boyd Lester, we rejoice in the joy and hope of the resurrection made known to us in Jesus, your beloved child. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C: Amen.

MEAL

Anthem

"Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Choir

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world.

C: Amen.

✝ Great Thanksgiving Page 144

Holy, Holy, Holy Page 144

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.

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: Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn

"You Servants of God"

ELW #825

Dismissal

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen!.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A: Go in peace. Praise the Lord! Alleluia! Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Duke Barron, 2022



READINGS AND PSALM SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025

Leviticus 19:9-18
Psalm 24:1-6
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35



*"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*

May 4, 2025 Third Sunday of Easter

ATTENDANCE — 50
(IN-PERSON— 41, YOUTUBE - 9)

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 3,955.00
Building	\$ 80.00
Memorial	\$ 250.00
Other	\$ 340.00
Total	\$ 4,625.00

Save the Date

- May 12th- 11:00 - Chair Yoga - Luther Hall
- May 13th - 10:15 - Bible Study (bring lunch) - Church House
- May 15th - 5:00 - Council Meeting - Fellowship Hall
- May 16th - 10:00 - Craf-Tea - Luther Hall
- May 17th - 10-12:00 - Yard Sale Drop Off - Sieg Building
- May 22nd - 5:00 - Men's Group - Mr. Pizza

Serving May 11, 2025

Opener/Closer	Matt Pettit
Worship Assistant	Donna Doughty
Communion Assistant	Raymond Lawton
Lector	Toni Mion
Ushers	Jim Sperry
	Katherine Kelly
Altar Guild	Terri Niederhammer
	Allena Sperry
Live Streaming	Matt Pettit

Serving May 18, 2025

Opener/Closer	Allena Sperry
Worship Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Communion Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Lector	Bill Wallace
Ushers	Jim Sperry
	Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Nancy Gates
	Lisa Pettit
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."

5:16-18

—1 Thessalonians

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
St Matthew
Congregational
Council
Laura Alexander
Carol Bingemann
Dave Bonaker
Matt Bonaker
Craven Family
Davidson Family
Myrna & Ken Hoag
Mairetha & Bennie
Jackson
Sean Jeffery
Marga Miller
Charlotte Moore
Traudel Mosely
Terri Niederhammer
Debby Owen
Dorothy Redden
Regnier Family

Connie Sieg
Allena Sperry
Carla Stickles
Harold Vinson
Eric & Tinisha Bryant
George Capps
Chappel Family
Jean Clemmons
Xavier Danguilan
Penny Davis & Family
Nancy Edmundson
Lynne Funck
Brandy Garnett
Mike Gewin
Sandy Gibbs
Moses Glidden
Becky Goldsmith
Estrella Gonzales
Sarah Goodman
Doris Grier
Petra & Franklin
Henderson
Norma Kilby
Ken Korn
Emma Kump
Melissa Lancheros
Laura Lester
Robert Lowe
Michelle Matthias
Sandra McPeters
Brady Meeks
Lynn Meinhold

Tim Moore
Moser Family
Nearhoof Family
Angela Paul
Vincent Pawlowski
Beth Price
Mark Purushotham
Bill Rahm
Tiffany Richardson
Ruocco Family
Dayna Ryan
Shirley Scott
Dou Shizhen
Ricky Skinner
Amanda Steinagel
Torrijos Family
Fred Turpin
Charlie VanHousen
Dawn VanHousen
Molly Wright
Pastor Rachel Zarnke
Martha Zimmerman
Israel
Ukraine
Gaza
Lebanon
Western North Carolina
Los Angeles

Diamond Kutz
Kee J's
Acceptance Auto
Phuong's Tailor Shop
Walgreen's

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 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:**
- Lion's Club: WNN \$40 for 40 birthday fundraiser
 - Family House of West GA: Glasses, sunglasses and old cell phones
 - Flags to Retire: Pop tabs
 - St. Anne's: Used flags to dispose of properly
 - St. Anne's: Feminine hygiene products, Personal hygiene products (travel size), and non-perishable food items
 - Safe House: Sealed plastic utensils (take-out meals)
- Leave donations in the labeled containers in the Narthex .

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.

Men's Group: This group will meet, Thursday, May 22nd at 5:00 at Mr. Pizza.

Chair Yoga: We are meeting every Monday at 11:00 AM in Luther Hall. Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers.



May Mission Focus

Wynnton Neighborhood Network (WNN) was founded in May 1985 to coordinate food and utilities assistance joining with Christian and Jewish neighborhood congregations. The network is located at St. Thomas Episcopal Church. Recent federal food program cuts have greatly impacted WNN operation. Food that was previously free or reduced cost is no longer available. Most food currently being distributed by WNN is from food drives or purchased at retail prices. There are 125 families provided with food each week as well as providing utility assistance to those in need. The "\$40 for 40" WNN fundraiser has been launched by the WNN board. The goal is to raise \$200,000 (WNN annual budget) from May 2025 to April 2026.

Please consider making a donation directly to WNN or through St. Matthew (please put WNN anniversary on the memo line of your check). Volunteers are always needed to help continue this ministry to our neighbors. Questions, please contact Allena Sperry at 706-563-3107 or agsperry@bellsouth.net.

May is a busy month for everyone. We will celebrate, on June 8th, the May and June birthdays and anniversaries as well as the 69th anniversary of St. Matthew!



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: (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