

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 5, 2024

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

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!**

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C: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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

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

“Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna!”

ELW #793

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,

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our 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

Katherine Kelly

First Reading

Genesis 35:9-15

⁹God appeared to Jacob again when he came from Paddan-aram, and he blessed him. ¹⁰God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; no longer shall you be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name." So he was called Israel. ¹¹God said to him, "I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall spring from you. ¹²The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you." ¹³Then God went up from him at the place where he had spoken with him. ¹⁴Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he had spoken with him, a pillar of stone; and he poured out a drink offering on it, and poured oil on it. ¹⁵So Jacob called the place where God had spoken with him Bethel.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 101

Tone 1

¹I will sing of mer-¹cy and justice;
to you, O LORD, will I sing praises.

²**I will strive to follow a blameless course; when shall I attain it?
I will walk with sincerity of heart with-¹ in my house.**

³I will set no worthless thing be-¹fore my eyes;
I hate the doers of evil deeds; they shall not re-¹main with me.

⁴**A crooked heart shall be¹ far from me;
I will¹ not know evil.**

⁵Those who secretly slander their neighbors I¹ will destroy;
those who have a haughty look and a proud heart I can-¹ not abide.

⁶**My eyes are upon the faithful in the land, that they may¹ dwell with me,
and those who walk in integrity shall¹ be my servants.**

⁷Those who act deceitfully shall not dwell¹ in my house,
and those who tell lies shall not continue¹ in my sight.

⁸**Morning by morning I will destroy all the wicked¹ in the land,
that I may root out all evildoers from the city¹ of the LORD.**

Second Reading

1 John 5:1-6

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

John 15:9-17

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *Resurrected...To Invest in Others*

Reverend Rachel Zarnke

†Hymn of the Day

“Jesus, the very thought of you”

ELW #754

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: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray
for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

A: Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the
gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen
our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners.
God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that
habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered
species and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to
world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all.
Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those
afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits
of your love in our care for one another. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries of this
congregation that we may embody your love for the world. Inspire those
who plan and lead worship, council members, committee members, and
volunteers. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

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

C: hear our prayer.

A: Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us especially Keandra Bashful, WJ Barrs, Eva Brown, Bishop Davis, and Joan Smith. At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet table. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

C: Amen

MEAL

Anthem

“Be Thou My Vision”

Choir

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

C: Amen

† Great Thanksgiving

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Holy, Holy, Holy

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Anaphora

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Amen

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Lord's Prayer “Our Father, who...”

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Lamb of God

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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: Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

C: **Amen**

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn

“Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.”

ELW#389

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:

Ellen Bass, 2008



On behalf of the Church Council, we would like to thank Lisa Pettit for her excellent care for our buildings for the last year and a half. As you may know, Lisa's father-in-law, Tom Pettit, is moving in with the Pettit family, and Lisa will be his primary caregiver. Lisa will not be able to continue to be our Sexton. We need to find someone to fill the opening for Sexton. If you know of an individual that might be interested in this position, please ask them to contact me by

email. My email is rose_m_johnson@bellsouth.net and I can send the interested individual the job description.

**READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2024**

Daniel 7:9-14
Psalm 68:15-20, 32-35
Ephesians 1:15-23
Mark 14:1-15, 27



“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

April 28, 2024

5th Sunday of Easter

ATTENDANCE — 60
(IN-PERSON— 54 , YOUTUBE - 6)
SUNDAY SCHOOL - 6

Thankfully offered

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 1,633.00
Building	\$ 70.00
Memorial	\$ 0.00
Other	\$ 310.00
Total	\$ 2,013.00

Serving May 5, 2024

Opener/Closer	Nancy Gates
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Lector	Randy Craven
Ushers	Sandy Craven
	Randy Craven
Altar Guild	Rose Johnson
	Catherine Sayers
Live Streaming	Cecil McGouirk/Jaxson Gardner

Serving May 12, 2024

Opener/Closer	Rose Johnson
Worship Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Communion Assistant	Rose Johnson
Lector	Raymond Lawton
Ushers	Jim Sperry
	Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Nancy Gates, Donna Doughty, Geri Regnier
Live Streaming	Sean Jeffery/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
Marga Miller
Traudel Mosely
Debby Owen
Dorothy Redden
Connie Sieg
Carla Stickles
Albert VanHousen II
Margarete Walsh
Monika Wright

Gary Anderson
Judy Bultman
George Capps
Kyle Carter
Jim Chappel
Jean Clemmons
Rich Curtis
Xavier Danguilan
Penny Davis & Family
Brandy Garnett
Becky Goldsmith
Estrella Gonzales
Doris Grier
Petra Henderson
Beverly Huckaby
Norma Kilby
Ken Korn
Boyd Lester
Laura Lester
Valerie Karol Louder
Robert Lowe
Michelle Matthias
Brady Meeks
Tim Moore
Gary Nearhoof
Louie Niederhammer
Kimberly O'Malley
Michael Owen
Angela Paul
Vincent Pawlowski

Tom Pettit
Mark Purushotham
Kenneth Ramming
Dwight Redmond
Tiffany Richardson
Dayna Ryan
Yuliia Savitska
Shirley Scott
Ricky Skinner
Betty Townsend
Sandra Tuggle
Charlie VanHousen
Dawn VanHousen
Martha Zimmerman

Maui
Morrocco
Israel
Ukraine
Gaza

Beaute' Matrix
Burger King
5 Fourteen
Animal General Hospital
DQ
Klose Kutz
Freedom Adult Day Center
Xpert Tax Service

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

St Anne's Outreach - collecting toiletries and Travel size toiletries. We always accept monetary donations.

- 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

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

Remembrance Gathering: Please come to the Remembrance Gathering Tuesday, May 14th 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.



We had a great turnout for our spring gardens clean up. Thanks to all who came out and worked to beautify our gardens/grounds. It was greatly appreciated.

Save the Date

- **May 5th 11:30 AM** - Birthday Celebration - Fellowship Hall
- **May 8th 6:30 PM** - Interfaith Bible Study - Luther Hall
- **May 14th 3:00 PM** - Remembrance Gathering - Church House
- **May 15th 6:30 PM** - Interfaith Bible Study - Luther Hall
- **May 16th 5:00 PM** - Council Meeting - Church House
- **June 2** - Service at the Columbus Convention & Trade Center
- **June 15th 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM** - Yard Sale

SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD
2024 Assembly



**2024 Southeastern Synod Assembly
May 31 - June 2, 2024
Columbus Convention & Trade Center**

For more information, go to our website at:
<https://www.stmatthewcolumbusga.com/comeingevents>



Please leave the handicapped parking spots available to those that have family members that are in wheelchairs and/or use walkers to aid in walking. Handicapped spots are also available on the side of the Fellowship Hall.

Our interfaith Bible study in the Ten Commandments with Rabbi Beth Schwartz will meet May 8 & 15, at 6:30 PM in Luther Hall.

We need your help with the worship service on Sundays in the areas of Live Streaming, Altar Guild, Ushers, Nursery Helper and Chairman for Coffee Cart. If you are interested in helping in any of these areas, please see Rose Johnson or Cecil McGouirk.

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

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