

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Third Sunday in Lent
March 8, 2026

What is the wrath described in our Epistle reading today? How is it related to justification? How does Paul hold Jewish and Gentile ideas of justification and wrath together to strengthen the unity of the church in Rome? And what does all of this have to do with us?

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW Setting 9, page 193)

† Congregation stands as able

GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof



P: Blessed be God, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: **And blessed be God's kingdom now and forever. 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: 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

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

ELW #631

Kyrie

Page 193

Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth 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

Rose Johnson

First Reading

Exodus 17:1-7

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me?"

Why do you test the LORD?"³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?"⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me."⁵ The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go.⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 95

Tone 8

¹ Come, let us sing¹ to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of¹ our salvation.

² **Let us come before God's presence¹ with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the¹ LORD with psalms.**

³ For you, LORD,¹ are a great God,
and a great ruler a-¹bove all gods.

⁴ **In your hand are the caverns¹ of the earth;
the heights of the hills are¹ also yours.**

⁵ The sea is yours,¹ for you made it,
and your hands have molded¹ the dry land.

⁶ **Come, let us worship¹ and bow down,
let us kneel before the¹ LORD our maker.**

⁷ For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep¹ of God's hand.

Oh, that today you would¹ hear God's voice!

⁸ **"Harden¹ not your hearts,
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah¹ in the desert.**

⁹ There your ancestors¹ tested me,
they put me to the test, though they had¹ seen my works.

¹⁰ **Forty years I loathed that gener-¹ation, saying,**

'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not¹ know my ways.'

¹¹ Indeed I swore¹ in my anger,

'They shall never come¹ to my rest.'

Second Reading

Romans 5:1-11

¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance,⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone

might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Gospel Acclamation

Page 198b

Gospel

John 4:5-42

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

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

⁵ [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon "*Salvation From Wrath*"

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards



Hymn of the Day

"*Soli Deo Gloria*"

ELW #878

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: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

A: O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send water to places languishing with drought, and bring relief to places damaged by floods. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: When wars ensue, bring your peace. Restore trust. Establish justice. End wrath and hostilities among nations and peoples. Reconcile all humans. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians and musical ensembles. 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: O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

C: **Amen.**

MEAL

Anthem

“As the Deer”

Choir

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: **Amen.**

† Great Thanksgiving

See Insert

Holy, Holy, Holy

Page 200

Lord's Prayer “Our Father, who...”

Page 201

Lamb of God

Page 201

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 our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for your mission. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn

"Have No Fear, Little Flock"

ELW #764

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Fast as God intends..

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Mike Regnier, 2025

LENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

04 MARCH	MIDWEEK LENT SERVICE 5:30 PM	2 APRIL	MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE 7:00 PM
11 MARCH	MIDWEEK LENT SERVICE 5:30 PM	3 APRIL	GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 7:00 PM
18 MARCH	MIDWEEK LENT SERVICE 5:30 PM	4 APRIL	HOLY SATURDAY SERVICE 10:00 AM
25 MARCH	MIDWEEK LENT SERVICE 5:30 PM		

ST MATTHEW EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
4026 MACON ROAD
COLUMBUS, GA 31907

**READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026**

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41



"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

**March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent**

ATTENDANCE — 68
(IN-PERSON — 59, YOUTUBE - 9
2026 BUDGET-\$185,981

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$	3,258.00
Building	\$	200.00
Memorial	\$	120.00
Other	\$	190.00
Total	\$	3,768.00

Memorial gift acknowledgments will be sent/mailed quarterly.

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

**February 25, 2026
Mid-week Lenten Service**

ATTENDANCE — 16

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$	50.00
Other	\$	0.00
Total	\$	50.00

Serving March 8, 2026

Opener/Closer	Allena Sperry
Worship Assistants	Dave Bonaker/Raymond Lawton
Communion Assistant	Katherine Kelly
Lector	Terri Niederhammer
Ushers	Matt Pettit
	James Sperry
Altar Guild	Lisa Pettit
	Allena Sperry
Live Streaming	Paul Hicks

Serving March 15, 2026

Opener/Closer	Jeff and Nancy Gates
Worship Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Communion Assistant	Allena Sperry
Lector	Dave Bonaker
Ushers	Matt Pettit
	Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Nancy Gates
	Terri Niederhammer
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

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

Laura Jett

Norma Kilby

Ken Korn

Emma Kump

Robert Lowe

David & John Lucas

Michelle Matthias

Brady Meeks

Lynne Meinhold

Tim Moore

Debi Nelson

Vincent Pawlowski

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

People of Iran

Venezuela

Gaza

Palestinian People

Israel

Ukraine

People of Russia

People of Minneapolis

Eastern Congo

People of Nigeria

Family of Rachel Savage

Family of Jerry Johnson

Mario's Tire

Mariner Finance

Woodville Apartments

Beal Wellness

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:

- All unused all occasion and holiday cards
 - 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
 - Brown Bag: Travel size toiletries
 - SafeHouse/St. Benedict's Sealed plastic utensils (take-out meals)
- Leave donations in the labeled containers in the Narthex.

Bible Study: Please join us on Tuesdays at 10:15 in the Back Room of the Church House to review & discuss scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday.

Craf-Tea: This group will meet on the 4th Friday of each month 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: Meets every Monday at 11:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers.

It is time to order Easter Lilies in honor and/or memory of someone. You can take these home after the service on Easter Sunday. Deadline to order is Sunday, March 22nd. Please fill out the insert and place in the offering plate or return to the church office. Cost is \$15 each lily.

Save the Date

- March 9th - 11:00 - Chair Yoga - Fellowship Hall
- March 10th - 10:15 - Bible Study - Church House-Back Room
- March 11th - 5:30 - Mid-Week Lenten Service
- March 19th - 9:00 - Care bag packing
- March 19th - 5:00 - Council Meeting - FH
- March 27th - 10:00 - Craf-Tea - LH
- March 28th - 9:00 - Garden Refresh

Ordinary Mystics
Tapping into Your Spiritual Roots
A Women's Retreat

Hosted by All Welcome Lutheran Church
17 March 20-22
General Coffee State Park

Join us for a gentle, grounding weekend designed to help you reconnect with God, yourself, and the deeper spiritual roots that sustain everyday faith.



With Retreat
Leader
Patti Axel
Pastor & Coach
Southeastern
Synod

For more info/registration, contact
Vickie Horst at:
horstvictoria@gmail.com

ST. MATTHEW EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

**SPRING
POTLUCK**

MARCH 29, 2026
FOLLOWING SERVICE
LUTHER HALL

SEE SIGN UP SHEETS FOR FOOD

HAPPY
March
BIRTHDAY

8 AIDAN GARDNER
11 PAUL HICKS
15 BRANDON HOAG
15 ANDREA SNELLINGS
17 CALLIE GARDNER
18 DEBBY OWEN
22 ANDREA MARSHA
24 JOSEPH STEINAGEL
27 REV. GRACE BURTON EDWARDS

Mission

- ◇ Thanks so much for your generous food and monetary donations for the Tackle Hunger campaign that is benefitting Brown Bag of Columbus, serving the elderly in our community.
- ◇ Wynnton Neighborhood Network food & monetary donations are March, April & May. Please drop food donations in the narthex basket and monetary donations in the offering plate.
- ◇ Care bag packing at Wynnton Neighborhood Network on March 19th at 9:00 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 2:30-5:00 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