

# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. In baptism we receive the Holy Spirit in our flesh. So even in this life we no longer walk in death but in the life of the eternal God.

## 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

*"Jesus Shall Reign"*

**ELW #434**

Kyrie

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Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, 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**

**Ezekiel 37:1-14**

<sup>1</sup>The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were

very dry. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD." <sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup> I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." <sup>10</sup> I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. <sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.'" <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup> I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 130

Tone 8

<sup>1</sup> Out <sup>1</sup> of the depths

I cry to <sup>1</sup> you, O LORD;

<sup>2</sup> **O LORD, <sup>1</sup> hear my voice!**

**Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my <sup>1</sup> supplication.**

<sup>3</sup> If you were to keep watch <sup>1</sup> over sins,

O LORD, <sup>1</sup> who could stand?

<sup>4</sup> **Yet with you <sup>1</sup> is forgiveness,**

**in order that you <sup>1</sup> may be feared.**

<sup>5</sup> I wait for you, O LORD; <sup>1</sup> my soul waits;

in your word <sup>1</sup> is my hope.

<sup>6</sup> **My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch <sup>1</sup> for the morning,**

**more than those who keep watch <sup>1</sup> for the morning.**

<sup>7</sup> O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is <sup>1</sup> steadfast love;

with the LORD there is plen- <sup>1</sup> teous redemption.

<sup>8</sup> **For the LORD shall <sup>1</sup> redeem Israel**

**from <sup>1</sup> all their sins.**

## Second Reading

Romans 8:6-11

<sup>6</sup> To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the

flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

† Gospel Acclamation

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**Gospel**

**John 11:1-6, 17-27**

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

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

<sup>1</sup> Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup> Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup> after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

*"Flesh and Spirit"*

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day

*"Loving Spirit"*

**ELW #397**

## 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:** We pray for the church. Grant life and peace to all who gather in your name. Breathe into us so that we may share your message of forgiveness, hope, and love. Hear us, O God.

**C:** **Your mercy is great.**

A: We pray for creation. Renew landscapes that have dried up, prosper the work of those who restore homes and habitats after natural disasters, and sustain places where biodiversity thrives. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: We pray for the nations. Unbind leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice, free all who live in places of war and violence, and guide refugees and asylum seekers to safety. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: We pray for all people in need. Take away the stone of poverty that weighs down so many. Console any who weep and heal all who are sick. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: We pray for this assembly. Deepen our wonder at the mystery of your resurrection and life. 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 offer our thanksgiving for all people who have died in faith. Give us faith to trust in your power to redeem and save, and bring us up from our graves to life in you. 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

“Hosea”

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

**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**

*"God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind"*

**ELW #400**

**Dismissal**

**A:** Go in peace. Live in the light!

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God**

**In Memory of:**

*Joseph "Joe" Ritch, 2021*

**READINGS AND PSALM  
SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026**

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Matthew 26:14--27:66



*"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 15, 2026  
Fourth Sunday in Lent**

ATTENDANCE — 54  
(IN-PERSON— 42, YOUTUBE - 12  
2026 BUDGET-\$185,981

<b>OFFERING</b>	
Benevolence	\$ 1,180.00
Building	\$ 100.00
Memorial	\$ 175.00
Other	\$ 0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,455.00</b>

*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.*

**March 11, 2026  
Mid-week Lenten Service**

ATTENDANCE — 16

<b>OFFERING</b>	
Benevolence	\$ 25.00
Memorial	\$ 50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 75.00</b>

**Serving March 22, 2026**

Opener/Closer	Katherine Kelly
Worship Assistant	Shannon Gardner/ Terri Niederhammer
Communion Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Lector	Raymond Lawton
Ushers	James Sperry Ron Ullman
Altar Guild	Debby Ullman Martha Vargas
Live Streaming	Matt Pettit

**Serving March 29, 2026**

Opener/Closer	Rose Johnson
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Katherine Kelly
Lector	Amy Hoag
Ushers	James Sperry Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Lane Brown Rose Johnson
Live Streaming	Paul Hicks

# *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

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Family of Rachel Savage

Family of Jerry Johnson

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Days Inn

Enterprise

The Cell Plug

Octapharma Plasma

Kamoree's Beauty Salon

Broken Tarot Tattoo &

Piercing

# 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.

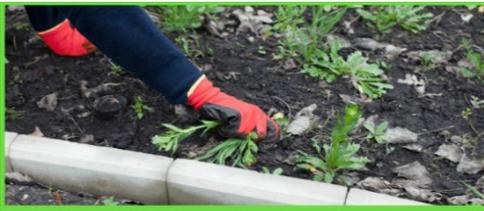
**Craf-Tea:** This group will meet on the 4th Friday of each month at 10:00AM-12:00 PM in Luther Hall. If you enjoy crafts and tea, this group is for you! Please see Linnea Grosse for more information.

**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 23rd - 11:00 AM - Chair Yoga - Fellowship Hall
- March 24th - 10:15 AM - Bible Study - Church House-Back Room
- March 25th - 5:30 PM - Mid-Week Lenten Service
- March 25th - 6:00 PM - Choir Practice
- March 27th - 10:00 AM - Craf-Tea - LH
- March 28th - 9:00 AM-12:00 PM - Garden Refresh
- April 2nd - 7:00 PM - Maundy Thursday Service
- April 3rd - 7:00 PM - Good Friday Service
- April 4th - 10:00 AM - Holy Saturday Service
- April 4th - 6:30 PM - Easter Vigil at St Thomas Episcopal



## Spring GARDEN Clean Up

March 28th  
9:00 AM



# EASTER BREAKFAST APRIL 5, 2026

Sign-up sheet is in  
the Narthex.

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

◇ 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.

# 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](https://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](mailto:twbe@liturgyfolks.com)

Phone: (765) 602-1426

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)

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