

# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 3, 2023

*The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.*

## Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW) Setting 3, Page 138

† *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: And also with you.**

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,**

**to the glory of your holy name. 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**

*"For the beauty of the earth"*

**ELW #879**

Kyrie

Page 138

Hymn of Praise

"Glory to God in the Highest"

Page 139

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

# PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Katherine Kelly

## First Reading

Jeremiah 15:15-21

<sup>15</sup>O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. <sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. <sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of merry-makers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. <sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. <sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD. <sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 26:1-8

Tone 10

<sup>1</sup>Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived <sup>1</sup> with integrity;  
I have trusted in the LORD and <sup>1</sup> have not faltered.

<sup>2</sup>Test me, O <sup>1</sup> LORD, and try me;  
examine my heart <sup>1</sup> and my mind.

<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is be- <sup>1</sup> fore my eyes;  
I have walked faithful- <sup>1</sup> ly with you.

<sup>4</sup>I have not sat <sup>1</sup> with the worthless,  
nor do I consort with <sup>1</sup> the deceitful.

<sup>5</sup>I have hated the company of <sup>1</sup> evildoers;  
I will not sit down <sup>1</sup> with the wicked.

<sup>6</sup>I will wash my hands in inno- <sup>1</sup> cence, O LORD,  
that I may go in procession <sup>1</sup> round your altar,

<sup>7</sup>singing aloud a song <sup>1</sup> of thanksgiving  
and recounting all your won- <sup>1</sup> derful deeds.

<sup>8</sup>LORD, I love the house in <sup>1</sup> which you dwell  
and the place where your glo- <sup>1</sup> ry abides.

## Second Reading

Romans 12:9-21

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. <sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly;

do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup>No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

L: The word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

† Gospel Acclamation

“ Alleluia”

Page 142

**Gospel**

**Matthew 16:21-28**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 16th Chapter.

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

<sup>21</sup>From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." <sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? <sup>27</sup>For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup>Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

“Singing of Innocence”

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day “God, whose giving knows no ending”

**ELW #678**

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: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

*A brief silence.*

A: God of life, your words are the joy at the heart of your church. Draw the seeker to you, place messages of hope and healing in the mouths of your witnesses, and open your children to your truth when we stumble.  
Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: God of steadfast love, renew the earth by your Spirit, that lands and oceans reveal the beauty of your creation. Challenge us to live humbly and peaceably as part of your world. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: God of patience, lead those who govern to hold fast to what is good. Guide them to show honor to the people in their care. Overcome evil in all nations and grant peace to peoples and places mired in conflict. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: God of deliverance, remember all who are suffering, lonely, and in pain. Liberate your people being insulted, persecuted, or in the grasp of the ruthless. Give endurance to workers who persevere on this Labor Day and insure fair wages and safe working environments. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: God of justice, equip this congregation to boldly follow you in uncertain times and to remain faithful in prayer when facing challenges. Show us how best to love and care for one another and our communities. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

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

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: God of glory, we give thanks for the saints who now dwell with you in splendor especially Joyce Garver-Messenger, Anneliese Schwarting, Hans Salheiser, Bobby Wright, Joe Stewart, Christine Minor, and Rolene Stewart. Nurture us faith until the day we join their heavenly song. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen**

## MEAL

Anthem *"We are all one in Mission"* Choir

*The gifts may be brought forward.*

Offering Prayer

A: God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen**

† Great Thanksgiving	Page 144
Holy, Holy, Holy	Page 144
Acclamation	Page 145
Amen	Page 145
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.  
*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: Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: **Amen**

**SENDING**

**Blessing**

**Sending Hymn**

*“Lord, you give the great commission”*

**ELW #579**

**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:**

*Margaret Thein, 2002*

**READINGS AND PSALM**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2023**

Ezekiel 33:7-11  
Psalm 119:33-40  
Romans 13:8-14  
Matthew 18:15-20



*"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*

**August 27, 2023**  
**Thirteenth Sunday**  
**after Pentecost**

ATTENDANCE — 54  
(IN-PERSON — 53, ZOOM - 1)

*Thankfully offered*

**OFFERING**

Benevolence	\$ 2,459.00
Building	\$ 240.00
Memorial	\$ 50.00
Other	\$ 100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,849.00</b>

**Serving today, September 3, 2023**

Opener/Closer	Donna Doughty
Crucifer	Ian Jeffery
Worship Assistants	Donna Doughty
Communion Assistant	Raymond Lawton
Lector	Randy Craven
Offering-bearer	Duncan Jeffery
Ushers	Sandy Craven Randy Craven
Altar Guild	Allena Sperry Catherine Sayers

**Servers for Sunday, September 10, 2023**

Opener/Closer	Rose Johnson
Crucifer	Ian Jeffery
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Liz McGouirk
Lector	Katherine Kelly
Offering-bearer	Duncan Jeffery
Ushers	Connie Sieg Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Geri Regnier Donna Doughty



## *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  
Presiding Bishop  
Elizabeth Eaton  
Bishop Kevin Strick-  
land  
Southeastern Synod  
Staff  
Seminarian,  
Brandon Konnow  
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  
Jim Sperry  
Carla Stickle  
Albert VanHousen II  
Margarete Walsh  
Gary Anderson  
Judy Bultman  
Kyle Carter  
Jim Chappel  
Jean Clemmons  
Xavier Danguilan  
Brandy Garnett  
Becky Goldsmith  
Estrella Gonzales  
Doris Grier  
Beverly Huckaby  
Norma Kilby  
Ken Korn  
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

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

**The Tuesday morning Bible Study** meets in the Church House from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. This class reads and talks about the scriptures for the coming Sunday. Lisa Pettit is the contact person for this class.

## **Mission Outreach Opportunities:**

- 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.  
July 1st - September 3.
- Paperbacks For soldiers

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

**Athanasian Creed:** Join us on Tuesdays, beginning September 5th at 6:00 PM at Mr. Pizza to study the Athanasian Creed and its meaning.

**Remembrance Gathering:** A remembrance gathering will be held in the Church House, September 12th at 3:00 PM. We will be sharing your own or family stories related to World War II. Please feel free to invite others to attend! This gathering will happen the second Tuesday of every month. Questions or concerns, contact Zocia Barr at (706) 330-1001.

## Save the Date

- **September 3rd 11:30 AM:** September birthday celebration in the Fellowship Hall after the service
- **September 5th 6:00 PM:** Mr. Pizza to study the Athanasian Creed
- **September 10th 11:30 AM:** God's work, Our Hands celebration after the worship service
- **September 12th 3:00 PM:** World War II remembrance gathering in the church house
- **September 30th:** Deadline for ordering Memorial Garden Bricks

# NEXT WEEK!!!



**"God's work. Our hands." Sunday**



- We will have a potluck chicken dinner provided in Luther Hall with a work session following. We supply the chicken, you supply the sides & desserts!
- There will be a SPECIAL SURPRISE during the morning service.
- We need paperback books for soldiers and items for St. Anne's Outreach to make this project a success!

**St. Matthew Lutheran  
Glory To God  
Faithful Members**

Memorial Garden Bricks:  
Purchase a commemorative brick to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or graduation. You can also purchase one in honor or memory of a loved

one. Each brick purchased will become part the St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Memorial Garden. \$50 per brick. See Allena Sperry for more details! **DEADLINE TO ORDER IS SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**

**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

Kelly Peterson, Media Specialist

Lisa Pettit, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music

Sonja Metcalf, Parish Administrator

Penny Davis, Nursery Director