

# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Third Sunday after Epiphany  
January 26, 2025

*Jesus selects and reads the Scripture for the day. He begins to proclaim it by stating the title of his sermon. It sounds wonderful, and it is...(to be continued).*

## Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW) Setting 4, page 147

† 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. 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**

*"Arise, Your Light Has Come"*

**ELW #314**

Kyrie

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This Is the Feast

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Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, attending to your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Donna Doughty

**First Reading**

**Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10**

<sup>1</sup>All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the

LORD had given to Israel. <sup>2</sup>Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup>He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. <sup>5</sup>And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. <sup>6</sup>Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. <sup>8</sup>So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

<sup>9</sup>And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. <sup>10</sup>Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 19

Tone 5

<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glo-<sup>1</sup>ry of God,  
and the sky proclaims its<sup>1</sup> maker's handiwork.

<sup>2</sup>**One day tells its tale<sup>1</sup> to another,  
and one night imparts knowledge<sup>1</sup> to another.**

<sup>3</sup>Although they have no<sup>1</sup> words or language,  
and their voices<sup>1</sup> are not heard,

<sup>4</sup>**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends<sup>1</sup> of  
the world, where God has pitched a tent<sup>1</sup> for the sun.**

<sup>5</sup>It comes forth like a bridegroom out<sup>1</sup> of his chamber;  
it rejoices like a champion to<sup>1</sup> run its course.

<sup>6</sup>**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens  
and runs about to the end of<sup>1</sup> it again;  
nothing is hidden from its<sup>1</sup> burning heat.**

<sup>7</sup>The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re-<sup>1</sup>vives the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom<sup>1</sup> to the simple.

<sup>8</sup>**The statutes of the LORD are just and re-<sup>1</sup>joice the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light<sup>1</sup> to the eyes.**

<sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is clean and en-<sup>1</sup>dures forever;  
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous<sup>1</sup> altogether.

<sup>10</sup>**More to be desired are they than gold, more than<sup>1</sup> much fine gold,  
sweeter far than honey, than honey<sup>1</sup> in the comb.**

<sup>11</sup>By them also is your ser-<sup>1</sup>vant enlightened,  
and in keeping them there is<sup>1</sup> great reward.

<sup>12</sup>**Who can detect one's<sup>1</sup> own offenses?  
Cleanse me from my<sup>1</sup> secret faults.**

<sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion<sup>1</sup> over me;  
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a<sup>1</sup> great offense.

**<sup>14</sup>Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable<sup>1</sup> in your sight,  
O LORD, my strength and<sup>1</sup> my redeemer.**

## **Second Reading**

## **1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 19-20, 24b-31a**

<sup>12</sup>For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. <sup>19</sup>If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many members, yet one body. <sup>24b</sup>But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup>that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup>If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

<sup>27</sup>Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup>And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup>Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup>Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31a</sup>But strive for the greater gifts.

L: The word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**



Gospel Acclamation

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## **Gospel**

## **Luke 4:14-21**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 4th Chapter.

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

<sup>14</sup>Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup>He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

<sup>16</sup>When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup>and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup>"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,

<sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

<sup>20</sup>And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup>Then he began to say to them,

"Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

*Setting the Stage 2: Promise*

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards



Hymn of the Day

*"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"*

**ELW #802**

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**

### **Installation of Officers**

*You may sit, stand or kneel for the prayers.*

### **Prayers of Intercession**

A: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

A: As your word is opened in our midst, we give thanks for all who share scripture: for parents, grandparents, and godparents; teachers and mentors; deacons, pastors, bishops, and scholars. Inspire passion for the stories of faith. God of grace,

C: **hear our prayer.**

A: As heavens declare your glory and the sky proclaims your work, we lift our voices in awe of quarks and atoms, vast stars and solar systems. Guide us to speak on behalf of your handiwork. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: As Jesus proclaimed life and freedom in his community, energize communities and nations to eliminate poverty, engage in prison ministry and transformative justice, and envision new ways of working together for your promised reign. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: As your word and presence revive the soul, accompany all experiencing depression, anxiety, or eating disorders; be a source of strength for all affected by memory loss and their caregivers; draw near to all undergoing medical treatment or surgery. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: As we are made one body in baptism, strengthen all who serve. Renew and inspire all who use their gifts in this congregation, community, and the world. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

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

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: As our faith is strengthened by saints who have gone before us, we remember leaders of the early church, and beloved friends and family who have died especially Margarete Walsh and Patricia Bonaker. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

**C: Amen.**

## MEAL

Anthem *"We All Are One in Mission"*

Choir

*The gifts may be brought forward.*

Offering Prayer

A: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

**C: Amen.**

**+** Great Thanksgiving

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Holy, Holy, Holy

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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.

*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:** Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

**C: Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### **Blessing**

**Sending Hymn**

*"O Lord, Now Let Your Servant"*

**ELW #313**

### **Dismissal**

**A:** Go in peace. Christ is born!

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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

**In Memory of:**

*Dr. Van Grosse, 2002*

**READINGS AND PSALM**  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2025**

Jeremiah 1:4-10  
Psalm 71:1-6  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
Luke 4:21-30



*"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*

**January 19, 2025**  
**Second Sunday after Epiphany**

ATTENDANCE — 72

(IN-PERSON — 57, YOUTUBE - 15)

**OFFERING**

Benevolence	\$	3,320.00
Building	\$	0.00
Memorial	\$	50.00
Other	\$	200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,570.00</b>

***Save the Date***

- January 28th - 10:15 - Bible Study - Church House
- January 29th - 6:00 - Interfaith Bible Study - Luther Hall
- January 31st - 10:00 - Craf-Tea - Luther Hall
- January 26th - During Worship - Installation of 2025 Council
- February 9th - 11:30 - Tackle Hunger - Luther Hall

**Serving January 26, 2025**

Opener/Closer	Allena Sperry
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Katherine Kelly
Lector	Jaxson Gardner
Ushers	Jim Sperry
	Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Catherine Sayers
	Debby Ullman
Live Streaming	Matt Pettit

**Serving February 2, 2025**

Opener/Closer	Allena Sperry
Worship Assistant	Liz McGouirk
Communion Assistant	Raymond Lawton
Lector	Cecil McGouirk
Ushers	Sandy Craven
	Randy Craven
Altar Guild	Catherine Sayers
	Rose Johnson
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  
Bonaker Family  
Betty Davidson  
Myrna & Ken Hoag  
Mairetha & Bennie  
Jackson  
Sean Jeffery  
Marga Miller  
Charlotte Moore  
Traudel Mosely  
Terri Niederhammer  
Debby Owen  
Dorothy Redden  
Connie Sieg  
Allena Sperry

Carla Stickles  
Albert VanHousen II  
Harold Vinson  
James Anderson  
Roger Anderson  
Eric & Tinisha Bryant  
George Capps  
Jim Chappel  
Jean Clemmons  
Xavier Danguilan  
Penny Davis & Family  
Brandy Garnett  
Mike Gewin  
Moses Glidden  
Becky Goldsmith  
Estrella Gonzales  
Doris Grier  
Petra & Franklin  
Henderson  
Norma Kilby  
Ken Korn  
Emma Kump  
Melissa Lancheros  
Laura & Boyd Lester  
Robert Lowe  
Michelle Matthias  
Sandra McPeters  
Brady Meeks  
Tim Moore  
Nearhoof Family  
Angela Paul  
Vincent Pawlowski

Beth Price  
Mark Purushotham  
Bill Rahm  
Tiffany Richardson  
Dayna Ryan  
Shirley Scott  
Dou Shizhen  
Ricky Skinner  
Amanda Steinagel  
Charlie VanHousen  
Dawn VanHousen  
Martha Zimmerman

Israel  
Ukraine  
Gaza  
Lebanon  
Western North Carolina  
New Orleans  
Los Angeles

Beaute' Matrix  
5 Fourteen  
DQ  
Burger King  
Animal General Hospital  
Klose Kutz

## 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:**

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
|                            | Wynnton Neighborhood Network   |
| • 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 |
| • Safe House               | Sealed plastic utensils (take-out meals)   |
- Leave donations in the labeled containers in the Narthex between bathrooms.

**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.

**Remembrance Gathering:** Our quarterly Remembrance Gathering will be held on Tuesday, April 8th at 3:00 pm in the Church House. This will be a time to come together and share personal stories or recollections of someone else's experience of any conflicts or wars. For more information, please contact Zocia Barr at 706-330-1001.

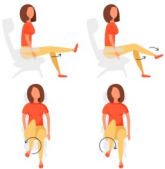
We had great participation and lots of fun at WNN care bag packing in January. We will be packing care bags at 9am, February 27, 2025 at St. Thomas Episcopal Church outreach center (back of church). Please let Allena Sperry know if you will be participating at [agsperry@bellsouth.net](mailto:agsperry@bellsouth.net) or 706-563-3107.

New Men's group meeting the 4th Thursday of each month beginning February 27th at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you there!

## January Mission Focus

January is our assigned Wynnton Neighborhood Network food collection month. We are collecting for WNN the following items:

- Canned Veggies: Sweet peas, corn, carrots, green beans, black beans
- Canned Meat: Chicken, ham, tuna
- Canned Fruit
- Spaghetti sauce and noodles
- Macaroni and cheese
- Canned tomato products
- Peanut butter and Jelly
- Soup
- Rice
- Cereals
- Monetary donations



Chair Aerobics is here! We will be meeting every Monday starting February 3rd at 11:00 AM in Luther Hall. This will be led by Terri Neiderhammer. Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers. If you need transportation, please contact Zocia Barr at (706) 330-1001.



Interfaith Bible Study meeting on January 29th and meeting each Wednesday thru February 19th. Micah: Words of Judgment, Words of Hope - Jewish and Christian Understandings. We hope to see you at 6:00 in Luther Hall for this study with Pastor Taylor and Rabbi Beth Schwartz.

James Tissot: Prophet Micah, 1896.  
Public Domain

# **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)

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*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