

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Fifth Sunday of Lent

April 6, 2025

Anointing is, among other things, for healing of the sick, conveyance of power, and sealing against evil.

At a meal to celebrate Lazarus' raising, Mary's final act of care for Jesus, doomed to die, is to anoint his feet with earthy nard for an earthly tomb. Jesus allows this care. How do we allow care from others for what must die in us?

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW) Setting 10, page 203

† 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

"As We Gather at Your Table"

ELW #522

Kyrie

Page 203

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

Creator God, you prepare a way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by what you are doing in us, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, 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

Katherine Kelly

First Reading

Isaiah 43:16-21

¹⁶Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹I am about to do a

new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ²⁰The wild animals
will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people ²¹the people whom I
formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 126

Tone 9

¹When the LORD restored the for-¹ tunes of Zion,
then were we like¹ those who dream.

²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with¹ shouts of
joy. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great¹
things for them."**

³The LORD has done great¹ things for us,
and we are¹ glad indeed.

⁴**Restore our for-¹ tunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses¹ of the Negeb.**

⁵Those who¹ sowed with tears
will reap with¹ songs of joy.

⁶**Those who go out weeping, carry-¹ ing the seed,
will come again with joy, shoulder-¹ ing their sheaves.**

Second Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:

⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of
Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a
persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because
of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing
value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of
all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be
found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law,
but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based
on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the
sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may
attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal;
but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own but this one thing I do:
forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on
toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Gospel Acclamation

Page 205b

Gospel

John 12:1-8

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 12th Chapter.

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

¹Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor? ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

The Anointing

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards



Hymn of the Day *"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"*

ELW #802

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: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

A: The church declares your praise, O God. Guide us in the example of Isaiah's imagination, Paul's transformed identity, and Mary's faith and devotion; that our lives, too, may be poured out in love as we trust in your promises. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: The earth declares your praise, O God. Make a way for the planet's future in the sea and the wilderness, the mountains and plains, the tundra and wetlands. Repair habitats and sustainable ecosystems on, above, and beneath the ground. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: The nations declare your praise, O God. Where religious differences divide, bring together those who worship you in the name of Jesus Christ and those who call to you with different names. Guide interreligious dialogue, that faith may unite rather than divide communities. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: The people declare your praise, O God. Restore those whose hope has been dampened through a health diagnosis, job or home loss, divorce, or death. Bring healing to those in need. May all who weep now sing songs of joy again. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: The gifts of the Spirit declare your praise, O God. We thank you for artists who proclaim the gospel. Inspire music, poetry, and images that proclaim what you are doing. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

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

C: receive our prayer.

A: The communion of saints declares your praise, O God. Giving thanks for those who have died, especially Margarete Walsh, Patricia Bonaker, Betty Davidson, Mike Regnier and Boyd Lester, we trust in the one who has made them his own: Christ Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

C: Amen.

MEAL

Solo

"Lord, Let Me Walk"

Pastor Taylor

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. .

C: Amen.



Great Thanksgiving

Page 206

Holy, Holy, Holy

Page 207

Lord's Prayer

"Our Father, who..."

Page 208

Lamb of God

Page 208

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: Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new.
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in your communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn

"Lead Me, Guide Me"

ELW #768

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Resist evil in the strength of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Lili Ritch, 2001



READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2025

Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Psalm 31:9-16
 Philippians 2:5-11
 Luke 23:1-49



*"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 30, 2025
4th Sunday of Lent

ATTENDANCE — 58
 (IN-PERSON— 43, YOUTUBE - 15)

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$	2,701.00
Building	\$	180.00
Memorial	\$	100.00
Other	\$	210.00
Total	\$	3,191.00

Save the Date

- April 7th- 11:00 - Chair Yoga - Luther Hall
- April 8th - 10:15 - Bible Study (bring lunch) - Church House
- April 9th - 5:30 - Wednesday Lenten Service
- April 10th - 5:00 - Council Meeting - Fellowship Hall
- April 11th - 10:00 - Craf-Tea - Luther Hall
- April 12th - 10:00 - Yard Sale Drop-off - Sieg Building
- Mon, Tues, Thurs, Friday - 5:30 - Online Evening Prayer

Serving April 6, 2025

Opener/Closer	Allena Sperry
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Donna Doughty
Lector	Bill Wallace
Ushers	Sandy Craven Randy Craven
Altar Guild	Rose Johnson Catherine Sayers
Live Streaming	Jaxson Gardner

Serving April 13, 2025

Opener/Closer	Katherine Kelly
Worship Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Communion Assistant	Raymond Lawton
Lector	Shannon Gardner
Ushers	Jim Sperry Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Terri Niederhammer Allena Sperry
Live Streaming	Matt Pettit

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
St Matthew
Congregational
Council
Laura Alexander
Carol Bingemann
Dave Bonaker
Matt Bonaker
Craven Family
Davidson Family
Myrna & Ken Hoag
Mairetha & Bennie
Jackson
Sean Jeffery
Marga Miller
Charlotte Moore
Traudel Mosely
Terri Niederhammer
Debby Owen
Dorothy Redden
Regnier Family

Connie Sieg
Allena Sperry
Carla Stickles
Harold Vinson
Eric & Tinisha Bryant
George Capps
Chappel Family
Jean Clemmons
Xavier Danguilan
Penny Davis & Family
Nancy Edmundson
Lynne Funck
Brandy Garnett
Mike Gewin
Moses Glidden
Becky Goldsmith
Estrella Gonzales
Sarah Goodman
Doris Grier
Petra & Franklin
Henderson
Norma Kilby
Ken Korn
Emma Kump
Melissa Lancheros
Laura Lester
Robert Lowe
Michelle Matthias
Sandra McPeters
Brady Meeks
Tim Moore
Moser Family

Nearhoof Family
Angela Paul
Vincent Pawlowski
Beth Price
Mark Purushotham
Bill Rahm
Tiffany Richardson
Ruocco Family
Dayna Ryan
Shirley Scott
Dou Shizhen
Ricky Skinner
Amanda Steinagel
Torrijos Family
Fred Turpin
Charlie VanHousen
Dawn VanHousen
Molly Wright
Pastor Rachel Zarnke
Martha Zimmerman

Israel
Ukraine
Gaza
Lebanon
Western North Carolina
Los Angeles

Days Inn
The Cell Plug
Enterprise
Guthrie's

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:

- Lion's Club: Wynnton Neighborhood Network
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: Feminine hygiene products, 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.

Men's Group: This group will meet Thursday, April 24th at 5:00 at Mr. Pizza.

Chair Yoga: We are meeting every Monday at 11:00 AM in Luther Hall. Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers.

March 26, 2025		
Wednesday Lenten Service		
ATTENDANCE — 30		
(IN-PERSON — 23, YOUTUBE - 7)		
OFFERING		
Benevolence	\$	150.00
Total	\$	150.00

Garden & Grounds work on March 22 was very well attended! Please take an opportunity to look around and see the great work that was accomplished readying our church for the Easter Season.

EASTER LILIES

We will be decorating our Sanctuary with Easter lilies for the Easter service, Sunday, April 20, 2025. You may purchase the lilies through the Altar Guild. Remembrances will be noted in our worship bulletin on Easter Sunday. If you wish to purchase a plant(s) for Easter, please complete this form and return to the Church Office or place in the offering plate. The cost of the plants is \$15.00 each. Make checks payable to the 'St. Matthew Altar Guild' and write 'lilies' on your check. Payment must be received at the time of the order. Orders are due by **Sunday, April 13, 2025.** Pick up an order form in the Narthex of the church or access a form on our website by clicking (hold down your Ctrl button as well) [here](#).

MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Wynnton Neighborhood Network is celebrating its 40th birthday in May! The network wants to share the celebration with the 555 clients that will be served food in May. They want to make a birthday celebration bag for each client.

Donations needed include:

Cake mix - white/yellow
Birthday plates - 8-16
Birthday candles - 8-16
9X13 or 2 9" round

Tub Frosting - vanilla/chocolate
Birthday Napkins - 8-16
Disposable cake pans - 1

Please place in Narthex. The collection deadline will be April 27th. Monetary donations accepted - please be sure to designate as WNN birthday bag. Thank you for helping WNN celebrate with our clients. If you have questions, contact Allena Sperry at 706-563-3107.



Lent Worship Schedule

LENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP

EVENING PRAYER

APRIL 9

5:30 PM

MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 17

7:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 18

7:00 PM

HOLY SATURDAY - APRIL 19 - 10:00 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

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

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