

# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Fourth Sunday of Lent  
March 10, 2024

## Holy Communion

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

† *Congregation stands as able*

## GATHERING

†

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

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**     *“The Word of God is source and seed”*

**ELW #506**

Kyrie

A: In peace, let us pray to the Lord

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

A: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

A: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

A: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

A: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: **Amen, amen.**

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, 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

Geri Regnier

### First Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,  
for God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim  
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

<sup>3</sup>gathering them in from the lands;  
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

<sup>17</sup>**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;  
through their sins they were afflicted.**

<sup>18</sup>They loathed all manner of food  
and drew near to death's door.

<sup>19</sup>**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD  
and you delivered them from their distress.**

<sup>20</sup>You sent forth your word and healed them  
and rescued them from the grave.

<sup>21</sup>**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love  
and your wonderful works for all people.**

<sup>22</sup>Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving  
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy. let them not get dominion  
over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great  
offense.

### Second Reading

Ephesians 2:1-10

<sup>1</sup>You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us once lived

among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else.

<sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

L: The word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## †Gospel

**John 3:14-21**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd Chapter.

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>14</sup>Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup>Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon *Turn...from Sinful Ways*

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

## Silence

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: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church,  
the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

A: Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster  
cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and  
ecumenical dialog. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing  
persecution, disaster, and war. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the earth's fragile  
habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse  
oceans and rivers. Make us good stewards of the earth. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who  
courageously witness to your liberating love. Free all people from the evils  
of racism, religious strife, and hatred. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Merciful God, your love heals. Care tenderly for all whose loved ones perished from pandemic disease in every nation. Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers. Relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another. Teach us to pray for our enemies. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

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

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Abiding God, your love saves. Those who died in the faith are made alive in Christ, especially Keandra Bashful, WJ Barrs and Eva Brown. We give thanks for your promise that we also will be raised to newness of life. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen**

## MEAL

*The gifts may be brought forward.*

Offering Prayer

A: Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

**C: Amen**

✠ Great Thanksgiving	Page 107
Holy, Holy, Holy-Spoken	Page 108
Anaphora	Page 111
Lord's Prayer "Our Father, who..."	Page 112

### Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond Amen*

† Prayer after Communion

A: Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

C: Amen

**SENDING**

**Blessing**

**Sending Hymn**

*“What wondrous love is this”*

**ELW #666**

**Dismissal**

A: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C: Thanks be to God.



**The Memorial Book Is Open Today to the Glory of God**

**In Memory of:**

*Frederic “Fred” Sieg, 2019*



**READINGS AND PSALM**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024**

Jeremiah 31:31-34  
 Psalm 51:1-12  
 Hebrews 5:5-10  
 John 12:20-33



*“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 3, 2024**

**Third Sunday of Lent**

ATTENDANCE — 58  
 (IN-PERSON— 50 , YOUTUBE - 8)

*Thankfully offered*

**OFFERING**

Benevolence	\$ 2,550.00
Building	\$ 160.00
Memorial	\$ 25.00
Other	\$ 295.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,030.00</b>

**February 28, 2024**

**Mid-Week Lenten Service**

ATTENDANCE — 16

**OFFERING**

Benevolence	\$ 285.00
Memorials	\$ 15.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 300.00</b>

**Serving March 10, 2024**

Opener/Closer	Lisa Pettit
Worship Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Communion Assistant	Katherine Kelly
Lector	Amy Hoag
Ushers	Matt Pettit
	Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Nancy Gates, Donna Doughty
	Geri Regnier
Live Streaming	Rose Johnson, Jaxson Gardner

**Serving March 17, 2024**

Opener/Closer	Rose Johnson
Worship Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Communion Assistant	Donna Doughty
Lector	Raymond Lawton
Ushers	Amanda Jeffery
	Sean Jeffery
Altar Guild	Allena Sperry
	Lisa Pettit
Live Streaming	Cecil McGouirk, 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  
Laura Alexander  
Carol Bingemann  
Dave Bonaker  
Pat Bonaker  
Betty Davidson  
Ken Hoag  
Myrna Hoag  
Bennie Jackson  
Mairetha Jackson  
Marga Miller  
Traudel Mosely  
Debby Owen  
Dorothy Redden  
Connie Sieg  
Joan Smith  
Carla Stickles

Albert VanHousen II  
Margarete Walsh  
Monika Wright  
Gary Anderson  
Judy Bultman  
George Capps  
Kyle Carter  
Jim Chappel  
Jean Clemmons  
Xavier Danguilan  
Brandy Garnett  
Becky Goldsmith  
Estrella Gonzales  
Doris Grier  
Petra Henderson  
Beverly Huckaby  
Norma Kilby  
Ken Korn  
Boyd Lester  
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

Maui  
Morrocco  
Israel  
Ukraine  
Gaza

El Carrizo  
Tasha’s Dance & Prep  
M. Bland Salon  
Bargain Furniture  
The Ellands Event Center  
Dollar General

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

## **Mission Outreach Opportunities:**

### **Mission Focus:**

St Anne's Outreach - collecting toiletries and Travel size toiletries. We always accept monetary donations.

- 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

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

**Remembrance Gathering:** Please come to the Remembrance Gathering Tuesday, March 12th at 3:00 PM in the Church House. The gathering is an open invitation to members of our congregation to come together and share personal stories or recollections of someone else's life. We began with stories of World War II and our goal for 2024 is to expand our sharing to include all wars and conflicts.

**Growing in Grace:** Meets every Friday from 9:00-11:00 AM in the Church House. God's grace is freely given to us. Join the group to learn to cultivate an attitude of grace in your daily life by learning about and adopting habits to move into a state of grace. Contact Beth Hoag at 706-604-8110 for more information.

## *Save the Date*

- **March 12th 10:30 AM** - Bible Study - Church House
- **March 12th 3:00 PM** - Remembrance Gathering - Church House
- **March 13th 5:30 PM** - Lenten Service
- **March 15th 9:00-11:00** - Growing in Grace - Church House



ordered.

It's time to order Easter Lilies for Easter. The Easter Lilies will decorate our sanctuary on Easter Sunday, March 31st. Please fill out the form you will find on the table in the Narthex. These forms need to be turned in by March 24th. It is \$15 per Easter Lily

## *Lent Worship Schedule*

**LENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP**  
*EVENING PRAYER*

**MARCH 13, 20**  
**5:30 P.M.**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
**MARCH 28**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
**MARCH 29**  
**7:00 PM**

# **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)

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