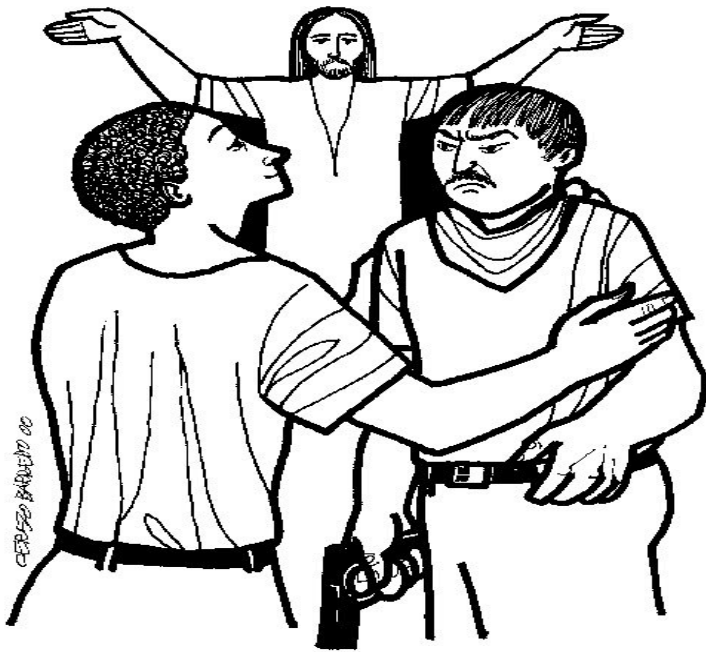


St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
February 23, 2025

Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.

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

"Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"

ELW #707

Kyrie

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This Is the Feast

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Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Donna Doughty

First Reading

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

³Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'"

¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

Tone 5

¹Do not be provoked by ¹ evildoers; do not be jealous of those ¹ who do wrong.

²**For they shall soon wither ¹ like the grass, and like the green grass ¹ fade away.**

³Put your trust in the LORD ¹ and do good; dwell in the land and ¹ find safe pasture.

⁴**Take delight ¹ in the LORD, who shall give you your ¹ heart's desire.**

⁵Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD, and see what ¹ God will do.

⁶**The LORD will make your vindication as clear ¹ as the light and the justice of your case like the ¹ noonday sun.**

⁷Be still before the LORD and wait ¹ patiently. Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in ¹ evil schemes.

⁸**Refrain from anger, leave ¹ rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads on- ¹ ly to evil.**

⁹For evildoers shall ¹ be cut off,
but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- ¹ sess the land.

¹⁰**In a little while the wicked shall ¹ be no more;
even if you search out their place, they will ¹ not be there.**

¹¹But the lowly shall pos- ¹ sess the land; they will delight in abun- ¹ dance of peace.

³⁹**But the deliverance of the righteous comes from ¹ you, O LORD;
you are their stronghold in ¹ time of trouble.**

⁴⁰You, O LORD, will help them and ¹ rescue them; you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you ¹ they seek refuge.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

³⁵But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And as

for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. ⁴²So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

✠ Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel

Luke 6:27-38

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 6th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁷"But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you. ³²"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. ³⁷"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Sermon on the Plain 2: Practices of disciples

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

✠ Hymn of the Day

"Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive"

ELW #605

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**

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: Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We pray for the victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of parish nursing and caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

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

C: hear our prayer.

A: We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us especially Margarete Walsh, Patricia Bonaker and Betty Davidson. May their lives in you provide a witness of your everlasting grace. 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

“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness“

Choir

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance of 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

"Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling"

ELW #608

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:

Rodger Dean Johnson, 2015



READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2025

Exodus 34:29-35
 Psalm 99
 2 Corinthians 3:12--4:2
 Luke 9:28-36



*"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*

February 16, 2025
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

ATTENDANCE —60
 (IN-PERSON— 36, YOUTUBE - 24)

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$	2,605.00
Building	\$	100.00
Memorial	\$	50.00
Other	\$	100.00
Total	\$	2,855.00

Save the Date

- February 23rd-11:30-Memorial Committee Meeting-Fellowship Hall
- February 24th - 11:00 - Chair Yoga - Luther Hall
- February 25th - 10:15 - Bible Study (bring lunch) - Church House
- February 26th - 6:00 - Interfaith Bible Study - Luther Hall
- February 28th - 10:00 - Craf-Tea - Luther Hall
- February 27th - 5:30 - Men's Group - Fellowship Hall
- March 4th - 5:30 - Shrove Tuesday - St. Thomas Episcopal Church
- March 5th - 5:30 - Ash Wednesday Service

Serving February 23, 2025

Opener/Closer	Lisa Pettit
Worship Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Communion Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Lector	Katherine Kelly
Ushers	Jim Sperry
	Ron Ullman
Altar Guild	Catherine Sayers
	Debby Ullman
Live Streaming	Matt Pettit

Serving March 2, 2025

Opener/Closer	Katherine Kelly
Worship Assistant	Dave & Matt Bonaker
Communion Assistant	Cecil McGouirk
Lector	Shannon Gardner
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

Matt Bonaker

Davidson Family

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

Eric & Tinisha Bryant

George Capps

Jim Chappel

Jean Clemmons

Xavier Danguilan

Penny Davis & Family

Lynne Funck

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

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

Martha Zimmerman

Israel

Ukraine

Gaza

Lebanon

Western North Carolina

New Orleans

Los Angeles

USPS

Peachtree Immediate Care

Hidden Lake Bottle Shop

Beauty Queen

Brewster's

Waffle House

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.

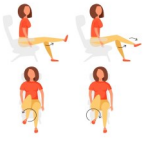
New Men's group meeting the 4th Thursday of each month beginning February 27th at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you there!



Interfaith Bible Study final meeting on February 26th on 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

Tackle Hunger was a great success with 50 in attendance, \$369 collected (WNN) recipient) and delicious food provided by the congregation. Thank you to all who participated in the Tackle Hunger mission as well as helping celebrate Pastor Taylor's installation and the February birthdays/anniversaries!



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

Shrove Tuesday: March 4, 2025 at 5:30 PM at St. Thomas Episcopal Church!

LENTEN CHALLENGE!

Lenten challenge begins Ash Wednesday! Here is your challenge: Each day of Lent, place an unwanted item in a box or bag for donation to our annual yard sale. Drop off dates for yard sale donations at the Sieg building from 10-noon are:

March 15th, April 12th, May 17th and June 7th.

Thank you for participating and good luck on the challenge!

Lent Worship Schedule

ASH WEDNESDAY

MARCH 5

5:30 P.M.

LENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP

EVENING PRAYER

MARCH 12, 19, 26

APRIL 2, 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