

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
October 22, 2023

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW) Setting 1, Page 98

† *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

"O God of mercy, God of light"

ELW #714

Kyrie

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Hymn of Praise

"Glory to God in the Highest"

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Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Donna Doughty

First Reading

Isaiah 45:1-7

¹Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: ²I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, ³I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. ⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. ⁷I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96:1-9

Tone 10

¹Sing to the LORD ¹a new song;
sing to the LORD, ¹all the earth.
²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name ¹of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from ¹day to day.**
³Declare God's glory a- ¹mong the nations
and God's wonders a- ¹mong all peoples.
⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly ¹to be praised,
more to be feared ¹than all gods.**
⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they ¹are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have ¹made the heavens.
⁶**Majesty and magnificence are ¹in your presence;
power and splendor are in your ¹sanctuary.**
⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families ¹of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon- ¹or and power.
⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the ¹holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts ¹of the LORD.**
⁹Worship the LORD in the beau- ¹ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, ¹all the earth.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit

and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

† Gospel Acclamation

“ Alleluia ”

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Gospel

Matthew 22:15-22

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 22nd Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it appropriate to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" ²¹They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Therefore, give back to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

“Giving Back”

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day

“Christ, be our light”

ELW #715

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: Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: Faithful God, your Spirit animates the church throughout the world and binds believers near and far into the body of Christ. Equip us for the work of faith, and enlarge our hearts for the labor of love. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Creating God, the sea roars, the earth rejoices, and the heavens are glad at the wonder of all you have made. Bless the work of ecologists and conservationists and all those who safeguard the riches of creation. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Sovereign God, your rule and authority is over the cosmos. As you once worked through the ruler Cyrus for the good of your people, accomplish your purposes through the work of elected leaders and public servants. Guide them with your wisdom and compassion. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Caring God, your arms enfold all who are lonely, oppressed, despairing, sick, and suffering. Pour out your abundant mercy on all whom this world has neglected, abandoned, and forgotten, that they may know your joy. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Almighty God, all our life belongs to you. When earthly idols threaten to lead your church astray, remind us that you alone are the source of our eternal hope. Direct the work of church treasurers, councils, and all how who manage financial matters. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

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

C: hear our prayer.

A: Everlasting God, the saints of every age have sung your praise and shared your word. We give you thanks for their witness and pray that we may join them as citizens of your unending kingdom. We especially remember Joyce Garver-Messenger, Anneliese Schwarting, Hans Salheiser, Bobby Wright, Joe Stewart, Christine Minor, and Rolene Stewart. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen

MEAL

Anthem

“As We Gather At Your Table”

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

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Holy, Holy, Holy

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Acclamation

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Amen

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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.

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

"Let justice flow like streams"

ELW #717

Dismissal

A: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The Memorial Book Is Open Today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Richard Mileham, 2006

READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 46
Romans 3:19-28
John 8:31-36



*"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*

October 15, 2023
Twentieth Sunday
after Pentecost

ATTENDANCE — 40
(IN-PERSON— 40, ZOOM - 0)

Thankfully offered

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 2,232.00
Building	\$.00
Memorial	\$.00
Other	\$ 810.00
Total	\$ 3,042.00

Serving today, October 22, 2023

Opener/Closer	Lisa Pettit
Crucifer	Ian Jeffery
Worship Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Communion Assistant	Cecil McGouirk
Lector	Liz McGouirk
Offering-bearer	Duncan Jeffery
Ushers	Connie Sieg Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Debby Ullman Catherine Sayers

Servers for Sunday, October 29, 2023

Opener/Closer	Donna Doughty
Crucifer	Ian Jeffery
Worship Assistant	Matt Bonaker
Communion Assistant	Liz McGouirk
Lector	Dave Bonaker
Offering-bearer	Duncan Jeffery
Ushers	Bill Wallace Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Rose Johnson Catherine Sayers

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
Strickland
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 Stickles
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
Petra Henderson
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

Libya
Maui
Morocco
Israel

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

Mission Outreach Opportunities:

- **FOCUS:** Operation Christmas Child
10/22-11/12 - List available in the Narthex
- 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

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

Athanasian Creed: Join us on Tuesdays at 6:00 PM at Mr. Pizza to study the Athanasian Creed and its meaning. **We will not meet on 24th of October as Pastor Taylor will be out of the office.**

Remembrance Gathering: A remembrance gathering will be held in the Church House, November 14th 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.

On call: Pastor Taylor will also be out of the office 10/23 thru 10/25. If there is a pastoral need, please call Rev. Grace Burton Edwards.

Save the Date

- October 26th 4:00 PM - Council Meeting in Church House
- October 28th - 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM - Fall Outdoor Cleanup
- October 29th 12:00 PM - Oktoberfest in Luther Hall
- November 12th 11:30 AM - Congregational Annual Meeting

Oktoberfest

In Luther Hall



**October
29th**

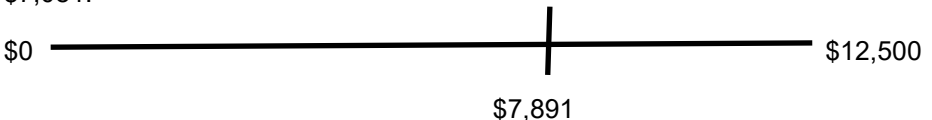
**12:00 pm
following church**

**See Sign-Up Sheet for
side dishes in Narthex
starting on
October 1, 2023.
Bratwurst and buns
provided!
Pettit family is providing
Sauerbraten.**



REACHING OUT TO THE WORLD

Installation of a streaming system was approved. The total estimated cost of \$12,500 will be funded by a special campaign over and above regular giving. Prayerfully consider giving generously to make this outreach program possible. You may designate your contribution in the OTHER area on your envelope or use a pew envelope. We are checking availability of Thrivent funds. Thank you to those who have already made contributions totaling \$7,081.



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

Office email: office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com

A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

Southeastern Synod

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