

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 9, 2023

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW) Setting 3, Page 138

† *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

"Jesus shall reign"

ELW #434

Kyrie

Page 138

Hymn of Praise

"Glory to God in the Highest"

Page 139

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Geri Regnier

First Reading

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

⁸The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills. ⁹My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice. ¹⁰My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away, ¹¹for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. ¹²The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. ¹³The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 145:8-14

⁸The LORD is gracious and full ¹of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in ¹steadfast love.
⁹**LORD, you are ¹good to all,
and your compassion is over ¹all your works.**
¹⁰All your works shall praise ¹you, O LORD,
and your faithful ¹ones shall bless you.
¹¹**They shall tell of the glory ¹of your kingdom
and speak ¹of your power,**
¹²that all people may know ¹of your power
and the glorious splendor ¹of your kingdom.
¹³**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;
your dominion endures through- ¹out all ages.
You, LORD, are faithful in all your words,
and loving in ¹all your works.**
¹⁴The Lord upholds all ¹those who fall
and lifts up those who ¹are bowed down.

Second Reading

Romans 7:15-25a

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

† Gospel Acclamation

“ Alleluia”

Page 142

Gospel

Matthew 11:25-30

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th Chapter.

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

²⁵At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Refreshment

Pastor Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day *“Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling”*

ELW #608

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: Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A: God of the covenant, you call ministers to proclaim your gospel of grace throughout the world. Inspire pastors, deacons, church musicians, and all ministers of your word as they carry out your work. Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of all creation, you reveal your goodness through all you have made: rivers and seas, plants and animals, and endangered species. Prosper the work of conservation organizations, botanical gardens, zoos, and wildlife sanctuaries. Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of the nations, you desire that all the peoples of the world live in peace. Guide government leaders at all levels—national, state/province, and local—to work for justice, mercy, and reconciliation. Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of compassion, you bring healing to those who are sick, consolation to those who are grieving, and well-being to those who are distraught. Send skilled caregivers to all in need, and make your presence known among all who suffer. Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of rejoicing, you have brought us together this day to worship around word and sacrament. Encourage children in their learning and growing, and watch over those who are absent today. Lead us all to places of renewal and refreshment. 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: God of all faithfulness, through the witness of the faithful departed you reveal love in action. Embolden us by their example to build up the beloved community in all the contexts we encounter. We especially remember Joyce Garver-Messenger, Anneliese Schwarting, Hans Salheiser, Bobby Wright, Joe Stewart, and Christine Minor. Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen

MEAL

Anthem "Have Thine Own Way Lord"

Jordi Banitt - Flute Solo

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

† Great Thanksgiving	Page 144
Holy, Holy, Holy	Page 144
Acclamation	Page 145
Amen	Page 145
Lord's Prayer "Our Father, who..."	Page 145
Lamb of God	Page 146

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: We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

SENDING

Blessing

† Sending Hymn

"Lord of all hopefulness"

ELW #765

Dismissal

A: Alleluia! Go in peace. Serve the Risen Christ.

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

The Memorial Book Is Open Today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Richard Harrison, 2000

READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2023

Isaiah 55:10-13
Psalm 65:9-13
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9



"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

July 2, 2023

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

ATTENDANCE — 43
(IN-PERSON— 41 , ZOOM - 2)

Thankfully offered

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 2,490.00
Building *	\$ 440.00
Memorial	\$ 0.00
Other	\$ 140.00
Total	\$3,070.00

*Designated for:
Capital Improvements

Serving today, July 9, 2023

Opener/Closer	Bill Wallace
Crucifer	Ian Jeffery
Worship Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Communion Assistant	Katherine Kelly
Lector	Bill Wallace
Offering-bearer	Duncan Jeffery
Ushers	Bill Wallace Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Geri Regnier Donna Doughty

Servers for Sunday, July 16, 2023

Opener/Closer	Donna Doughty
Crucifer	Ian Jeffery
Worship Assistants	Liz McGouirk & Raymond Lawton
Communion Assistant	Raymond Lawton
Lector	Cecil McGouirk
Offering-bearer	Duncan Jeffery
Ushers	Evelyn Pettit Matt Pettit
Altar Guild	Allena Sperry Lisa 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
Presiding Bishop
Elizabeth Eaton
Bishop Kevin Strick-
land
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 Stickle
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
Beverly Huckaby
Norma Kilby
Ken Korn
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

Deadline for bulletins is **Tuesday 10:00 a.m.** prior to the Sunday.
Deadline for August newsletter is July 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. Lisa Pettit is the contact person for this class.

Mission Outreach Opportunities:

- 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.
July 1st - September 3.
- Paperbacks For soldiers

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

Yard sale: There will be no yard sale this year. If you have donations, please contact Allena Sperry at 706-563-3107 or email at agsperry@bellsouth.net for more information.

The Binding of Isaac: Join us on Wednesday, July 5th at 6:30 PM, in Luther Hall for our continued study. Rabbi Beth Schwartz and Pastor Taylor are leading a study on the story of the binding of Isaac (Genesis 22) and its aftermath. This is an interfaith and ecumenical experience, with folks from St. Matthew, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, New Hope Presbyterian Church and the Jewish congregations in Columbus especially invited.

Vacation Bible School: Join us for VBS July 17-19th. More information to come!

First Remembrance Gathering: A remembrance gathering will be held at the church, July 11th at 3:00 PM at the Church House. We will be sharing your own or family stories related to World War II. Please feel free to invite others to attend!

Questions or concerns, contact Zocia Barr at (706)330-1001.

**St. Matthew Lutheran
Glory To God
Faithful Members**

Memorial Garden Bricks:
Purchase a commemorative brick to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or graduation. You can also purchase one in honor or memory of a loved one. Each brick purchased will

become part the St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Memorial Garden. See Allena Sperry for more details!

DEADLINE TO ORDER IS SEPTEMBER 30, 2023



*Patriotic Picnic
at
St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church
Luther Hall*

July 30th 12:00 PM

Please join us for a cookout after church in Luther Hall.

*Hot Dogs and buns provided.
Please sign up for side dishes!*

*Please contact Lisa Pettit at
Lisa.pettit@yahoo.com*

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.org

A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

Southeastern Synod

www.stmatthewcolumbusga.org

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