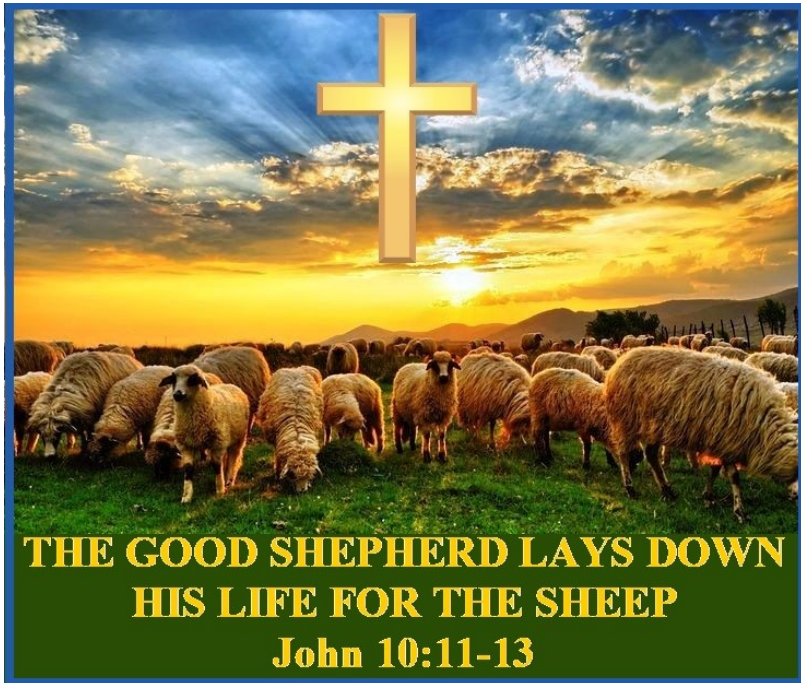


St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW) Setting 3, Page 138

† Congregation stands as able

GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof



P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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

“Christ the Lord is ris’n today”

ELW #369

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,

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole.

Make us one with you, 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

Rose Johnson

First Reading

Zechariah 10

¹Ask rain from the LORD in the season of the spring rain, from the LORD who makes the storm clouds, who gives showers of rain to you, the vegetation in the field to everyone. ²For the teraphim utter nonsense, and the diviners see lies; the dreamers tell false dreams, and give empty consolation. Therefore the people wander like sheep; they suffer for lack of a shepherd. ³My anger is hot against the shepherds, and I will punish the leaders; for the LORD of hosts cares for his flock, the house of Judah, and will make them like his proud war-horse. ⁴Out of them shall come the cornerstone, out of them the tent peg, out of them the battle bow, out of them every commander. ⁵Together they shall be like warriors in battle, trampling the foe in the mud of the streets; they shall fight, for the LORD is with them, and they shall put to shame the riders on horses. ⁶I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph. I will bring them back because I have compassion on them, and they shall be as though I had not rejected them; for I am the LORD their God and I will answer them. ⁷Then the people of Ephraim shall become like warriors, and their hearts shall be glad as with wine. Their children shall see it and rejoice, their hearts shall exult in the LORD. ⁸I will signal for them and gather them in, for I have redeemed them, and they shall be as numerous as they were before. ⁹Though I scattered them among the nations, yet in far countries they shall remember me, and they shall rear their children and return. ¹⁰I will bring them home from the land of Egypt, and gather them from Assyria; I will bring them to the land of Gilead and to Lebanon, until there is no room for them. ¹¹They shall pass through the sea of distress, and the waves of the sea shall be struck down, and all the depths of the Nile dried up. The pride of Assyria shall be laid low, and the scepter of Egypt shall depart. ¹²I will make them strong in the LORD, and they shall walk in his name, says the LORD.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7

Tone 6

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph ¹ like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- ¹ on the cherubim.
²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, ¹ and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and ¹ come to help us.
³Restore ¹ us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we ¹ shall be saved.
⁴**O LORD ¹ God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your ¹ people pray?
⁵You have fed them with the ¹ bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of ¹ tears to drink.
⁶**You have made us the derision ¹ of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh ¹ us to scorn.
⁷Restore us, O ¹ God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we ¹ shall be saved.

Second Reading

1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

† Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia”

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Gospel

John 10:11-18

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th Chapter.

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

[Jesus said:] ¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Resurrected...To Shepherd

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day

“Have no fear, little flock”

ELW #764

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: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray
for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

A: Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and
one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship
and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in
the gospel. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire
scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people
entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better
stewards of the world around us. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

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: Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

C: Amen

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn "Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!"

ELW#385

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:

Inna Zebreski, 2009

**READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024**

Exodus 19:1-6
Psalm 118:19-25
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8



“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

April 14, 2024

3rd Sunday of Easter

ATTENDANCE — 67
(IN-PERSON— 57, YOUTUBE - 10)

Thankfully offered

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 2,050.00
Building	\$ 260.00
Memorial	\$ 150.00
Other	\$ 200.00
Total	\$ 2,660.00

Serving April 21, 2024

Opener/Closer	Lisa Pettit
Worship Assistant	Rachel Zarnke
Communion Assistant	Geri Regnier
Lector	Bill Wallace
Ushers	Amanda Jeffery Sean Jeffery
Altar Guild	Rose Johnson Lisa Pettit
Live Streaming	Cecil McGouirk, Jaxson Gardner

Serving April 28, 2024

Opener/Closer	Donna Doughty
Worship Assistant	Liz McGouirk/Raymond Lawton
Communion Assistant	Raymond Lawton
Lector	Cecil McGouirk
Ushers	Katherine Kelly Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Debby Ullman Catherine Sayers
Live Streaming	Sean Jeffery/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
Rich Curtis
Xavier Danguilan
Penny Davis & Family
Brandy Garnett
Becky Goldsmith
Estrella Gonzales
Doris Grier
Petra Henderson
Beverly Huckaby
Norma Kilby
Ken Korn
Boyd Lester
Laura Lester
Valerie Karol Louder
Robert Lowe
Michelle Matthias
Brady Meeks
Tim Moore
Gary Nearhoof
Louie Niederhammer
Kimberly O'Malley
Michael Owen
Angela Paul

Vincent Pawlowski
Tom Pettit
Mark Purushotham
Kenneth Ramming
Dwight Redmond
Tiffany Richardson
Dayna Ryan
Yulia Savitska
Shirley Scott
Ricky Skinner
Betty Townsend
Sandra Tuggle
Charlie VanHousen
Dawn VanHousen
Martha Zimmerman

Maui
Morrocco
Israel
Ukraine
Gaza

Octapharma Plasma
Master-Kleen
Kamoree's Beauty Salon
Title Max
Broken Tarot Tattoo &
Piercing
JD Wings

Deadline for bulletins is **Tuesday 10:00 a.m.** prior to the Sunday.
Deadline for June newsletter is May 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, May 14th 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

- **May 1st 6:30 PM** - Interfaith Bible Study - Luther Hall
- **May 5th 11:30 AM** - Birthday Celebration - Fellowship Hall
- **May 8th 6:30 PM** - Interfaith Bible Study - Luther Hall
- **May 14th 3:00 PM** - Remembrance Gathering - Church House
- **May 15th 6:30 PM** - Interfaith Bible Study - Luther Hall
- **May 16th 5:00 PM** - Council Meeting - Church House
- **June 15th 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM** - Yard Sale

SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD
2024 Assembly



**2024 Southeastern Synod Assembly
May 31 - June 2, 2024
Columbus Convention & Trade Center**

For more information, go to our website at:
<https://www.stmatthewcolumbusga.com/comingevents>

Our interfaith Bible study in the Ten Commandments with Rabbi Beth Schwartz will meet May 1, 8, and 15, at 6:30 PM in Luther Hall.

We need your help with the worship service on Sundays in the areas of Live Streaming, Altar Guild, Ushers, Nursery Helper and Chairman for Coffee Cart. If you are interested in helping in any of these areas, please see Rose Johnson or Cecil McGouirk.

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

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