

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



24th Sunday after Pentecost
November 12, 2023

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

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

"Sing with all the saints in glory"

ELW #426

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 God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Geri Regnier

First Reading

Amos 5:18-24

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; ¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. ²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? ²¹I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. ²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. ²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. ²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 70

Tone 3

¹Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver me;

O LORD, make | haste to help me.

²**Let those who seek my life be put to shame | and confounded;**

let those who take pleasure in my misfortune

draw back and | be disgraced.

³Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat | over me

turn back because | of their shame.

⁴**Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;**

let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great | is the LORD!"

⁵But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick- | ly, O God.

You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, | do not tarry.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever.

¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

✠ Gospel Acclamation

" Alleluia"

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P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th Chapter.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹²But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Getting Ready, Part 1

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day

"Rejoice, rejoice, believers"

ELW #244

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: Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A: O God for whom we wait, come quickly to your people, bring your salvation, and center us in hope found only in you. Deepen our faith through meaningful worship and send us out with your justice and truth. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: O God for whom we watch, we glimpse your power in rushing water and your beauty in the darkening night. Restore this creation, and provide clean water to all people and animals. Save us from foolish, wasteful living. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: O God for whom we long, let justice roll down like waters on all nations. Bless citizens with wise leaders; save your children from war. We pray for the veterans of this community, that they are supported and loved. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: O God, in whom we hope, we pray for all who are in need. Provide for those who experience homelessness or hunger, support the under- or unemployed, and comfort any who are suffering this day. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: O God for whom we listen, inspire the music ministry of our congregation. Fill our worship with songs to proclaim your greatness. Help us to sing and dance with joy and tell boldly of your salvation. 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: O God, in whom we remain, we remember our loved ones who have died and now live in you. Bring comfort and the assurance of new life to all who grieve. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

MEAL

Anthem

"I Received the Living God"

Choir

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

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: Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

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:

Cornelia Hollifield, 2000

READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2023

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm 90:1-8
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30



*"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*

November 5, 2023

All Saints' Sunday

ATTENDANCE — 44
(IN-PERSON— 44, ZOOM - 0)

Thankfully offered

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 3,309.15
Building	\$ 100.00
Memorial	\$ 0.00
Other	\$ 1,674.00
Total	\$ 5,083.15

Serving today, November 12, 2023

Opener/Closer	Allena Sperry
Crucifer	Ian Jeffery
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Katherine Kelly
Lector	Katherine Kelly
Offering-bearer	Duncan Jeffery
Ushers	Amanda Jeffery Sean Jeffery
Altar Guild	Geri Regnier Donna Doughty

Servers for Sunday, November 19, 2023

Opener/Closer	Rose Johnson
Crucifer	Ian Jeffery
Worship Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Communion Assistant	Raymond Lawton
Lector	Ian & Sean Jeffery
Offering-bearer	Duncan Jeffery
Ushers	Jim Sperry Bill Wallace
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
Strickland
Southeastern Synod
Staff
Pastor Taylor Burton
Edwards
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
Ukraine
Gaza

Mr. Pizza
Quality Inn
Smoke Buddy's
Days Inn
Enterprise
Comfort Inn
Octapharma Plasma
Bi-City DUI School

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.

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.



Please help us with Operation Christmas Child! There is a list in the Narthex of items needed. We will, on November 14th at 12:00 in Luther Hall, be packing the boxes for our 18th year! Please donate and please joins us for the shoebox packing!

Save the Date

- November 12th 11:30 AM - Congregational Annual Meeting
- November 12th 6:00 PM - Unity Service - Temple Israel
- November 14th 12:00 - Operation Christmas Child Packing - Luther Hall
- November 14th 3:00 PM - Remembrance Gathering-Church House



PLEASE

COME

Unity Service at Temple Israel tonight at 6:00 PM. The Very Reverend Dr. Grace Burton Edwards will be preaching. This is sponsored by Wynnton Neighborhood Network.



ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Annual Congregational Meeting

When: Sunday, November 12, 2023 TODAY!!!!
Following worship

Where: In the sanctuary
All voting members of the church (adult members and confirmed youth) are encouraged to attend this meeting to discuss the business of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church.

REACHING OUT TO THE WORLD

A big THANK YOU to all the generous contributors to the special streaming program. Gifts from last Sunday brought the total contributions to \$13,300. A signed contract for professional equipment, tech support, and the first payment were given to Columbus Tape & Video this week. Additional contributions are appreciated to provide a nice cabinet to house the equipment. That cost is not known presently. Installation should begin in a month.



Thank You

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