

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 20, 2023

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

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 *"Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing"*

ELW #886

Kyrie

Page 138

Hymn of Praise

"Glory to God in the Highest"

Page 139

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you.

Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and

constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus

Christ, our Savior and Lord.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Rose Johnson

First Reading

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

¹Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. ⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant—⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. ⁸Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 67

¹May God be merciful to ¹ us and bless us;
may the light of God's face ¹ shine upon us.
²**Let your way be known ¹ upon earth,
your saving health a- ¹ mong all nations.**
³Let the peoples praise ¹ you, O God;
let all the ¹ peoples praise you.
⁴**Let the nations be glad and ¹ sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the na- ¹ tions on earth.**
⁵Let the peoples praise ¹ you, O God;
let all the ¹ peoples praise you.
⁶**The earth has brought ¹ forth its increase;
God, our own ¹ God, has blessed us.**
⁷May God ¹ give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth ¹ stand in awe.

Second Reading

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

[Paul writes:] ¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ²God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. ²⁹for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel**Matthew 15:10-20**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 15th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁰[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: ¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

“In the ruins”

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

†Hymn of the Day*“My faith looks up to thee”***ELW #759**

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: O God, your Spirit gathers the church. Shepherd those who are newly baptized and newly ordained in the proclamation of the gospel, breathe life into ecumenical and inter-religious endeavors, and support missionaries throughout the globe. Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You created the earth and all its inhabitants and declared it good. Clean polluted skies, seas, and soil, provide nourishment to plants and animals, and make us aware of our impact on the environment. Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You call leaders to bridge differences and practice generosity. Inspire all in authority to protect people in harm's way, deliver those in bondage, support fair elections, provide care for military personnel and veterans, and show mercy to those for whom they have responsibility. Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You provide for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Embrace people who have been rejected because of difference, heal trauma caused by racism or prejudice, shield any who are persecuted, console the dying, and heal the sick. Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

A: O God, you journey with us in all of life's transitions. Guide those preparing for baptism, marriage, and retirement. Guide our church council and committees in their visioning and ministry. Safeguard those who travel. 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: We give you thanks for those who now rest from their labors especially Joyce Garver-Messenger, Anneliese Schwarting, Hans Salheiser, Bobby Wright, Joe Stewart, Christine Minor, and Rolene Stewart. Motivate us by their lives of dedication to the gospel, until that day when we join with them in our eternal home. 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

“When we eat this bread”

Choir

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 *“Rise, shine, you people!”*

ELW #665

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:

Gary Stickles, 2022

READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2023

Isaiah 51:1-6

Psalms 138

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

*"The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet,
it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of*



August 13, 2023

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

ATTENDANCE — 48

(IN-PERSON— 47, ZOOM - 1)

Thankfully offered

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 1,665.00
Building	\$ 160.00
Memorial	\$ 200.00
Other	\$ 0.00
Total	\$ 2,025.00

Serving today, August 20, 2023

Opener/Closer	Rose Johnson
Crucifer	Ian Jeffery
Worship Assistants	Liz McGouirk, Raymond Lawton
Communion Assistant	Rachel Zarnke
Lector	Cecil McGouirk
Offering-bearer	Duncan Jeffery
Ushers	Bill Wallace Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Allena Sperry Catherine Sayers

Servers for Sunday, August 27, 2023

Opener/Closer	Bill Wallace
Crucifer	Ian Jeffery
Worship Assistant	Matt Bonaker
Communion Assistant	Raymond Lawton
Lector	Dave Bonaker
Offering-bearer	Duncan Jeffery
Ushers	Katherine Kelly Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Debby Ullman 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 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
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

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

NOTE: The Tuesday morning Bible Study will meet next Wednesday, August 23rd at 10:45 at Catherine Sayers' home, 2921 Christine Rd, Columbus, GA.

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.

Athanasian Creed: Join us on Tuesdays, beginning September 5th 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, September 12th 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.

If you have a prayer request, please visit our website: <https://www.stmatthewcolumbusga.com> to enter that request. You will see the red button on the top right of the webpage. Click that button to be taken to a form where you would submit your prayer request.



- We will have a potluck chicken dinner provided in Luther Hall with a work session following. We supply the chicken, you supply the sides & desserts!
- There will be a SPECIAL SURPRISE during the morning service.
- We need paperback books for soldiers and items for St. Anne’s Outreach to make this project a success!

**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. \$50 per brick. See Allena Sperry for more details! **DEADLINE TO ORDER IS SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**

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