

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



First Sunday of Lent

February 18, 2024

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW) Setting 1, Page 98

† Congregation stands as able

GATHERING

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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

"Forty Days and Forty Nights"

Insert

Kyrie

A: In peace, let us pray to the Lord

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

A: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

A: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

A: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

A: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: **Amen, amen.**

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. C: **Amen**

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Rose Johnson

First Reading

Genesis 9:8-17

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." ¹²God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." ¹⁷God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25:1-10

¹To ¹you, O LORD,

I lift ¹up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be ¹put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph ¹over me.**

³Let none who look to you be ¹put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame ¹who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ¹ways, O LORD,
and teach ¹me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your ¹truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all ¹the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- ¹sion and love,
for they are from ¹everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and ¹my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love
and for the sake of your good- ¹ness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and up- ¹right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners ¹in your way.**

⁹You lead the low- ¹ly in justice
and teach the low- ¹ly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast ¹love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your ¹testimonies.**

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

†Gospel

Mark 1:9-15

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near, repent, and believe in the good news."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Turn...from the Devil

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

Silence

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 stand, sit, or kneel for prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

A: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church,
the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

A: God our truth, the ark of your church has room for many expressions of
faith. We give thanks for voices that challenge and awaken your people.
Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God our maker, you remember your covenant with the earth and its
inhabitants. Rescue communities and creatures hurting from natural
disasters. Preserve species and habitats endangered by human
carelessness and disregard. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God our light, you know our weakness. Free all who govern from the
temptations of power. Sustain all who work for human rights in every nation.
Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God our help, you care for your beloved children. Comfort all who are grieving, ill, afraid, in pain, or in despair. Feed hungry people living in food deserts. Protect any at risk from exploitation and abuse. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God our home, you gather your people. Grant us health and safety as we assemble. Keep us mindful of any who are homebound, hospitalized, convalescing, or traveling. 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 our hope, you promise eternal life to your beloved children. We remember with gratitude those who have lived and died in faith, especially WJ Barrs and Eva Brown. Grant that we may also dwell with you in everlasting peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen

MEAL

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen

† Great Thanksgiving-Spoken Only Page 107

Holy, Holy, Holy-Spoken Only Page 108

Anaphora-Spoken Only Page 111

Lord's Prayer "Our Father, who..." Page 112

Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond Amen

†Prayer after Communion

A: Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf
to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

C: Amen

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn

“Bless now, O God, the journey”

ELW #326

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



The Memorial Book Is Open Today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

John Robert Poe, 2004



READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
 Psalm 22:23-31
 Romans 4:13-25
 Mark 8:31-38



“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

February 11, 2024

Transfiguration of our Lord

ATTENDANCE — 60
 (IN-PERSON— 45 , YOUTUBE - 15)

Thankfully offered

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 1,395.00
Building	\$ 100.00
Memorial	\$ 100.00
Other	\$ 100.00
Total	\$ 1,695.00

Serving February 18, 2024

Opener/Closer	Zocia Barr
Worship Assistant	Liz McGouirk/Raymond Lawton
Communion Assistant	Raymond Lawton
Lector	Cecil McGouirk
Ushers	Bill Wallace Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Donna Doughty Catherine Sayers
Live Streaming	Jaxson Gardner/Rose Johnson

Serving February 25, 2024

Opener/Closer	Allena Sperry
Worship Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Communion Assistant	Geri Regnier
Lector	Bill Wallace
Ushers	Bill Wallace Katherine Kelly
Altar Guild	Allena Sperry Debbie Ullman
Live Streaming	Cecil McGouirk

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
Keandra Bashful
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 Stickle
Albert VanHousen II
Margarete Walsh
Monika Wright
Gary Anderson
Judy Bultman
George Capps
Kyle Carter
Jim Chappel
Jean Clemmons
Xavier Danguilan
Brandy Garnett
Becky Goldsmith
Estrella Gonzales
Doris Grier
Petra Henderson
Beverly Huckaby
Norma Kilby
Ken Korn
Boyd Lester
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

Maui
Morrocco
Israel
Ukraine
Gaza

AMG Financial
Angel's Nails
Acceptance Auto
Kee J's
Phuong's Tailor Shop
Y&J Health

Deadline for bulletins is **Tuesday 10:00 a.m.** prior to the Sunday.
Deadline for March newsletter is February 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:** Tackle Hunger - collecting canned goods for Brown Bag of Columbus which provides supplemental groceries to low income elderly age 62 or over.
- 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.

Remembrance Gathering: Please come to the Remembrance Gathering Tuesday, March 12th 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.

Please see Zocia Barr in the Narthex, before or after the service, to ensure that the information we have for you in the Directory is correct. We would like to validate name, address, phone number and email. Thank you for your help in keeping our records current.



Save the Date

- February 18th 12:00 PM - Tackle Hunger - Luther Hall
- February 21st 5:30 PM - Lenten Service
- February 23rd 9:00-11:00 AM - Growing in Grace - Church House
- February 25th After service - Commitment service for Eva Brown
- March 2nd 9:00-1:00 - Spring cleanup of the grounds
- March 9th 9:00-1:00 - Spring cleanup of the grounds



Garden and grounds spring cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, March 2nd & 9th from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Please bring tools you need for work. If you are unable to participate in the cleanup, please consider making a donation for pine straw or spring plants. Place donation in a pew envelope and mark for gardens. Thank you for your assistance. Please contact Allena Sperry for questions at 706-563-3107
--The Garden Keepers

Lent Worship Schedule

LENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP
EVENING PRAYER

FEBRUARY 21, 28

MARCH 6, 13, 20

5:30 P.M.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

MARCH 28

7:00 P.M.

GOOD FRIDAY

MARCH 29

7:00 PM

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