

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Sixth Sunday after Epiphany February 16, 2025

Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the "blessed are" and the "woe to" are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW) Setting 4, page 147

† Congregation stands as able

GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof



P. Blessed be God, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit.

C. And blessed be God's kingdom now and forever. Amen.

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, the Very Thought of You"

ELW #754

Kyrie

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This Is the Feast

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Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Rose Johnson

First Reading

Jeremiah 17:5-10

⁵Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

⁶They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is in the LORD.

⁸They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green;

in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it?

¹⁰I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 1

Tone 5

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel¹ of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats¹ of the scornful!

²**Their delight is in the law¹ of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching¹ day and night.**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that¹ do not wither; everything they¹ do shall prosper.

⁴**It is not so¹ with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind¹ blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when¹ judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council¹ of the righteous.

⁶**For the LORD knows the way¹ of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall¹ be destroyed.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. and so you have come to believe.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.



Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel

Luke 6:17-26

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 6th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁷[Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

"Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

²²"Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.

²³Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

²⁵"Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

"Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Sermon on the Plain 1: Blessings & Woes

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

✠ Hymn of the Day

"When the Poor Ones"

ELW #725

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

You may sit, stand or kneel for the prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

A: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A: Blessed is your church transformed by your Spirit. Give us courage to proclaim to all people the promises made true in the death and resurrection of Christ. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Blessed is creation. As earth experiences destruction from harmful practices and climate change, give us courage to help bring about its restoration. Encourage those who work in forestry to be a voice for the hidden places of creation and provide skills for its conservation. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Blessed are the nations. We pray for presidents, prime ministers, and leaders of nations. Grant that their courage will not run dry in the face of challenge, but that they will delight in the fountain of your righteousness. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Blessed are those in need. Give to all facing illness wise and caring doctors, nurses, and therapists. Draw close to those who feel far from you or who are suffering in any way. Provide an extra measure of your grace and love. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Blessed is this congregation. Like a tree planted by streams of water, we are nourished by faith in you. Provide courage in times that feel dry, trusting that you sustain us in many ways. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For all those who have asked us to pray for them...

C: hear our prayer.

A: Blessed are those saints who now rest in your peace especially Margarete Walsh and Patricia Bonaker. Through lives of both sorrow and joy, challenge and triumph, they provide witness of faith in all times. May their lives be a witness to the living. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

C: Amen.

MEAL

Anthem *"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"* Choir

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance of the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

C: **Amen.**

† Great Thanksgiving Page 152

Holy, Holy, Holy Page 153

Lord's Prayer "Our Father, who..." Page 154

Lamb of God Page 154

Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

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: Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn *"We Know That Christ Is Raised"* **ELW #449**

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Christ is born!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Alberta Loney, 2016



HAPPY
February!
BIRTHDAY

1 SHANNON GARDNER
3 BENNIE JACKSON, JR.
4 WILLIAM KLEIN
10 MADELYN PETERSON
11 MARIETHA JACKSON
12 ZOCIA BARR

12 MONIKA HARRISON
15 ADAM SCHWARTING
16 KATHARINA BURNS
20 MATT BONAKER
21 SANDY CRAVEN
24 CHARLOTTE OWEN

Shrove Tuesday



St Thomas Episcopal Church
5:30 PM, MARCH 4, 2025

READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025

Genesis 45:3-11, 15
 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
 Luke 6:27-38



*"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 9, 2025
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

ATTENDANCE — 75

(IN-PERSON— 59, YOUTUBE - 16)

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$	2,110.00
Building	\$	100.00
Memorial	\$	100.00
Other	\$	519.00
Total	\$	2,829.00

Save the Date

- February 17th - 11:00 - Chair Aerobics - Luther Hall
- February 18th - 10:15 - Bible Study - Church House
- February 19th - 6:00 - Interfaith Bible Study - Luther Hall
- February 21st - 10:00 - Craf-Tea - Luther Hall
- February 20th - 5:00 - Council Meeting - Fellowship Hall
- February 27th - 9:00 - WNN-Pack Care Bags at
 St. Thomas Episcopal Outreach Center
- February 27th - 5:30 - Men's Group - Fellowship Hall
- March 4th - 5:30 - Shrove Tuesday - St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Serving February 16, 2025

Opener/Closer	Zocia Barr/Rose Johnson
Worship Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Communion Assistant	Raymond Lawton
Lector	Amy Hoag
Ushers	Jim Sperry
	Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Allena Sperry
	Rose Johnson
Live Streaming	Cecil McGouirk

Serving February 23, 2025

Opener/Closer	Lisa Pettit
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Lector	Katherine Kelly
Ushers	Jim Sperry
	Ron Ullman
Altar Guild	Catherine Sayers
	Debby Ullman
Live Streaming	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
St Matthew
Congregational
Council
Laura Alexander
Carol Bingemann
Dave Bonaker
Matt Bonaker
Betty Davidson
Myrna & Ken Hoag
Mairetha & Bennie
Jackson
Sean Jeffery
Marga Miller
Charlotte Moore
Traudel Mosely
Terri Niederhammer
Debby Owen
Dorothy Redden
Connie Sieg
Allena Sperry

Carla Stickles
Albert VanHousen II
Harold Vinson
Eric & Tinisha Bryant
George Capps
Jim Chappel
Jean Clemmons
Xavier Danguilan
Penny Davis & Family
Lynne Funck
Brandy Garnett
Mike Gewin
Moses Glidden
Becky Goldsmith
Estrella Gonzales
Doris Grier
Petra & Franklin
Henderson
Norma Kilby
Ken Korn
Emma Kump
Melissa Lancheros
Laura & Boyd Lester
Robert Lowe
Michelle Matthias
Sandra McPeters
Brady Meeks
Tim Moore
Nearhoof Family
Angela Paul
Vincent Pawlowski
Beth Price

Mark Purushotham
Bill Rahm
Tiffany Richardson
Dayna Ryan
Shirley Scott
Dou Shizhen
Ricky Skinner
Amanda Steinagel
Torrijos Family
Fred Turpin
Charlie VanHousen
Dawn VanHousen
Molly Wright
Martha Zimmerman

Israel
Ukraine
Gaza
Lebanon
Western North Carolina
New Orleans
Los Angeles

Acceptance Auto
Phuong's Tailor Shop
Walgreen's
Angel's Nails
Y & J Health
Hidden Lake Grocery

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 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 6 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:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| | Wynnton Neighborhood Network |
| • 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 |
| • Safe House | Sealed plastic utensils (take-out meals) |

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

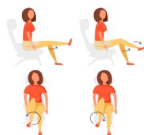
Craf-Tea: This group will meet Fridays 10:00-12:00 PM in Luther Hall. If you enjoy crafts and tea, this group is for you! Please see Beth Hoag for more information.

New Men's group meeting the 4th Thursday of each month beginning February 27th at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you there!



Interfaith Bible Study meeting on February 19th and meeting each Wednesday thru February 26th. Micah: Words of Judgment, Words of Hope - Jewish and Christian Understandings. We hope to see you at 6:00 in Luther Hall for this study with Pastor Taylor and Rabbi Beth Schwartz.

James Tissot: Prophet Micah, 1896.
Public Domain



Chair Yoga is here! We are meeting every Monday at 11:00 AM in Luther Hall. This is led by Terri Neiderhammer. Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers. If you need transportation, please contact Zocia Barr at (706) 330-1001.

Tackle Hunger was a great success with 50 in attendance, \$369 collected (WNN) recipient) and delicious food provided by the congregation. Thank you to all who participated in the Tackle Hunger mission as well as helping celebrate Pastor Taylor's installation and the February birthdays/anniversaries!

The carpet in the Narthex will be shampooed on Monday, February 17th and needs a couple of days to dry. Please do not enter the sanctuary from Monday the 17th thru Wednesday the 19th. Thank you for your cooperation.

LENTEN CHALLENGE!

Lenten challenge begins Ash Wednesday! Here is your challenge: Each day of Lent, place an unwanted item in a box or bag for donation to our annual yard sale. Drop off dates for yard sale donations at the Sieg building from 10-noon are:
March 15th, April 12th, May 17th and June 7th.
Thank you for participating and good luck on the challenge!

Lent Worship Schedule

ASH WEDNESDAY

MARCH 5

5:30 P.M.

LENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP

EVENING PRAYER

MARCH 12, 19, 26

APRIL 2, 9

5:30 P.M.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 17

7:00 P.M.

GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 18

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

Phone: (765) 602-1426

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