

# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Third Sunday of Lent  
March 3, 2024

## Holy Communion

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

† *Congregation stands as able*

## GATHERING

†

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 is made the sure foundation”*

**ELW #645**

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, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only 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

Katherine Kelly

## First Reading

Exodus 20:1-17

<sup>1</sup>Then God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup>I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup>you shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup>You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup>You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup>But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

<sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup>You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup>You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup>You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 19

<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glo-<sup>1</sup>ry of God,  
and the sky proclaims its<sup>1</sup> maker's handiwork.

<sup>2</sup>**One day tells its tale<sup>1</sup> to another,  
and one night imparts knowledge<sup>1</sup> to another.**

<sup>3</sup>Although they have no<sup>1</sup> words or language,  
and their voices<sup>1</sup> are not heard,

<sup>4</sup>**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends<sup>1</sup> of  
the world, where God has pitched a tent<sup>1</sup> for the sun.**

<sup>5</sup>It comes forth like a bridegroom out<sup>1</sup> of his chamber;  
it rejoices like a champion to<sup>1</sup> run its course.

<sup>6</sup>**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to  
the end of<sup>1</sup> it again; nothing is hidden from its<sup>1</sup> burning heat.**

<sup>7</sup>The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re-<sup>l</sup>vives the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom<sup>l</sup> to the simple.

**<sup>8</sup>The statutes of the LORD are just and re-<sup>l</sup>joice the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light<sup>l</sup> to the eyes.**

<sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is clean and en-<sup>l</sup>dures forever;  
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous<sup>l</sup> altogether.

**<sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold, more than<sup>l</sup> much fine gold,  
sweeter far than honey, than honey<sup>l</sup> in the comb.**

<sup>11</sup>By them also is your ser-<sup>l</sup>vant enlightened,  
and in keeping them there is<sup>l</sup> great reward.

**<sup>12</sup>Who can detect one's<sup>l</sup> own offenses?  
Cleanse me from my<sup>l</sup> secret faults.**

<sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;  
let them not get dominion<sup>l</sup> over me;  
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a<sup>l</sup> great offense.

**<sup>14</sup>Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable<sup>l</sup>  
in your sight, O LORD, my strength and<sup>l</sup> my redeemer.**

## Second Reading

## 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup>For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,  
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,  
"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of  
this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

<sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom,  
God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who  
believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim  
Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to  
those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and  
the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and  
God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## † Gospel

## John 2:13-22

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 2nd Chapter.

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

<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the  
temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money  
changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup>Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them  
out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of  
the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>He told those who were  
selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's  
house a marketplace!" <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for  
your house will consume me." <sup>18</sup>The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you  
show us for doing this?" <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in

three days I will raise it up." <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon *Turn...from the World, Part 2*

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 sit, stand or kneel for the 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: You alone are God. We thank you for the gift of sabbath rest. Awaken the church to the mystery of your presence and give us glad hearts as we receive the good news of your deliverance. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You renew creation. Drive out those who would make the earth a marketplace. Protect rainforests, mountaintops, oceans, and wilderness areas from commercial exploitation. Unite nations, policymakers, and businesses in efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You judge the nations. We pray for an end to war and strife in every land. Strengthen international efforts to negotiate peace and provide humanitarian aid to people fleeing from conflict. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You bring healing and hope. We give thanks for physicians, nurses, researchers, therapists, and public health workers who prevent and treat illness. We pray for any who are sick. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You abide with your people. Sustain any in this community undergoing life transitions: marriage, divorce, childbirth, adoption, moving, graduation, employment change, or a death in the family. We pray for those preparing for baptism. 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: You bring life from death. We remember our loved ones who have died, especially Keandra Bashful, WJ Barrs and Eva Brown, confident that they have new life in you. May we trust that nothing can separate us from your love. 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 Page 107

Holy, Holy, Holy-Spoken Page 108

Anaphora 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 "When I survey the wondrous cross" ELW #803

### 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:**

*Steven Charles Davidson, 2016*



**READINGS AND PSALM  
SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024**

Numbers 21:4-9  
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
Ephesians 2:1-10  
John 3:14-21



*“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 25, 2024  
Second Sunday of Lent**

ATTENDANCE — 65  
(IN-PERSON— 57 , YOUTUBE - 8)

*Thankfully offered*

**OFFERING**

Benevolence	\$ 3,183.00
Building	\$ 230.00
Memorial	\$ 0.00
Other	\$ 220.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,633.00</b>

**February 21, 2024  
Mid-Week Lenten Service**

ATTENDANCE — 16

**OFFERING**

Benevolence	\$ 115.00
Other	\$ 25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 140.00</b>

**Serving March 3, 2024**

Opener/Closer	Katherine Kelly
Worship Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Communion Assistant	Rachel Zarnke
Lector	Geri Regnier
Ushers	Sandy Craven Randy Craven
Altar Guild	Zach F., Rose Johnson Catherine Sayers
Live Streaming	Sean Jeffery/Cecil McGouirk

**Serving March 10, 2024**

Opener/Closer	Lisa Pettit
Worship Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Communion Assistant	Katherine Kelly
Lector	Amy Hoag
Ushers	Matt Pettit Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Nancy Gates, Donna Doughty, Geri Regnier
Live Streaming	Rose Johnson, Jaxson Gardner



# *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  
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

Hidden Lake Bottle Shop  
Waffle House  
Vance Brooks Funeral  
Service  
E & S Clothing  
Striffler Hamby Funeral  
Service  
One Financial Service

Deadline for bulletins is **Tuesday 10:00 a.m.** prior to the Sunday.  
Deadline for April newsletter is March 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, 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 check the directory, located on the table outside the Sacristy, to ensure that the information we have for you 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*

- **March 3rd After service** - Birthday Celebration
- **March 5th 10:30 AM** - Bible Study - Church House
- **March 6th 5:30 PM** - Lenten Service
- **March 8th 9:00-11:00** - Growing in Grace - Church House
- **March 9th 9:00-1:00** - Spring cleanup of the grounds
- **March 12th 3:00 PM** - Remembrance Gathering - Church House



Garden and grounds spring cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, March 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

**WHAT A TACKLE!!!** Tackle Hunger potluck was enjoyed by 53 people with great food and fellowship. Donations at the potluck totaled \$126. This will be added to other donations that have been received throughout the month. Thank you so much to everyone who donated to Brown Bag of Columbus!



ordered.

It's time to order Easter Lilies for Easter. The Easter Lilies will decorate our sanctuary on Easter Sunday, March 31st. Please fill out the form you will find on the table in the Narthex. These forms need to be turned in by March 24th. It is \$15 per Easter Lily

## *Lent Worship Schedule*

**LENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP**  
*EVENING PRAYER*

**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](mailto:twbe@liturgyfolks.com)

Office email: [office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com](mailto:office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com)

*A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,*

*Southeastern Synod*

[www.stmatthewcolumbusga.com](http://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