

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Second Sunday of Lent
February 25, 2024

† *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 *“Take up your cross, the Savior said”*

ELW #667

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,

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, 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

Donna Doughty

First Reading

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:23-31

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's ¹line, give glory.
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off- ¹spring of Israel.

²⁴**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither is the LORD's face ¹hidden from them;
but when they cry out, ¹the LORD hears them.**

²⁵From you comes my praise in the ¹great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who ¹fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat ¹and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise!
May your hearts ¹live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn ¹to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow ¹before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs ¹to the LORD,
who rules o- ¹ver the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow ¹down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead,
shall kneel be- ¹fore the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall ¹serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to genera- ¹tions to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people ¹yet unborn,
saying to them, "The ¹LORD has acted!"

Second Reading

Romans 4:13-25

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

†Gospel

Mark 8:31-38

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 8th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."
³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

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: We turn to you for meaning, holy God. Nurture in your children the gifts of the Spirit poured out in baptism and let the mind of Christ guide the church.

Give wisdom and discernment to our bishops, pastors, deacons, teachers, and leaders. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We turn to you for renewal. Save lives and ecosystems threatened by pollution and a changing climate. Cleanse the earth's waters and restore the soil. Preserve rainforests, deserts, and wildlife, that generations to come may cherish your creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We turn to you for justice. Uphold the worth and dignity of every person, especially any who experience hatred and rejection because of gender, ability, sexual orientation, color, ethnicity, or religion. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We turn to you for healing. Send compassionate helpers to any who suffer because of war and violence. Shelter unhoused people, befriend those who are lonely, bring hope to any in despair, and console the bereaved. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We turn to you for purpose. Remind us of your faithfulness to this congregation. Increase our trust in your guidance and keep us near the cross. Grant that our acts of service will express Christ's sacrificial love. 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 turn to you for peace. We honor the saints who lived in service to others, especially WJ Barrs and Eva Brown. Inspire us by their example until you gather us into your kingdom. 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 "Will you come and follow me" **ELW #798**

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:

Rodger Dean Johnson, 2015



**READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024**

Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22



“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 18, 2024
First Sunday of Lent**

ATTENDANCE — 69
(IN-PERSON— 58 , YOUTUBE - 11)

Thankfully offered

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 3,546.15
Building	\$ 160.00
Memorial	\$ 0.00
Other	\$ 205.00
Total	\$ 3,911.15

February 14, 2024

Ash Wednesday

ATTENDANCE — 28

Thankfully offered

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 195.00
Total	\$ 195.00

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

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 Jefferey/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

Walgreen's
Hidden Lake Grocery
USPS
Beauty Queen
Peachtree Immediate Care
Brewster's

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

- **February 25th After service** - Commitment service for Eva Brown
- **February 28th 5:30 PM** - Lenten Service
- **March 1st 9:00-11:00** - Growing in Grace - Church House
- **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

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

FEBRUARY 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