

# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost  
August 13, 2023

*Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.*

## 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**

*"Evening and morning"*

**ELW #761**

Kyrie

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Hymn of Praise

"Glory to God in the Highest"

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Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

# PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Geri Regnier

## First Reading

1 Kings 19:9-18

<sup>9</sup>At [Horeb, the mount of God,] [Elijah] came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" <sup>10</sup>He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." <sup>11</sup>He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; <sup>12</sup>and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. <sup>13</sup>When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" <sup>14</sup>He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." <sup>15</sup>Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. <sup>16</sup>Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. <sup>17</sup>Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. <sup>18</sup>Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 85:8-13

<sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people  
and to those who turn their | hearts to you.  
<sup>9</sup>**Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,**  
**that your glory may dwell | in our land.**  
<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;  
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.  
<sup>11</sup>**Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,**  
**and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.**  
<sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,  
and our land will | yield its increase.  
<sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD**  
**and shall prepare for | God a pathway.**

## Second Reading

Romans 10:5-15

<sup>5</sup>Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." <sup>6</sup>But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) <sup>7</sup>or 'Who will descend into the abyss?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). <sup>8</sup>But what does it say? "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup>because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. <sup>11</sup>The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." <sup>12</sup>For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup>For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." <sup>14</sup>But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? <sup>15</sup>And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

L: The word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

† Gospel Acclamation

"Alleluia"

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## Gospel

Matthew 14:22-33

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 14th Chapter.

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

<sup>22</sup>[Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee,] while he dismissed the crowds. <sup>23</sup>And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup>but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. <sup>25</sup>And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. <sup>26</sup>But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup>But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." <sup>28</sup>Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." <sup>29</sup>He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup>But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" <sup>31</sup>Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" <sup>32</sup>When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. <sup>33</sup>And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

"On the run"

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

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: God of grace and faith, your faithfulness is never-ending, and your righteousness becomes ours through Christ Jesus. Send the church to proclaim the gospel both near and far, in church buildings and on street corners, in person and through digital means. Hear us, O God,

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of sky and sea, the plants, animals, mountains, and plains proclaim your glory. Prosper the work of ecologists as they teach us new ways to care for the environment. Bring relief to areas recovering from natural disasters. Hear us, O God,

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of peace and justice, you call us to live as your beloved community throughout the world. Instill in local, regional, national, and global political and civic leaders a desire to work for the well-being of all people. Hear us, O God,

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of care and compassion, you bring assurance when we are afraid. Bring calm to any who are anxious or fearful. Bless the work of therapists, nurses, and other health care providers. Comfort all who grieve and soothe any who are sick . Hear us, O God,

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of wonder, you accompany us in both joys and sorrows. We pray for children and teachers preparing for a new school year. Make your presence known in our work and play, in lively conversation and in quiet rest. 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 of new life, you send people to renew both church and society. We give you thanks for their lives of faithful service especially Joyce Garver-Messenger, Anneliese Schwarting, Hans Salheiser, Bobby Wright, Joe Stewart, Christine Minor, and Rolene Stewart, as examples of following your call. 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 peace like a river"*

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      *"My life flows on in endless song"*      **ELW #763**

**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:**

*Gisela Clemens, 2022*

**READINGS AND PSALM**  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2023**

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8  
Psalm 67  
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32  
Matthew 15:10-20



*"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*

**August 6, 2023**

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

ATTENDANCE — 50  
(IN-PERSON— 50, ZOOM - 0)

*Thankfully offered*

**OFFERING**

Benevolence	\$ 3,348.65
Building	\$ 107.50
Memorial	\$ 100.00
Other	\$ 140.00
Capital	
Improvement	\$ 25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,721.15</b>

**Serving today, August 13, 2023**

Opener/Closer	Carla Stickles
Crucifer	Ian Jeffery
Worship Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Communion Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Lectors	Ian & Sean Jeffery
Offering-bearer	Duncan Jeffery
Ushers	Connie Sieg Matt Pettit
Altar Guild	Geri Regnier Donna Doughty

**Servers for Sunday, 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



## *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 Stickles  
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.

## **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.

**The Binding of Isaac:** Join us on Wednesday, August 16th at 6:30 PM, in Luther Hall for our continued study. Rabbi Beth Schwartz and Pastor Taylor are leading a study on the story of the binding of Isaac (Genesis 22) and its aftermath. This is an interfaith and ecumenical experience, with folks from St. Matthew, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, New Hope Presbyterian Church and the Jewish congregations in Columbus especially invited.

**Remembrance Gathering:** A remembrance gathering will be held in the Church House, August 15th at 3:00 PM (the one on August 8th was cancelled due to weather) 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.



We have a new website: <https://www.stmatthewcolumbusga.com>

We also have a new email address [office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com](mailto:office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com). You can also continue to send emails to [st130@bellsouth.net](mailto:st130@bellsouth.net).

These look very similar to our prior email address and web address, but it has changed from .org to .com.

Please keep in mind that this website is still evolving. Many, many thanks to Lawrence (Red) Mosely for his meticulous care of our prior website over the years.

We would love to hear your feedback on the new website. Again, keep in mind there are still some sections such as the Feedback page, and Giving Page that will be coming.



- 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](mailto:twbe@liturgyfolks.com)

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

*Southeastern Synod*

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