

# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
October 8, 2023

*In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.*

## 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**

*"Lord our God, with praise we come"*

**ELW #730**

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,

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

# PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Geri Regnier

## First Reading

Isaiah 5:1-7

<sup>1</sup>Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. <sup>2</sup>He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. <sup>3</sup>And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. <sup>4</sup>What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? <sup>5</sup>And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. <sup>6</sup>I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. <sup>7</sup>For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 80:7-15

Tone 6

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O <sup>1</sup>God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we <sup>1</sup>shall be saved.  
<sup>8</sup>**You have brought a vine <sup>1</sup>out of Egypt;**  
**you cast out the nations and <sup>1</sup>planted it.**  
<sup>9</sup>You cleared the <sup>1</sup>ground for it;  
it took root and <sup>1</sup>filled the land.  
<sup>10</sup>**The mountains were covered <sup>1</sup>by its shadow**  
**and the towering cedar trees <sup>1</sup>by its boughs.**  
<sup>11</sup>You stretched out its tendrils <sup>1</sup>to the sea  
and its branches <sup>1</sup>to the river.  
<sup>12</sup>**Why have you broken <sup>1</sup>down its wall,**  
**so that all who pass by pluck <sup>1</sup>off its grapes?**  
<sup>13</sup>The wild boar of the forest has <sup>1</sup>ravaged it,  
and the beasts of the field have <sup>1</sup>grazed upon it.  
<sup>14</sup>**Turn now, O <sup>1</sup>God of hosts,**  
**look <sup>1</sup>down from heaven;**  
<sup>15</sup>behold and <sup>1</sup>tend this vine;  
preserve what your right <sup>1</sup>hand has planted.

## Second Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] <sup>4b</sup>If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. <sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing

value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ<sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.<sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death,<sup>11</sup> if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.<sup>13</sup> Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,<sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

L: The word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

† Gospel Acclamation

“ Alleluia”

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**Gospel**

**Matthew 21:33-46**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21st Chapter.

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

[Jesus said to the people:]<sup>33</sup> Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country.<sup>34</sup> When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce.<sup>35</sup> But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another.<sup>36</sup> Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way.<sup>37</sup> Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.'<sup>38</sup> But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.'<sup>39</sup> So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.<sup>40</sup> Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?'<sup>41</sup> They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."<sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?"<sup>43</sup> Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom.<sup>44</sup> The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."<sup>45</sup> When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them.<sup>46</sup> They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

“Lamenting”

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: Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

A: God of all grace, you are the source of life and joy. Strengthen the resolve of your church throughout the world that together we press on toward the goal of your heavenly call in Jesus Christ. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: God of all creation, you plant and nourish the earth as your own precious vineyard. Bless fields and orchards and the hands of those who labor in them, that your people are fed with an abundant harvest of good fruit. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: God of all the earth, you desire peace and justice between nations and peoples. Guide leaders of nations, states, provinces, and cities, that they faithfully govern your people with wisdom, integrity, and compassion. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: God of all compassion, in Christ, you lovingly poured yourself out like wine for your people. Have mercy on all who mourn, who struggle with their mental health, who cry out for justice, who hunger, and all in any need  
God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: God of all steadfastness, you set Christ as the cornerstone and foundation of the church. Build up this congregation as living stones, that it stands in the community as a witness to your enduring faithfulness and love. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

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

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: God of all hope, the saints who came before us lived and died with their hearts fixed on you, especially Joyce Garver-Messenger, Anneliese Schwarting, Hans Salheiser, Bobby Wright, Joe Stewart, Christine Minor, and Rolene Stewart. We give you thanks for their faithful witness, and we wait with hope for the great day when we join their voices in praise. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen**

## MEAL

Anthem                      "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"                      Choir

*The gifts may be brought forward.*

Offering Prayer

A: God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**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: Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: **Amen**

## **SENDING**

### **Blessing**

**Sending Hymn**                      *“O God, our help in ages past”*                      **ELW #632**

### **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:**

*Sister Judy Jones, 2022*

**READINGS AND PSALM**  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023**

Isaiah 25:1-9  
Psalm 23  
Philippians 4:1-9  
Matthew 22:1-14



*"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*

**October 1, 2023**  
**Eighteenth Sunday**  
**after Pentecost**

ATTENDANCE — 53  
(IN-PERSON — 51, ZOOM - 2)

*Thankfully offered*

**OFFERING**

Benevolence	\$ 4,230.00
Building	\$ 260.00
Memorial	\$ 225.00
Other	\$ 2,900.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,615.00</b>

**Serving today, October 8, 2023**

Opener/Closer	Carla Stickles
Crucifer	Ian Jeffery
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Raymond Lawton
Lector	Bill Wallace
Offering-bearer	Duncan Jeffery
Ushers	Amanda Jeffery Matt & Evelyn Pettit
Altar Guild	Geri Regnier Donna Doughty

**Servers for Sunday, October 15, 2023**

Opener/Closer	Bill Wallace
Crucifer	Ian Jeffery
Worship Assistant	Donna Doughty
Communion Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Lector	Raymond Lawton
Offering-bearer	Duncan Jeffery
Ushers	Bill Wallace Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Allena Sperry Lisa 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  
Presiding Bishop  
Elizabeth Eaton  
Bishop Kevin  
Strickland  
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  
Petra Henderson  
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

Gateway Church  
Pathway Worship Center  
Bi-City Driving School  
Menzie Dance Company  
Sunset Finance  
Frankie's Hair Design  
Diamond Kutz

Libya  
Maui  
Morrocco

Deadline for bulletins is **Tuesday 10:00 a.m.** prior to the Sunday.  
Deadline for November newsletter is October 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.

## **Mission Outreach Opportunities:**

- **FOCUS:** Operation Christmas Child  
10/22-11/12 - List available in the Narthex
- 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.

**Athanasian Creed:** Join us on Tuesdays at 6:00 PM at Mr. Pizza to study the Athanasian Creed and its meaning. We will **not** meet on the 17th or 24th of October as Pastor Taylor will be out of the office.

**Remembrance Gathering:** A remembrance gathering will be held in the Church House, October 10th at 2:00 PM. 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.

**On Call:** Pastor Taylor will be out of the country from October 12th thru October 19th. In his absence, if there is a pastoral need, please call Rachel Zarnke at (815) 708-4039. Pastor Taylor will also be out of the office 10/23 thru 10/25. If there is a pastoral need, please call Rev. Grace Burton Edwards.

## Save the Date

- **October 10th 3:00 PM:** World War II remembrance gathering in the church house
- **October 21st 9:00 AM-12:00 PM:** Outdoor campus fall cleanup
- **October 29th 12:00 PM -** Oktoberfest in Luther Hall

# Oktoberfest

## In Luther Hall



**October  
29th**

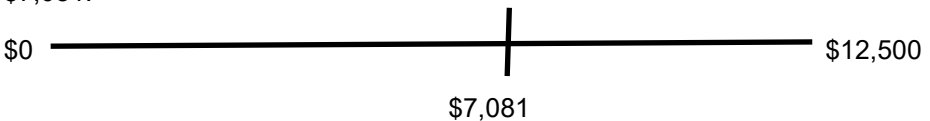
**12:00 pm  
following church**

**See Sign-Up Sheet for  
side dishes in Narthex  
starting on  
October 1, 2023.  
Bratwurst and buns  
provided!  
Pettit family is providing  
Sauerbraten.**



### REACHING OUT TO THE WORLD

Installation of a streaming system was approved. The total estimated cost of \$12,500 will be funded by a special campaign over and above regular giving. Prayerfully consider giving generously to make this outreach program possible. You may designate your contribution in the OTHER area on your envelope or use a pew envelope. We are checking availability of Thrivent funds. Thank you to those who have already made contributions totaling \$7,081.



**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)

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)

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