

# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



## Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026

In today's gospel the resurrected Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Death is destroyed! Alleluia!

## Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW Setting 3, page 138)

† Congregation stands as able

## GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof



P: Alleluia! Christ is resurrected!

C: **He is resurrected indeed! Alleluia! (3X)**

P: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

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    *“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!”*    **ELW # 385**

Kyrie    Page 138

This is the Feast    Page 140

Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt; may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ’s blessing, 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    Amy Hoag

**First Reading**    **Exodus 15:1-11, 19-21**

<sup>1</sup> [Then] Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: “I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the

sea.<sup>2</sup> The LORD is my strength and my might, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him; my father's God, and I will exalt him.  
<sup>3</sup> The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name.<sup>4</sup> Pharaoh's chariots and his army he cast into the sea; his elite officers were sunk in the Red Sea.<sup>5</sup> The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone.<sup>6</sup> Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power—your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy.<sup>7</sup> In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your adversaries; you sent out your fury; it consumed them like stubble.<sup>8</sup> At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up; the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.<sup>9</sup> The enemy said, 'I will pursue; I will overtake; I will divide the spoil; my desire shall have its fill of them. I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.'<sup>10</sup> You blew with your wind; the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters.<sup>11</sup> Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, doing wonders?"<sup>19</sup> When the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his chariot drivers went into the sea, the LORD brought back the waters of the sea upon them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground.<sup>20</sup> Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing.<sup>21</sup> And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 111

Tone 10

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with <sup>1</sup> my whole heart,  
in the assembly of the upright, in the <sup>1</sup> congregation.

<sup>2</sup> **Great are your <sup>1</sup> works, O LORD,  
pondered by all who de- <sup>1</sup> light in them.**

<sup>3</sup> Majesty and splendor <sup>1</sup> mark your deeds,  
and your righteousness en- <sup>1</sup> dures forever.

<sup>4</sup> **You cause your wonders to <sup>1</sup> be remembered;  
you are gracious and full <sup>1</sup> of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup> You give food to <sup>1</sup> those who fear you,  
remembering forev- <sup>1</sup> er your covenant.

<sup>6</sup> **You have shown your people the power <sup>1</sup> of your works  
in giving them the lands <sup>1</sup> of the nations.**

<sup>7</sup> The works of your hands are faithful- <sup>1</sup> ness and justice;  
all of your pre- <sup>1</sup> cepts are sure.

<sup>8</sup> **They stand fast forev- <sup>1</sup> er and ever,  
because they are done in <sup>1</sup> truth and equity.**

<sup>9</sup> You sent redemption to your people and commanded your cove- <sup>1</sup> nant forever;  
holy and awesome <sup>1</sup> is your name.

<sup>10</sup> **The fear of the LORD is the begin- <sup>1</sup> ning of wisdom;  
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise en- <sup>1</sup>  
dures forever.**

## Second Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup> Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

L: The word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**



Gospel Acclamation

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## Gospel

John 20:19-31

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

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

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the religious authorities, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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



### 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,  
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 the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A brief silence.*

A: Almighty God, you give life to the dead and call into existence things that do not exist. Breathe your Spirit upon us, that our faith may be renewed day by day. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Maker of heaven and earth, your mercies are new every morning. Open us to the wonders of creation, from the beauty of flowers to the complexity of subatomic particles. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: God of peace, in every place where conflict rages, sow seeds of calm and openness to reconciliation. Strengthen the resolve of leaders and citizens to work for peace in their nations. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Healing God, come alongside all who are doubting, fearful, or suffering in any way. Reveal to them your presence and assure them of the inheritance you have prepared for them. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Giver of joy, let this assembly be a place of genuine love and mutual affection. Deepen our care for one another and help us to embody your forgiving and sacrificial love. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

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

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Eternal One, we give thanks for saints who were faithful unto death and have joined the church triumphant. Inspire us by their witness and bring us with them into your glorious presence. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**C: Amen.**

## MEAL

Offertory Hymn

*"O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing"*

**ELW #386**

*The gifts may be brought forward.*

Offering Prayer

A: Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,

**C: Amen.**

† Great Thanksgiving	See Insert
Holy, Holy, Holy	Page 144
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.  
*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:** Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING**

Blessing

**Sending Hymn**      *"Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing"*      **ELW #389**

**Dismissal**

**A:** Alleluia! Go forth in the power of the resurrected Christ.

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God**

**In Memory of:**

*Agnes Mundy, 2008*

**READINGS AND PSALM  
SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026**

Isaiah 51:1-6  
Psalm 34:1-10  
1 Peter 1:17-23  
Luke 24:13-35



*"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*

**April 5, 2026  
Easter Sunday**

ATTENDANCE — 132  
(IN-PERSON— 83, YOUTUBE - 49  
2026 BUDGET-\$185,981

**OFFERING**

Benevolence	\$	3,889.00
Building	\$	0.00
Memorial	\$	50.00
Other	\$	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,939.00</b>

*St. Matthew Lutheran Church (ELCA) will not engage in any act or public statements to endorse or oppose any candidate for public office.*

*Memorial gift acknowledgments will be sent/mailed quarterly.*

**Holy Week**

Attendance: 4/2-19, 4/3-22, 4/4-13

**OFFERING**

Benevolence	\$	415.00
Memorial	\$	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>515.00</b>

**Serving April 12, 2026**

Opener/Closer	Bill Wallace
Worship Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Communion Assistant	Katherine Kelly
Lector	Toni Mion
Ushers	James Sperry
	Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Lisa Pettit
	Allena Sperry/Jaxson Gardner
Live Streaming	Paul Hicks

**Serving April 19, 2026**

Opener/Closer	Terri Niederhammer
Worship Assistant	Dave Bonaker/Raymond Lawton
Communion Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Lector	Amy Hoag
Ushers	James Sperry
	Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Lane Brown
	Nancy Gates/Jaxson Gardner
Live Streaming	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.”*

5:16-18

—1 Thessalonians

The Armed Forces,  
their families,  
and victims of war

The ministries of  
St. Matthew

Bishop Yehiel Curry

Bishop Kevin  
Strickland

Southeastern Synod  
Staff

Pastor Taylor Burton  
Edwards

Pastor Rachel Zarnke  
St Matthew

Congregational  
Council

Laura Alexander

Carol Bingemann

Isabelle Clark

Randy Craven

Myrna & Ken Hoag

Marga Miller

Charlotte Moore

Traudel Mosely

Debby Owen

Dorothy Redden

Gary Anderson

Eric & Tinisha Bryant

Jean Clemmons

Nancy Edmundson

Lynne Funck

Brandy Garnett

Sandy Gibbs

Moses Glidden

Estrella Gonzales

Doris Grier

Laura Jett

Norma Kilby

Ken Korn

Emma Kump

Robert Lowe

David & John Lucas

Michelle Matthias

Brady Meeks

Lynne Meinhold

Tim Moore

Debi Nelson

Vincent Pawlowski

Beth Price

Mark Purushotham

Tiffany Richardson

Dayna Ryan

Shirley Scott

Dou Shizhen

Ricky Skinner

Amanda Steinagel

Sara Steinagel Sturgis

Fred Turpin

Charlie VanHousen

Dawn VanHousen

Martha Zimmerman

People of Iran

Venezuela

Gaza

Palestinian People

Israel

Ukraine

People of Russia

People of Minneapolis

Eastern Congo

People of Nigeria

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Alexis Messenger

Family of Rachel Savage

-----  
Xpert Tax Service

Bi-City Driving School

Menzie Dance Company

Frankie's Hair Design

AMG Financial

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Welcome to St. Matthew:** Jesus Christ offers himself to all. All baptized Christians are invited to feast with us at the Lord's Table.

**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:**

- All unused all occasion and holiday cards
  - Lion's Club: Glasses, sunglasses and old cell phones
  - Family House of West GA: Pop tabs
  - Flags to Retire: Used flags to dispose of properly
  - Brown Bag: Travel size toiletries
  - SafeHouse/St. Benedict's Sealed plastic utensils (take-out meals)
- Leave donations in the labeled containers in the Narthex.

**Bible Study:** Please join us on Tuesdays at 10:15 in the Back Room of the Church House to review & discuss scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday.

**Craf-Tea:** This group will meet on the 4th Friday of each month at 10:00AM-12:00 PM in Luther Hall. If you enjoy crafts and tea, this group is for you! Please see Linnea Grosse for more information.

**Chair Yoga:** Meets every Monday at 11:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers.



## **Save the Date**

- April 13th - 11:00 AM - Chair Yoga - Fellowship Hall
- April 14th - 10:15 AM - Bible Study - Church House-Back Room
- April 16th - 5:00 - Council Meeting - Fellowship Hall
- April 23rd -9:00 - WNN Care Bag Packing
- April 23rd - 5:30 - Men's Group - Deorio's
- April 24th - 10:00 - Craf-Tea - Luther Hall

## Pillars of St. Matthew

Erland "Earl" and Doris Giese came to Columbus and our church in 1957 from Wisconsin. Earl was a pharmacist with Walgreen's and took a transfer here. He was a Navy veteran of WW II. After a few years here with Walgreen's, he opened his own pharmacy, Starmount Drugs on Buena Vista road. The store included a gift shop, which Doris managed.

They were both choir members, and Earl served on the Council. They were fun-loving folks – Earl loved practical jokes and was a talented poet. Both volunteered on the Contact crisis hotline ministry. They established the Lively Ones, an over-40 group at the church, which met monthly, rotating among the members' homes. That was for fun and frolic. They were involved in all activities of the church'

On choir practice night, Earl had to come late because he closed his store at 8pm. When he arrived at the church, he'd say, "No, don't get up."



Rest in peace, dearest friends.

Dave Bonaker



Blessings to everyone who made Lent & Easter a meaningful time at St. Matthew. Thank you to:

- Pastor Taylor for the thought provoking Lenten and Holy Week messages
- Sandra Nearhoof for music and all those who were a part of the handbells on Easter
- Altar Guild who served in so many ways and sanctuary look so beautiful with all the lilies
- Those that assisted with Easter breakfast and Egg Hunt
- Openers/Closers and Ushers during this season
- Sonja Metcalf for the many bulletins and Lenten service readings that were done

# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Statement



Reach in to grow in Christ

Reach up to worship God

Reach out to welcome and witness



To give online, please scan the QR code to the left to be taken to the [give.tithe.ly](https://give.tithe.ly) website form. You can just fill out the form and click the Give button. You can also go to our website and click on the ONLINE GIVING button.

## ST. MATTHEW EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4026 Macon Road, Columbus, Georgia 31907

(706) 561-3406 - Office Hours - Tues & Thurs 2:30-5:00 PM, Friday 9:00-1:00 PM

Pastor Taylor Burton Edwards Email: [twbe@liturgyfolks.com](mailto:twbe@liturgyfolks.com)

Phone: (765) 602-1426

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