

# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Good Friday

April 3, 2026

Standing with the women observing Jesus on the cross, we pray for the whole world in an ancient bidding prayer. We depart in silence.

† *Congregation stands as able*

## GATHERING

Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C. Amen.

## PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

### First Reading

**Isaiah 52:13--53:12**

<sup>13</sup>See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. <sup>14</sup>Just as there were many who were astonished at him —so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals—<sup>15</sup>so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate. <sup>53:1</sup>Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? <sup>2</sup>For he grew up before him like a young plant and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. <sup>3</sup>He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. <sup>4</sup>Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup>But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. <sup>6</sup>All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. <sup>7</sup>He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. <sup>8</sup>By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. <sup>9</sup>They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. <sup>10</sup>Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain. Whenever you make an offering for sin, you shall see your offspring have a long life; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper. <sup>11</sup>Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. <sup>12</sup>Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 22:1-20**

**Tone 9**

- <sup>1</sup>My God, my God, why have you for-<sup>1</sup>saken me?  
Why so far from saving me, so far from the words<sup>1</sup> of my groaning?
- <sup>2</sup>**My God, I cry out by day, but you<sup>1</sup> do not answer;  
by night, but I<sup>1</sup> find no rest.**
- <sup>3</sup>Yet you are the<sup>1</sup> Holy One, enthroned on the prais-<sup>1</sup>es of Israel.
- <sup>4</sup>**Our ancestors put their<sup>1</sup> trust in you,  
they trusted, and you<sup>1</sup> rescued them.**
- <sup>5</sup>They cried out to you and<sup>1</sup> were delivered;  
they trusted in you and were not<sup>1</sup> put to shame.
- <sup>6</sup>**But as for me, I am a worm<sup>1</sup> and not human,  
scorned by all and despised<sup>1</sup> by the people.**
- <sup>7</sup>All who see me laugh<sup>1</sup> me to scorn;  
they curl their lips; they<sup>1</sup> shake their heads.
- <sup>8</sup>**"Trust in the LORD; let the<sup>1</sup> LORD deliver;  
let God rescue him if God so de-<sup>1</sup>lights in him."**
- <sup>9</sup>Yet you are the one who drew me forth<sup>1</sup> from the womb,  
and kept me safe on my<sup>1</sup> mother's breast.
- <sup>10</sup>**I have been entrusted to you ever since<sup>1</sup> I was born;  
you were my God when I was still in my<sup>1</sup> mother's womb.**
- <sup>11</sup>Be not far from me, for trou-<sup>1</sup>ble is near, and there is no<sup>1</sup> one to help.
- <sup>12</sup>**Many young bulls en-<sup>1</sup>circle me; strong bulls of Ba-<sup>1</sup>shan surround me.**
- <sup>13</sup>They open wide their<sup>1</sup> jaws at me, like a slashing and<sup>1</sup> roaring lion.
- <sup>14</sup>**I am poured out like water; all my bones are<sup>1</sup> out of joint;  
my heart within my breast is<sup>1</sup> melting wax.**
- <sup>15</sup>My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof<sup>1</sup> of my  
mouth; and you have laid me in the<sup>1</sup> dust of death.
- <sup>16</sup>**Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers<sup>1</sup> circles round me;  
they pierce my hands<sup>1</sup> and my feet.**
- <sup>17</sup>I can count<sup>1</sup> all my bones while they stare at<sup>1</sup> me and gloat.
- <sup>18</sup>**They divide my gar-<sup>1</sup>ments among them;  
for my clothing,<sup>1</sup> they cast lots.**
- <sup>19</sup>But you, O LORD, be not<sup>1</sup> far away; O my help, hasten<sup>1</sup> to my aid.
- <sup>20</sup>**Deliver me<sup>1</sup> from the sword, my life from the power<sup>1</sup> of the dog.**

**Second Reading**

**Hebrews 10:16-25**

[After the Holy Spirit says,] <sup>16</sup>"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds," <sup>17</sup>he also adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." <sup>18</sup>Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. <sup>19</sup>Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), <sup>21</sup>and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup>Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup>And let us

consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds,<sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel

**Mark 14:12--15:47**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

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

**See insert for Gospel reading.**

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

*Forsaken*

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

✠ Hymn of the Day

*"Ah, Holy Jesus"*

**ELW #349**

*You may sit, stand or kneel for the prayers.*

## Bidding Prayer

A: Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world.

*Silent prayer.*

A: Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

A: Let us pray for all the servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

*Silent prayer.*

A: Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church, and help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

A: Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

*Silent prayer.*

A: Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith, and keep us united in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

A: Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

*Silent prayer.*

A: Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and our teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that the people you called and selected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

A: Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.

*Silent prayer.*

A: Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names. Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

A: Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

*Silent prayer.*

A: Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Christians, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

A: Let us pray for God's creation.

*Silent prayer.*

A: Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

A: Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

*Silent prayer.*

A: Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

A: Let us pray for those in need.

*Silent prayer.*

A: Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

A: Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
Forever and ever. Amen.**

## SENDING

P: You have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

*Brief silence*

P: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**C: By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

**Dismissal**

**A:** Go in peace.

*All depart in silence. The service continues at 10am tomorrow morning.*



# **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**

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*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