

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. From Malachi, we learn that the idea of the coming of the Lord was not originally about a Messiah figure. From John the Baptist we hear the call for people to prepare for the coming of God's kingdom. Philippians calls for all believers to live into the purity and blamelessness of Jesus Christ.

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW) Setting 10, page 203

† Congregation stands as able

GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof



P. Blessed be God, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit.

C. And blessed be God's kingdom now and forever. 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.

P. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

Gathering Hymn

"Come, thou long expected Jesus"

ELW #254

Kyrie

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Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through 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

Amy Hoag

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the LORD whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine

them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Luke 1:68-79

Tone 3

⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the ¹ God of Israel,
you have come to your people and ¹ set them free.

⁶⁹**You have raised up for us a ¹ mighty Savior,
born of the house of your ¹ servant David.**

⁷⁰Through your holy prophets,
you promised of old to save us ¹ from our enemies,

⁷¹from the hands of ¹ all who hate us,

⁷²**to show mercy ¹ to our forebears,
and to remember your ¹ holy covenant.**

⁷³This was the oath you swore to our ¹ father Abraham:

⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our ¹ enemies,

free to worship you ¹ without fear,

⁷⁵**holy and righteous before you, all the days ¹ of our life.**

⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of ¹ the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to pre- ¹ pare the way,

⁷⁷**to give God's people knowledge ¹ of salvation
by the forgiveness ¹ of their sins.**

⁷⁸In the tender compassion ¹ of our God

the dawn from on high shall ¹ break upon us,

⁷⁹**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shad- ¹ ow of death,
and to guide our feet into the ¹ way of peace.**

Second Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.



Gospel Acclamation

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P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 3rd Chapter.

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

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Prepare

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day *"On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry"*

ELW #249

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 sit, stand or kneel for the prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

A: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence. .

A brief silence.

A: Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering. Provide comfort and strength, and nurture sustained wholeness for the future. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by worship committees, music ensembles, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

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

C: receive our prayer.

A: Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you especially Margarete Walsh. Guide us in deep gratitude for their life, and allow us to learn from their faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

MEAL

Solo *“Prepare the Royal Highway”* Pastor Taylor Burton Edwards

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.

Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

† Great Thanksgiving Page 206

Holy, Holy, Holy Page 207

Lord’s Prayer “Our Father, who...” Page 208

Lamb of God Page 208

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: Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn

"Hark, the glad sound"

ELW #239

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Paul Brown, Sr., 2008



READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024

Zephaniah 3:14-20
 Isaiah 12:2-6
 Philippians 4:4-7
 Luke 3:7-18



“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

December 1, 2024
First Sunday of Advent

ATTENDANCE — 57
 (IN-PERSON— 49, YOUTUBE - 8)

OFFERING

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Benevolence | \$ | 4,800.00 |
| Building | \$ | 100.00 |
| Memorial | \$ | 150.00 |
| Other | \$ | 170.00 |
| Total | \$ | 5,220.00 |

Save the Date

- December 9, 16th - 12:00 - Advent Lunches at St. Thomas
- December 11, 18 - 5:30 - Advent Service
- December 15 - 3:00 - German Christmas Service
- December 15 - 4:30 Lessons & Carols/Children’s Pageant - St. Thomas
- December 19 - 5:00 - Council Meeting
- December 24 - 7:00 - Christmas Eve Service

Serving December 8, 2024

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Opener/Closer | Katherine Kelly |
| Worship Assistant | Shannon Gardner |
| Communion Assistant | Katherine Kelly |
| Lector | Raymond Lawton |
| Ushers | Matt Pettit Jim Sperry |
| Altar Guild | Nancy Gates Terri Neiderhammer |
| Live Streaming | Paul Hicks |

Serving December 15, 2024

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Opener/Closer | Allena Sperry |
| Worship Assistant | Liz McGouirk Terri Niederhammer |
| Communion Assistant | Donna Doughty |
| Lector | Randy Craven |
| Ushers | Bill Wallace Jim Sperry |
| Altar Guild | Allena Sperry Lisa Pettit |
| Live Streaming | 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.”

5:16-18

—1 Thessalonians

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
Carol Bingemann
Dave Bonaker
Pat Bonaker
Betty Davidson
Ken Hoag
Myrna Hoag
Bennie Jackson
Mairetha Jackson
Sean Jeffery
Marga Miller
Charlotte Moore
Traudel Mosely
Terri Niederhammer
Debby Owen
Dorothy Redden
Connie Sieg
Carla Stickle

Albert VanHousen II
Harold Vinson
Monika Wright
James Anderson
Roger Anderson
Eric & Tinisha Bryant
George Capps
Jim Chappel
Jean Clemmons
Xavier Danguilan
Penny Davis & Family
Brandy Garnett
Mike Gewin
Moses Glidden
Becky Goldsmith
Estrella Gonzales
Doris Grier
Petra Henderson
Van Henshaw
Norma Kilby
Ken Korn
Emma Kump
Melissa Lancheros
Boyd Lester
Laura Lester
Robert Lowe
Michelle Matthias
Sandra McPeters
Brady Meeks
Tim Moore

Nearhoof Family
Michael Owen
Angela Paul
Vincent Pawlowski
Beth Price
Mark Purushotham
Bill Rahm
Tiffany Richardson
Dayna Ryan
Shirley Scott
Dou Shizhen
Ricky Skinner
Amanda Steinagel
Betty Townsend
Charlie VanHousen
Dawn VanHousen
Martha Zimmerman

Israel
Ukraine
Gaza
Lebanon
Western North Carolina

Vance Brooks Funeral
Service
Striffler Hamby Funeral
Service

El Carrizo
E&S Clothing
One Financial
Tasha's Dance & Prep

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

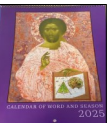
Mission Focus:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| | Warming Tree |
| • 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 |
| • Safe House | Sealed plastic utensils (take-out meals) |

Leave donations in the labeled containers in the Narthex between bathrooms.

Craf-Tea: This group will meet Fridays 10:00-12:00 PM in Luther Hall. If you enjoy crafts and tea, this group is for you! Please see Beth Hoag for more information.

Our Commitment Sunday is December 15th for your pledge to be placed in the Church shaped box in the Narthex. This commitment will be your financial support toward our 2025 spending plan. In January, you will be able to commit your time and talents to our ministries.



The 2025 Calendars are now available for \$10 each from Altar Guild members. Proceeds from the calendar sales will support purchases of worship supplies, including everything from communion wafers to palms for Palm Sunday.

December Mission Focus



Thank you so much for the gifts of new warm clothing such as socks, mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves for adults and children that have already been made. We are in need to hats and scarves! The basket next to our tree is a new addition in response to the need of warm underwear for all ages (donated in original packaging). **The last date we can accept donations will be Sunday, December 15th.** We will deliver our gifts of love to Valley Rescue Women's and Children Center (Damascus Way). We don't

know the strangers whose toes and fingers our donations warm, but we show the warm and caring heart of Christ as we send our love out into our community.

Upcoming Services

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES



Midweek Worship

Wednesday 5:30 PM
December 4, 11, 18



Weinachts Service

Sunday, December 15
3:00 PM

Christmas Eve

Holy Communion Service
Tuesday, December 24
7:00 PM



Lessons & Carols & Children's Pageant followed by a Wassail Party in All Saints Hall of St. Thomas Episcopal Church on Sunday, December 15th at 4:30 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

Phone: (615) 742-5427

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