

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 19, 2025

The Hebrew scriptures and gospel readings for the Sundays after Epiphany are selected to encourage and support congregations to invite others to “come and see” what discipleship to Jesus Christ can mean for them. Our God rejoices over God’s people as those being married rejoice over one another. Abundant life is available for all. In Jesus Christ, the best wine is saved for last. Taste and see.

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW) Setting 4, page 147

† 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. 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 *"Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life"*

ELW #816

Kyrie

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This Is the Feast

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Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Rose Johnson

First Reading

Isaiah 62:1-5

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,

and her salvation like a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

⁴You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;
for the LORD delights in you,
and your land shall be married.

⁵For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your builder marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 36:5-10

Tone 3

⁵Your love, O LORD, reaches ^l to the heavens,
and your faithfulness ^l to the clouds.

⁶**Your righteousness is like the strong mountains,
your justice like ^l the great deep;
you save humankind and ani- ^l mals, O LORD.**

⁷How priceless is your ^l love, O God!
All people take refuge under the shadow ^l of your wings.

⁸**They feast upon the abundance ^l of your house;
you give them drink from the river of ^l your delights.**

⁹For with you is the ^l well of life,
and in your light ^l we see light.

¹⁰**Continue your lovingkindness to ^l those who know you,
and your favor to those who are ^l true of heart.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

¹Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of

tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel

John 2:1-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 2nd Chapter.

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

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Setting the Stage 1: Abundant Life

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards



Hymn of the Day

"Jesus, Come! For We Invite You"

ELW #312

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**

You may sit, stand or kneel for the prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

A: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A: Giver of gifts, you form each member of the church to serve. Inspire us to boldly use gifts of welcome and healing, service and teaching, leading and preaching, for the sake of your work in the world. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Refuge of creatures, you place all the living under the shadow of your wings. Lead us in ways that tend to the needs of wild and domestic animals, creatures threatened by extinction, and the environment we share. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Voice of the oppressed, you call prophets throughout time. We remember the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a voice for racial and economic justice and for peace. Guide our nation in continuing to heed your prophetic call. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of steadfast love, as Jesus celebrated at Cana, nurture marriages and relationships in mutual care; in times of separation or divorce hold tenderly broken hearts and broken dreams. Be present to all who are sick, grieving or in any need. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Spirit of peace, celebrating this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we pray for neighboring congregations and ministry site. Nurture our shared commitment to embody Jesus' love, justice, and healing. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

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

C: hear our prayer.

A: Wellspring of life, in living and dying we trust in you. We give thanks for the saints especially Margarete Walsh and Patricia Bonaker. Guide us in our living until, at last, we rest in you. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

C: **Amen.**

MEAL

Anthem “Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness “ Choir

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance of the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

C: **Amen.**

✠ Great Thanksgiving Page 152

Holy, Holy, Holy Page 153

Lord's Prayer “Our Father, who...” Page 154

Lamb of God Page 154

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: Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn *"O Lord, Now Let Your Servant"*
#313

ELW

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Christ is born!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Patrea Ann Hulsbak Bonaker, 2014

January Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 2 David Gardner | 10 Nancy Gates |
| 3 Connie Newman Goodman | 10 Jackson Howes |
| 4 Rev. Shirley Redmond | 13 Duncan Jeffery |
| 5 Abigayle Ratliff | 16 Dorothy Redden |
| 6 Jason Allen | 17 Bruce Clemens |
| 8 Kenneth Hoag | 17 Valerie Stickle |
| | 27 Evelyn Pettit |



READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
 Psalm 19
 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
 Luke 4:14-21



*“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*

January 12, 2025
The Baptism of our Lord

ATTENDANCE —53
 (IN-PERSON— 41, YOUTUBE - 12)

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$	4,516.00
Building	\$	0.00
Memorial	\$	100.00
Other	\$	256.00
Total	\$	4,872.00

Save the Date

- January 21st - 10:15 - Bible Study - Church House
- January 22nd - 6:00 - Interfaith Bible Study - Luther Hall
- January 23rd - 5:30 - Men’s Group - Fellowship Hall
- January 26th - During Worship - Installation of 2025 Council
- February 8th - 11:30 - Tackle Hunger - Luther Hall

Serving January 19, 2025

Opener/Closer	Nancy & Jeff Gates
Worship Assistant	Liz McGouirk/Raymond Lawton
Communion Assistant	Raymond Lawton
Lector	Teri Niederhammer
Ushers	Jim Sperry Matt Pettit
Altar Guild	Allena Sperry Lisa Pettit
Live Streaming	Cecil McGouirk

Serving January 26, 2025

Opener/Closer	Allena Sperry
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Katherine Kelly
Lector	Jaxson Gardner
Ushers	Jim Sperry Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Catherine Sayers Debby Ullman
Live Streaming	Matt 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
Bishop Kevin
Strickland
Southeastern Synod
Staff
Pastor Taylor Burton
Edwards
St Matthew
Congregational
Council
Laura Alexander
Carol Bingemann
Dave Bonaker
Bonaker Family
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 Stickles
Albert VanHousen II
Harold Vinson
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
Franklin Henderson
Petra Henderson
Norma Kilby
Ken Korn
Emma Kump
Melissa Lancheros
Boyd Lester
Laura Lester
Robert Lowe
Michelle Matthias
Sandra McPeters
Brady Meeks
Tim Moore
Nearhoof Family
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
New Orleans
Los Angeles

Octapharma Plasma
Kamoree's Beauty Salon
Broken Tarot Tattoo &
Piercing
Master-Kleen
Title Max
JD Wings

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 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.

Remembrance Gathering: Our quarterly Remembrance Gathering will be held on Tuesday, April 8th at 3:00 pm in the Church House. This will be a time to come together and share personal stories or recollections of someone else's experience of any conflicts or wars. For more information, please contact Zocia Barr at 706-330-1001.

We had great participation and lots of fun at WNN care bag packing in January. We will be packing care bags at 9am, February 27, 2025 at St. Thomas Episcopal Church outreach center (back of church). Please let Allena Sperry know if you will be participating at agsperry@bellsouth.net or 706-563-3107.

New Men's group meeting the 4th Thursday of each month beginning January 23rd at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you there!

January Mission Focus

January is our assigned Wynnnton Neighborhood Network food collection month. We are collecting for WNN the following items:

- Canned Veggies: Sweet peas, corn, carrots, green beans, black beans
- Canned Meat: Chicken, ham, tuna
- Canned Fruit
- Spaghetti sauce and noodles
- Macaroni and cheese
- Canned tomato products
- Peanut butter and Jelly
- Soup
- Rice
- Cereals
- Monetary donations



Within Reach focuses on the needs of our church family members. In the past, volunteers provided meal prep along with companionship. Do you need a ride to some of the small gatherings? Please let Zocia know how our church family can assist you.



Interfaith Bible Study meeting on January 22nd and meeting each Wednesday thru February 19th. Micah: Words of Judgment, Words of Hope - Jewish and Christian Understandings. We hope to see you at 6:00 in Luther Hall for this study with Pastor Taylor and Rabbi Beth Schwartz.

James Tissot: Prophet Micah, 1896.
Public Domain

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: (765) 602-1426

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