

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

Repentance is not a momentary feeling. It is a way of life, an ongoing action. It requires a change of mindset. Let us bring forth fruits worthy of it.

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

"Sing, Zion's Daughter"

See Insert

Kyrie

Page 203

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John so that we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; 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

Rose Johnson

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
 Do not fear, O Zion;
 do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
 a warrior who gives victory;
 he will rejoice over you with gladness,
 he will renew you in his love;
 he will exult over you with loud singing

¹⁸as on a day of festival.
 I will remove disaster from you,
 so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors
 at that time.
 And I will save the lame
 and gather the outcast,
 and I will change their shame into praise
 and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you home,
 at the time when I gather you;
 for I will make you renowned and praised
 among all the peoples of the earth,
 when I restore your fortunes
 before your eyes, says the LORD.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody: Isaiah 12:2-6

Tone 3

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not ¹be afraid,
 for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might,
 and has become ¹my salvation.

³**With joy you ¹will draw water from the wells ¹of salvation.**

⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call ¹on God's name;
 make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations;
 proclaim that this name ¹is exalted.

⁵**Sing praises to the LORD, who has done ¹gloriously;
 let this be known in ¹all the earth.**

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O ¹royal Zion,
 for great in your midst is the Holy ¹One of Israel.

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Luke 3:7-18

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

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

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Repent

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

✠ Hymn of the Day

"Joy to the world"

ELW #267

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: God who reforms, fill your church with courage to do your will. Empower
your people in taking risks that bear fruit. Raise up leaders who will
proclaim the good news. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God who creates, you hold in balance diverse ecosystems. Encourage
efforts to protect wild lands from devastation. Care for animals and people
in the path of destructive fires, storms, and other disasters
Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God who leads, this world cries out for true justice. Guide legislatures,
judges, and lawyers in actions steeped in love and restoration. Increase the
desire to advocate for all who are confronted with discrimination and
oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, class, or age.

Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick. Show your compassion and remember your people in love. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **receive our prayer.**

A: God who abides, you dwell among the people of this congregation. Deepen our relationships with one another, and make us aware of the diverse talents and gifts present here. 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: God who consoles, we thank you for the time we have had with loved ones who have died especially Margarete Walsh. Comfort us with the promise of everlasting life in you. 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

Anthem *"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"* Choir

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

"Word of God, come down on earth"

ELW #510

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:

Renate A Dominiak, 2006



READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024

Micah 5:2-5a
 Luke 1:46b-55
 Hebrews 10:5-10
 Luke 1:39-55



"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 8, 2024
Second Sunday of Advent

ATTENDANCE — 65
 (IN-PERSON— 52, YOUTUBE - 13)

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$	2,330.00
Building	\$	80.00
Memorial	\$	100.00
Other	\$	304.00
Total	\$	2,814.00

12/4 - 24 Attendance \$55.00

Save the Date

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

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

Serving December 22, 2024

Opener/Closer	Lisa Pettit
Worship Assistant	Donna Doughty
Communion Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Lector	Bill Wallace
Ushers	Bill Wallace Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Debby Ullman Catherine Sayers
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.”

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 Stuckles

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
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

M. Bland Salon
The Ellands Event Center
Chevron
Bargain Furniture
Dollar General
Citgo

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:

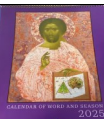
- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| | Warming Tree |
| • Lion's Club: | Glasses, sunglasses and old cell phones |
| • Family House of West GA: | Pop tabs |
| • Flags to Retire: | Bring used American flags that you no longer want or need. |
| • St. Anne's: | Personal hygiene products (travel size), 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.

New service opportunity at Wynnton Neighborhood Network. We will be packing care bags at 9am, January 9 and 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.

Our Commitment Sunday is today, 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



Today is the last day our Warming Tree will be accepting donations. In the coming week, donations will be sorted, packaged in holiday containers and delivered with our holiday greetings to various groups that provide assistance to those in need. The generosity expressed in the level of donations is overwhelming. It proves again that we don't need to know the strangers who toes and fingers our donations warm while we show the warm and caring heart of Christ as we send our love out into the community. Our Warming Tree adorned with only lights will welcome us,

our families and guests in the Narthex as we celebrate Christmas together. Thank you and God bless. Zocia Barr



We would like to extend our love and sympathy to Debby Ullman on the death of her brother, Jim Anderson whose funeral was December 14th. Thoughts and prayers for Debby and her family during this time.

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