

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
June 16, 2024

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW) Setting 7, Page 175

† Congregation stands as able

GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof



P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: **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. 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 *“Almighty God, your word is cast”*

ELW #516

Kyrie

Page 175

Hymn of Praise *“Glory to God in the Highest”*

Page 176

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen**

PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S WORD

Children’s Message

Geri Regnier

First Reading

Ezekiel 17:22-24

²²Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain.

²³On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind.

²⁴All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

Tone 1

¹It is a good thing to give thanks ¹ to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, ¹ O Most High;

²**to herald your love ¹ in the morning
and your faithful-¹ ness at night;**

³on the psaltery, and ¹ on the lyre,
and to the melody ¹ of the harp.

⁴**For you have made me glad by your ¹ acts, O LORD;
and I shout for joy because of the works ¹ of your hands.**

¹²The righteous shall flourish ¹ like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a ce-¹ dar of Lebanon.

¹³**Those who are planted in the house ¹ of the LORD
shall flourish in the courts ¹ of our God;**

¹⁴they shall still bear fruit ¹ in old age;
they shall be ¹ green and succulent;

¹⁵**that they may show how up-¹ right the LORD is,
my rock, in whom there is ¹ no injustice.**

Second Reading

Acts 6:1-7

¹Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. ²And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, ⁴while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." ⁵What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

† Gospel Acclamation

"Alleluia"

Page 179

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 4th Chapter.

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

²⁶[Jesus said,] "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come." ³⁰He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." ³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Innovating to Serve

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day

"Lord, speak to us, that we may speak "

ELW#676

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: We come before the Triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

A brief silence.

A: Nourish your faithful people through gifts of word and worship. Guide the church in listening to and interpreting your message of grace for this time and place in history. In your wisdom, lead us in expanding the reach of your love. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Nature sings your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night. Sustain the holy rhythms of creation: days and seasons, hibernation and activity, phases of the moon and tides of the sea. Let these patterns assure us of your constancy. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You raise the lowly and humble those in high regard. Raise up all who are victims of marginalization, discrimination, and hate. As we anticipate Juneteenth, banish white supremacy and bigotry from the hearts of your people and remove the inclination toward anger and violence. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Tend to all who journey by faith and who wait with patience for the fulfillment of your healing promises. Grant perseverance to people doing physical and occupational therapy, people living with mobility concerns, and people facing chronic pain. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: As you have loved us, so let us love one another. Empower fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, adoptive fathers, and chosen fathers to embody this gift of love for their children. Where these relationships are strained or broken, bring your comfort and peace. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

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

C: receive our prayer.

A: With gratitude, we remember the saints who are now at home with you especially Keandra Bashful, WJ Barrs, Eva Brown, Bishop Davis, Joan Smith, and Tom Pettit. Plant seeds of their wisdom and witness in our hearts, that we grow in faith until we join them in your heavenly dwelling. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen

MEAL

Anthem

Flute Solo

Jordi Banitt

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

C: Amen

† Great Thanksgiving Page 180

Holy, Holy, Holy Page 181

Lord's Prayer "Our Father, who..." Page 182

Lamb of God Page 182

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: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

C: Amen

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn

"The Spirit sends us forth to serve "

ELW #551

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Memorial Book Is Open Today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Stanley Smith, 2006



Thank you Nancy and Jeff Gates for serving as our representatives to the Southeastern Synod Convention. Great job Allena Sperry, Katherine Kelly and Geri Regnier for sorting and organizing t-shirts. T-Shirts were handed out to those attending the convention

by Allena Sperry, Katherine Kelly, Geri Regnier, Randy and Sandy Craven, Bill Wallace, Jordi Banitt, and Pastor Taylor. Thank you so much for your help! Many thanks to Amanda

Jeffery and Donna Doughty for serving as hosts on Saturday during the Discipleship activities. Thank you Allena Sperry and Bill Wallace for transporting the table, chairs and quiet activities for the children.

**READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2024**

Job 38:1-11
Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32
Acts 8:26-40
Mark 4:35-41



“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

June 9, 2024

Third Sunday after Pentecost

ATTENDANCE — 54

(IN-PERSON— 51 , YOUTUBE - 4)

Thankfully offered

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 4,439.00
Building	\$ 100.00
Memorial	\$ 100.00
Other	\$ 470.00
Total	\$ 5,109.00



Serving June 16, 2024

Opener/Closer	Donna Doughty
Worship Assistant	Donna Doughty
Communion Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Lector	Ian & Sean Jeffery
Ushers	Sean Jeffery
	Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Lisa Pettit
	Allena Sperry
Live Streaming	Jaxson Gardner

Serving June 23, 2024

Opener/Closer	Katherine Kelly
Worship Assistant	Raymond Lawton/Liz McGouirk
Communion Assistant	Raymond Lawton
Lector	Cecil McGouirk
Ushers	Jim Sperry
	Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Catherine Sayers
	Debby Ullman
Live Streaming	Sean Jeffery

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
Acting Bishop
Jill Henning
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
Marga Miller
Traudel Mosely
Debby Owen
Dorothy Redden
Connie Sieg
Carla Stickles
Albert VanHousen II

Margarete Walsh
Monika Wright
Gary Anderson
Judy Bultman
George Capps
Kyle Carter
Jim Chappel
Jean Clemmons
Rich Curtis
Xavier Danguilan
Penny Davis & Family
Brandy Garnett
Becky Goldsmith
Estrella Gonzales
Doris Grier
Petra Henderson
Beverly Huckaby
Norma Kilby
Ken Korn
Boyd Lester
Laura Lester
Valerie Karol Louder
Robert Lowe
Michelle Matthias
Brady Meeks
Tim Moore
Gary Nearhoof
Louie Niederhammer
Kimberly O'Malley
Michael Owen

Angela Paul
Vincent Pawlowski
Beth Price
Mark Purushotham
Dwight Redmond
Tiffany Richardson
Dayna Ryan
Yulia Savitska
Shirley Scott
Ricky Skinner
Betty Townsend
Sandra Tuggle
Charlie VanHousen
Dawn VanHousen
Martha Zimmerman

Maui
Morocco
Israel
Ukraine
Gaza

Striffler Hamby Funeral
Service
One Financial
El Carrizo
Tasha's Dance & Prep
M. Bland Salon
Bargain Furniture

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

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| <u>Mission Focus:</u> | Wynnton Neighborhood Network |
| • 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.

Remembrance Gathering: Please come to the Remembrance Gathering Tuesday, July 9th at 3:00 PM in the Church House. The gathering is an open invitation to come together and share personal stories or recollections of someone else's life. We share stories to include all wars and conflicts.

Growing in Grace: Meets every Friday from 9:00-11:00 AM in the Church House. God's grace is freely given to us. Join the group to learn to cultivate an attitude of grace in your daily life by learning about and adopting habits to move into a state of grace. Contact Beth Hoag at 706-604-8110 for more information.

Repair Updates: 1. The chimney removed and roof repaired on the Church House. 2. The pothole replaced with new paving materials 3. Handicapped sideway ramp replaced. 4. Kitchen ceiling and storage closet ceiling have been repaired and painted. 5. Doors in Luther Hall have been repainted. Currently, we are waiting for the roof to be repaired on the Church. Thank you so much for all of your contributions to these projects.

Save the Date

- **June 18th** - 6:00 PM - Mr. Pizza Bible Study
- **June 20th** - 5:00 PM - Council Meeting - Church House
- **June 21st** - 9:00 AM - Grow in Grace - Church House
- **June 25th** - 6:00 PM - Mr. Pizza Bible Study
- **June 28th** - 9:00 AM - Grown in Grace - Church House
- **June 30th** - 11:30 AM - Summer Potluck - 11:30 AM



Thanks to everyone who helped prepare the garden and anniversary reception. It was enjoyed by all.

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

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
Ellen Hoag, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music
Penny Davis, Nursery Director