



Evangelical
Lutheran
Church
of
St. Matthew

*A friendly
household of faith*

Chartered Dec 6, 1664

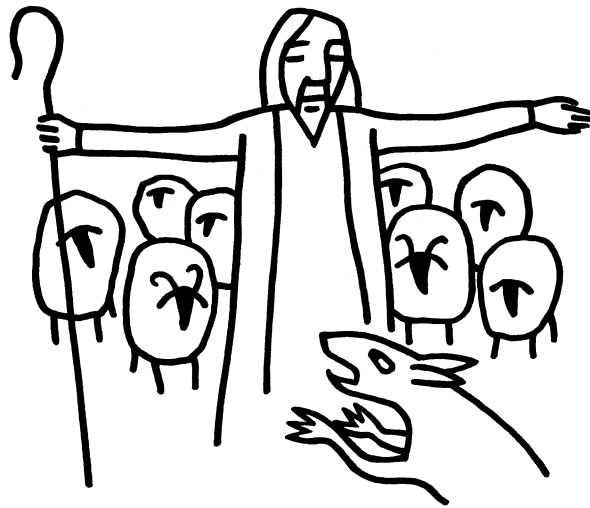
*359 years of
Gospel Ministry*

A congregation of
The Lutheran Church –
Missouri Synod.

The Rev. Peter A.D. Deebrah
Pastor



Easter
C E L E B R A T I O N



Eastertide - April 21, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Welcome to a Divine Liturgy of Word and Sacrament. In our worship we gather in the Lord's presence at his invitation and in the company of the whole Church in heaven and on earth. We hear Him speak to us as he freely bestows the abundance of his grace. In response, we repent of our sins and offer up to Him our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving and dedicate our lives to serving Him. To this we say, "Amen!"



PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Brief Order of Confession and Absolution

Stand

All may make the sign of the cross ✠ in remembrance of their baptism, as the minister begins.

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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 Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen.**



P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

HYMN: 819 Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good

- 1 Sing praise to God, the highest good,
The author of creation,
The God of love who understood
Our need for His salvation.
With healing balm our souls He fills
And ev'ry faithless murmur stills:
To God all praise and glory!

- 2 What God's almighty pow'r has made,
In mercy He is keeping.
By morning glow or evening shade
His eye is never sleeping.
Within the kingdom of His might
All things are just and good and right:
To God all praise and glory!

- 3 We sought the Lord in our distress;
O God, in mercy hear us.
Our Savior saw our helplessness
And came with peace to cheer us.
For this we thank and praise the Lord,
Who is by one and all adored:
To God all praise and glory!

- 4 He never shall forsake His flock, His chosen generation;
He is their refuge and their rock, Their peace and their salvation.
As with a mother's tender hand, He leads His own, His chosen band:
To God all praise and glory!

- 5 All who confess Christ's holy name, Give God the praise and glory.
Let all who know His pow'r proclaim Aloud the wondrous story.
Cast ev'ry idol from its throne, For God is God, and He alone:
To God all praise and glory!

Text: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1640–90; (sts. 1–3, 5): tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, adapt.; (st. 4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, adapt. Text: Public domain

The GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

Kyrie

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above and for our salvation
let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their
worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE - This is the Feast

A This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

C **Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power and riches and wisdom and strength
and honor and blessing and glory are His.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.
Sing with all the people of God
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor and glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia, Alleluia.**



P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray... Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from
death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we
hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by
name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son,
our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and forever. **C** **Amen.**

Sit

▪ **THE READINGS** - Hear the word of the LORD. (*Jeremiah 2:4*)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ²greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

⁵On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Acts 4:1-13

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23 (*congregation chants text in bold print*)

The Lord is my | shepherd;*

I | shall not want.

²He makes me lie down in green | pastures.*

He leads me beside still | waters.

³He re- | stores my soul.*

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his | name’s sake.

⁴Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil, for you are | with me;*

your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my | enemies;*
you anoint my head with oil; my cup | overflows.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,*
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for- | ever.

A reading from the First Epistle of St. John

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

¹⁹By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²²and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

1 John 3:16-24

A The Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*all stand and sing...*)

G Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. (x 2)

(*Solo*) Now Christ is raised from the dead, He will never die again

All who follow his way shall have life in him: Hallelujah, hallelujah

P THE HOLY GOSPEL according to St. John, the 10th chapter.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And I have other sheep that are not of this fold.

I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

John 10:11-18

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN: He Leadeth Me

1 He leadeth me: oh, blessed thought!
Oh, words with heav'nly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain: He leadeth me, he leadeth me,
by his own hand he leadeth me.
His faithful foll'wer I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.

2 Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom,
sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
by waters calm, o'er troubled sea,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me. *Refrain*

3 Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,
nor ever murmur nor repine;
content, whatever lot I see,
since 'tis my God that leadeth me. *Refrain*

4 And when my task on earth is done,
when by thy grace the vict'ry's won,
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
since God through Jordan leadeth me. *Refrain*

Text: Joseph H. Gilmore, 1834-1918

AFIRMATION OF FAITH - THE NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man; and was crucified also for us
under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the
living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition, the following is said: Lord, in your mercy. **C** Hear our prayer



WE PRAY for all people according to their needs, including—

Edna & Bob Waller, **Delomi & Sarjue** Persaud, **Johnny** Ramroop, **Ruth** Zerner, **Violet** Monson, **Brenda** Carmichael, **Zonia & Resa** Bucknor, **Sheila** Motie, **Eunice** Lyte, **George** Sukhdeo, **Agnes** D'Ornellas, **Carmen** D'Ornellas, **Jackie** Wheeler, **Joyce** Deebrach, **Dorothy** Weener, **Jeanette** Mota, **Khamlita** D'Ornellas, **Victor** Gonzalez, **Narda**, Seoprasad.

The PEACE is shared at this time

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you

The OFFERING is received. **The OFFERTORY** *is sung as the gifts are presented.*

- C** What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me? I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
- P** Let us pray... **C** Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us: our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The GREAT THANKSGIVING.

- P** The Lord be with you. **C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts. **C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**
- P** It is truly good, right, and ... join their unending hymn:
- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed ✠ is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.
- P** Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel, your chosen people. Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will even to giving his life.

JESUS' WORDS OF INSTITUTION, *then the following:*

- P** As often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
- C** **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- P** Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.
- C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints.

C Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

P Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

**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.**

**C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant...**

P Behold the Lamb of God. Behold Him who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are they who are invited to the Supper of the Lamb.

**C Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

Communicants gather at the altar to receive the holy gifts of the Lord's Supper

C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell everyone what he has done. Let everyone who seeks the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises. and leads his people forth in joy. With shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.

P Let us pray...We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C Amen.**

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **C Amen.**

Announcements

HYMN: Surely Goodness and Mercy Shall Follow Me

1 A pilgrim was I, and a wandering,
In the cold night of sin I did roam,
When Jesus the kind Shepherd found me,
And now I am on my way home.

Refrain: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days, all the days of my life;
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days, all the days of my life.

2 He restoreth my soul when I'm weary,
He giveth me strength day by day;
He leads me beside the still waters,
He guards me each step of the way.

3 When I walk through the dark lonesome valley,
My savior will walk with me there;
And safely His great hand will lead me
To the mansions He's gone to prepare.

4 And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever,
And I shall feast at the table spread for me;
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days, all the days of my life.

Text: John W. Peterson (1958), Alfred B. Smith (1958)

All sit for a moment of reflection.

P Rejoice in the resurrection and live in hope, peace, and joy.

Go and share the Good News.

G **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Worship
Servants }

Officiating Minister: Rev. Peter Deebrah, Pastor

Organist: Roger Clinton



OUR CHURCH WELCOMES YOU

We are the **Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Matthew**, America's oldest Lutheran congregation (Chartered Dec 6, 1664) - a friendly household of faith. This congregation's mission is to share the Good News of God. In the name of Jesus, we bid you a warm welcome. If you do not have a church home, we invite you to join us here at St. Matthew. Please speak with the Pastor or one of our members concerning membership. First time visitors, please sign our guest book.

Announcements

- **Glad that you have worshipped** today in joining with the angels and archangels, and the whole company of heaven around the glorious throne of God.
- **Divine Worship:** Sundays at 1:30 PM
In-person and on Zoom (**Meeting ID: 821 423 1875**)
"Let us not neglect our meeting together... but encourage one another, especially now that the day of [Christ's] return is drawing near." Hebrews 10:25
- **Your offering is an integral part of worship, given with joy and thanksgiving to God.**
We return to the Lord a portion of what He has first given us out of His Fatherly love.
- **Visit out church website** www.stmatthewnyc.org
- **26th Biennial LWML Atlantic District Convention** - Saturday, April 27, 2024.
Theme: God is Good- Say So! Crowne Plaza Hotel, Suffern, NY 10901
- **Saturday, May 4: LWML Atlantic District Triune Zone Spring Event** at St. John Lutheran Church, Staten Island. 9:30 AM – 1 PM. Breakfast and lunch provided.
- **You may give your Offering electronically using either of the following:**
 - **click on the DONATE** menu tab on the St. Matthew church website
 - **use the Zelle App** and enter St. Matthew email: **stmatthewnyc@aol.com**
- **LET'S READ THE BIBLE TOGETHER.**
We are reading the New Testament and the Book of Psalms.
- Daily Bible reading and devotions on the internet, visit www.lhm.org/dailydevotions.asp
- **"Christians live not in themselves, but in Christ and in their neighbor... They live in Christ through faith and in their neighbor through love. By faith they are caught up beyond themselves into God. By Love they descend beneath themselves into their neighbor." Dr. Martin Luther.**

Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Matthew

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