



Evangelical  
Lutheran  
Church  
of  
St. Matthew

*A friendly  
household of faith*

Chartered Dec 6, 1664

**360 years of  
Gospel Ministry**

A congregation of  
The Lutheran Church –  
Missouri Synod.

The Rev. Peter A.D. Deebrah  
Pastor



St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist

A Divine Worship Liturgy – September 21, 2025

Fifteenth Sunday after  
PENTECOST

**W**elcome 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.



## PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

### Brief Order of Confession and Absolution

#### *Stand*

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

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the T Son, and of the Holy Spirit

**C** Amen.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

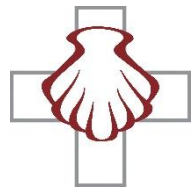
**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

**P** Gracious God and Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. C Amen.



## Hymn: 670 Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

- 1 Ye watchers and ye holy ones,  
Bright seraphs, cherubim, and thrones,  
Raise the glad strain: “Alleluia!”  
Cry out, dominions, pryncedoms, pow’rs,  
Virtues, archangels, angels’ choirs:  
“Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!”
- 2 O higher than the cherubim,  
More glorious than the seraphim,  
Lead their praises: “Alleluia!”  
Thou bearer of the\_ eternal Word,  
Most gracious, magnify the Lord:  
“Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!”
- 3 Respond, ye souls in endless rest,  
Ye patriarchs and prophets blest:  
“Alleluia, alleluia!”  
Ye holy Twelve, ye martyrs strong,  
All saints triumphant, raise the song:  
“Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!”
- 4 O friends, in gladness let us sing,  
Supernal anthems echoing:  
“Alleluia, alleluia!”  
To God the Father, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit, Three in One:  
“Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!”

Text: J. Athelstan L. Riley, 1858-1945, alt.

Text: Public domain

## Apostolic Greeting

**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 - Lord. Have mercy

**P** Kyrie! O God, Father in heav'n above,  
You abound in gracious love,  
Lord, Have mercy

**C** Lord, Have mercy

**P** Kyrie! O Christ, our king,  
Salvation for all You came to bring.  
Christ, Have mercy

**C** Christ, Have mercy

**P** Kyrie! O God the Holy Ghost,  
Guard our faith, the gift we need  
the most, Lord, Have mercy

**C** Lord, Have mercy

Text: German version, Ordnung der ceremonien, 1537/38, Naumburg; tr. W. Gustave Polack, 1890-1950, alt.; Latin, 9th cent.  
Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004133

## Hymn of Praise - Gloria in Excelsis

**P** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

**C** Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.  
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:  
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;  
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.  
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

Text: Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951, based on "Gloria in excelsis Deo" © 1998 Augsburg Fortress

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray... O Son of God, our blessed Savior Jesus Christ, You called  
Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist. Through his  
faithful and inspired witness, grant that we also may follow You, leaving  
behind all covetous desires and love of riches; for You live and reign  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

Sit

I was *glad* when they said to me,  
"Let us go to the house of the *Lord!*"

Psalm 122:1

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

### A reading from Ezekiel the Prophet

“But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Be not rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you.” <sup>9</sup>And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. <sup>10</sup>And he spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it words of lamentation and mourning and woe.

<sup>1</sup>And he said to me, “Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.” <sup>2</sup>So I opened my mouth, and he gave me this scroll to eat. <sup>3</sup>And he said to me, “Son of man, feed your belly with this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it.” Then I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey.

<sup>4</sup>And he said to me, “Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with my words to them. <sup>5</sup>For you are not sent to a people of foreign speech and a hard language, but to the house of Israel— <sup>6</sup>not to many peoples of foreign speech and a hard language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, if I sent you to such, they would listen to you. <sup>7</sup>But the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, for they are not willing to listen to me. Because all the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart. <sup>8</sup>Behold, I have made your face as hard as their faces, and your forehead as hard as their foreheads. <sup>9</sup>Like emery harder than flint have I made your forehead. Fear them not, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house.” <sup>10</sup>Moreover, he said to me, “Son of man, all my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart, and hear with your ears. <sup>11</sup>And go to the exiles, to your people, and speak to them and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God,’ whether they hear or refuse to hear.” *Ezekiel 2:8–3:11*

**A** The Word the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 119:33-40** (*congregation chants text in bold print*)

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your | statutes;\*

and I will keep it | to the end.

<sup>34</sup>**Give me understanding, that I may | keep your law\***  
**and observe it with my | whole heart.**

<sup>35</sup>Lead me in the path of your com- | mandments,\*  
for I de- | light in it.

<sup>36</sup>**Incline my heart to your testi- | monies,\***  
**and not to | selfish gain!**

<sup>37</sup>Turn my eyes from looking at | worthless things;\*  
and give me life | in your ways.

<sup>38</sup>Confirm to your servant your | promise,\*  
that you | may be feared.

<sup>39</sup>Turn away the reproach | that I dread,\*  
for your just de- | crees are good.

<sup>40</sup>Behold, I long for your | precepts;\*  
in your righteousness | give me life!

### **A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians**

But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup>Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."

<sup>9</sup>(In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup>He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup>And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup>until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup>so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. <sup>15</sup>Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. *Ephesians 4:7-16*

**A** The Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Acclamation** (*all stand and sing*)

**G** Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the ninth chapter

**G** Glory to You, O Lord.

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

<sup>10</sup>And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. <sup>11</sup>And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your

teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” <sup>12</sup>But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup>Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.” *Matthew 9:9-13*

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Sermon

### Hymn: 915 Today Your Mercy Calls Us

- 1 Today Your mercy calls us  
To wash away our sin.  
However great our trespass,  
Whatever we have been,  
However long from mercy  
Our hearts have turned away,  
Your precious blood can wash us  
And make us clean today.
- 2 Today Your gate is open,  
And all who enter in  
Shall find a Father's welcome  
And pardon for their sin.  
The past shall be forgotten,  
A present joy be giv'n,  
A future grace be promised,  
A glorious crown in heav'n.
- 3 Today our Father calls us;  
His Holy Spirit waits;  
His blessed angels gather  
Around the heav'nly gates.  
No question will be asked us  
How often we have come;  
Although we oft have wandered,  
It is our Father's home.
- 4 O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door,  
What should we do without You When heart and eye run o'er?  
When all things seem against us, To drive us to despair,  
We know one gate is open, One ear will hear our prayer.

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816-78, alt. Text: Public domain

## Affirmation of Faith - Apostles' Creed (*stand*)

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead  
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of  
God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to  
judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian\* Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen. (\* catholic = universal)

## Prayer of the Church

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



WE PRAY for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and 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, Eunice Lyte, Agnes D'Ornellas, Carmen D'Ornellas, George Sukhdeo, Sheila Motie, Jackie Wheeler, Joyce Deebrach, Dorothy Weener, Jeanette Mota, Khamlita D'Ornellas, Narda Seoprasad, Kirsten Sandblom, Pastor George Ramsudh, Joan Dookram, Ruth & Tom Cameron, Raymond Franklin, Dolly Singh, Rushell Singh, Suresh Paul, Raymond Baron, Iris Cheddie.

## 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.

## 781 We Give Thee But Thine Own sts. 1-2, 4, 6

- 1 We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
- 2 May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive  
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!
- 4 To comfort and to bless, To find a balm for woe,  
To tend the lone and fatherless Is angels' work below.
- 6 And we believe Thy Word, Though dim our faith may be:  
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord, We do it unto Thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823-97



Stand

- [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.



### Liturgy of Holy Communion

- [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]** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

**JESUS' WORDS OF INSTITUTION, (*attention is focused on miracle on the altar*)**

- [P]** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**P** Hear us, Abba Father, as we pray in Jesus' name and as He has taught us:

**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.

*Agnus Dei ~ Lamb of God*

**C** Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name;}  
Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name.}(sung X 3)

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,  
I love the holy Lamb of God!  
O wash me in His precious blood,  
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Text: Dennis Jernigan, refrain of "You are my all in all" © 1991 Shepherd's Heart Music, Inc., admin. Dayspring Music, Inc. (BMI). All rights reserved. International © secured.  
Text: Twila Paris, 1958 © 1985 Straightway Music, admin. EMI. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004133

**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.  
Upon receiving the body and blood of the Lord, the response "Amen" is offered in testimony of the mystery and the miracle of faith.*

**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... Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with spiritual food, the body and blood of Christ. All who come to you will not hunger, all who believe in you will not thirst. Empowered by this sacrament, send us back into the world to do the work you have given us to do: to share the gospel and be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ our Lord. **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: 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

*All sit for a moment of reflection.*

**P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

Worship  
Servants }

**Officiating Minister:** Rev. Peter Deebrah, Pastor

**Organist:** Roger Clinton



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 word and deed. 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)  
+ **Why do we gather for worship?** To celebrate the goodness of the Lord in thanksgiving. We are reminded: "Let us not neglect our meeting together, as is the habit of some, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of [Christ's] return is drawing near." Hebrews 10:25
- **Our offering is an important and integral part of worship, given with joy and in thanksgiving to God.** We return to the Lord a portion of what He has first given us out of His Fatherly love. Offerings are for the support of the ministry of the congregation.
- **Visit our church website** [www.stmatthewnyc.org](http://www.stmatthewnyc.org)
- **You may give your Offering electronically using either of the following:**
  - use **DONATE** menu tab on the St. Matthew website – [www.stmatthewnyc.org](http://www.stmatthewnyc.org)
  - use **Zelle** and enter St. Matthew email: [stmatthewnyc@aol.com](mailto:stmatthewnyc@aol.com)
- Daily Bible reading and devotions on the internet, visit [www.lhm.org/dailydevotions.asp](http://www.lhm.org/dailydevotions.asp)
- **LET'S READ THE BIBLE TOGETHER.** We are reading the New Testament (27 books) and the book of Psalms (150 chapters).

---

## **Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Matthew**

178 Bennett Avenue, New York, NY 10040

Ph/Fax: 212-567-5948 Email: [stmatthewnyc@aol.com](mailto:stmatthewnyc@aol.com) Web: [stmatthewnyc.org](http://stmatthewnyc.org)