



Evangelical
Lutheran
Church
of
St. Matthew

*A friendly
household of faith*

Chartered Dec 6, 1664

361 years of
Gospel Ministry

A congregation of
The Lutheran Church –
Missouri Synod.

The Rev. Peter A.D. Deebrah
Pastor



*The people who
walked in darkness
have seen a great light*

A Divine Worship Liturgy – January 25, 2026

Third Sunday
after the Epiphany

Welcome to a Divine Liturgy of the Word. 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 ✚ 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 The Sun of righteousness shall rise with shining beams of healing.
Let us gather under the wings of God's mercy and prepare our hearts
to meet the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Gracious God,

C **we acknowledge that we are sinners and we confess our sins—those known to us that burden our hearts, and those unknown to us but seen by you. We know that before you nothing remains hidden, and in you everything is revealed. Free us from the slavery of sin; liberate us from the bondage of guilt; work in us that which is pleasing in your sight; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P From the house of David, God raised up a mighty Savior.

C **Blessed be the Lord God Almighty, who comes to set us free.**

P Remembering the covenant, God delivered us from our enemies.

C **Blessed be the Lord God our righteousness, who comes to set us free.**

P Called to be heirs of God's kingdom, we are free to worship without fear.

C **Blessed be the Lord God and King, who comes to set us free.**

P With a heart full of mercy and compassion, God saves us and forgives us all our sins. Christ Jesus, the dawn from on high, the Word made flesh, shines upon us, and by the light of the Holy Spirit guides our feet into the way of peace. **C** Amen.



Hymn: 856 O Christ, Who Called the Twelve

1 O Christ, who called the Twelve

 To rise and follow You,

 Forsaking old, familiar ways

 For ventures bold and new:

 Grant us to hear Your call

 To risk security

 And, bound in heart and will to You,

 Find perfect liberty.

2 O Christ, who taught the Twelve

 The truth for ages sealed,

 Whose words and works awakened faith,

 The ways of God revealed:

 Instruct us now, we pray,

 By Your empow'ring Word.

 True teacher, be for all who seek

 Their light, their life, their Lord.

3 O Christ, who led the Twelve

 Among the desolate

 And broke as bread of life for all

 Your love compassionate:

 Lead us along the ways

 Where hope has nearly died

 And help us climb the lonely hills

 Where love is crucified.

4 O Christ, who sent the Twelve On roads they'd never trod

 To serve, to suffer, teach, proclaim The nearer reign of God:

 Send us on ways where faith Transcends timidity,

 Where love informs and hope sustains Both life and ministry.

5 O Christ, the apostles' Lord, The martyrs' strength and song,

 The crucified and risen King To whom the saints belong:

 Though generations pass, Our tribute still we bring,

 Our hymns a sacrifice of praise, Our lives an offering.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923-2007

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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 The blessed Son of God In a crib full poor did lie;
With our poor flesh and our poor blood
Was clothed that everlasting good.
Lord, have mercy.

C Lord, have mercy.

P The Lord Christ Jesu, God's dear Son,
Was a guest and a stranger here; To redeem
us from misery, That we might live eternally.
Christ, have mercy

C Christ, have mercy.

P All this did he for us freely, Out of his great mercy;
All the earth be joyful therefore,
And give him thanks for evermore.
Lord, have mercy

C Lord, have mercy

Text attr: Martin Luther translated by Miles Coverdale

Hymn of Praise - *Gloria in Excelsis*

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

C Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:
We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:
You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.
For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

P The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.

P Let us pray...Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through 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 Isaiah the Prophet

There will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. *Isaiah 9:1-4*

A The Word the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Psalm 27 (*congregation chants the refrain in bold print*)

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

² When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.

³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

⁴ One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.

⁵ For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

⁶ And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

⁷ Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

⁸ You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you,

"Your face, Lord, do I seek." ⁹ Hide not your face from me.

Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help.

Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!

¹⁰ For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the Lord will take me in.

¹¹ Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. ¹² Give me not up to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence.

¹³I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!

¹⁴Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians.

I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹²What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." ¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. *1 Corinthians 1:10-18*

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (all stand and sing)

C Alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

When [Jesus] heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— ¹⁶the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned."

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

¹⁸While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. ²⁴So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. ²⁵And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan. *Matthew 4:12-25*

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn: 723 The Lord Is My Light

Refrain: The Lord is my light and my salvation,

The Lord is the stronghold of my life.

Since the Lord is my life, my strength, and my all,

Whom then shall I fear?

1 There is one thing I ask of the Lord:
To dwell in His house forever,
To gaze on the beauty of the Lord
All the days of my life. Refrain

2 Do not hide Your face, O Lord;
Ev'ry day I will seek Your face.
Though my father and mother may forsake me,
The Lord will receive me. Refrain

3 Teach me, Lord, and keep me on Your paths;
Guide me, Lord, along a level way.
I will gaze on the goodness of the Lord
In the land of all the living. Refrain

Text: tr. Lorraine Florindez, 1926-2011; tr. Jon D. Vieker, 1961

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AFIRMATION OF FAITH - THE APOSTLES' CREED

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 T everlasting. Amen.

(* *catholic = universal*)

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, followed by the **OFFERTORY** prayer

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.

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, **Sheila** Motie, **George** Sukhdeo, **Jackie** Wheeler, **Joyce** Deebrah, **Dorothy** Weener, **Jeanette** Mota, **Dolly** Singh, **Khamlita** D'Ornellas, **Narda** Seoprasad, **Kirsten** Sandblom, **Pastor George** Ramsudh, **Joan** Dookram, **Ruth & Tom** Cameron, **Raymond** Franklin, **Rushell** Singh, **Suresh** Paul, **Iris** Cheddie, **Sandra** Campbell, **Alecia** Clark, **Milo** Noven, **Pastor Dave & Sue** Dietsche, **Pastor Vic** Rapp, **Pastor Ken** Schnepf, **Deo** Bhagwatprasad, **Ismael** Ulloah, **Patrick** Fredricks, **Eleanor** Drepaul, **Justin** Shaw, **Pastor David** Gerber, **Andrea** Doodnauth, **Pastor Jean** Cenat

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.

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

Stand

Hymn: We Are Marching in the Light

Siyahamba

ENGLISH

We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,)
we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,)
we are marching in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib:

We are dancing . . .

We are praying . . .

We are singing . . .

We are walking . . .

ORIGINAL

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',
siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.
Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',
siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.
Siyahamba, (hamba, siyahamba, hamba,)
siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.
Siyahamba, (hamba, siyahamba, hamba,)
siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.

Text: South African traditional; tr. *Freedom Is Coming*, 1984

Tr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

All sit for a moment of reflection.

P Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.



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
- **Your 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. Your Offerings, in and out of season, support of the ministry of the congregation.
- **Visit our church website** www.stmatthewnyc.org
- **You may give your Offering electronically by either of the following ways:**
 - use **DONATE** menu tab on the St. Matthew website – www.stmatthewnyc.org
 - use **Zelle** and enter St. Matthew email: stmatthewnyc@aol.com
- Daily Bible reading and devotions on the internet, visit 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).

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178 Bennett Avenue, New York, NY 10040

Ph/Fax: 212-567-5948 Email: stmatthewnyc@aol.com Web: stmatthewnyc.org