



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 wind blows where it wishes...
So it is with everyone
who is born of the Spirit.



How can these things be?

A Divine Worship Liturgy – March 1, 2026

Second
Sunday in *Lent*

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.



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 Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father... **C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

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. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. **C Amen.**



Hymn: 837 Lift High the Cross

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

- 1 Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Refrain
- 2 Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. Refrain
- 3 All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. Refrain
- 4 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. Refrain
- 5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain
- 6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt.

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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 Eleison (*Lord, have mercy*)

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **C** **Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.**

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** **Christe eleison, Christe eleison, Christe eleison.**

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

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **C** **Amen.**

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

P Let us pray... O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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

LENT
Pray + Fast + Give

The Readings - Hear the word of the LORD. (*Jeremiah 2:4*)

A reading from the Book of Genesis

The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." ⁴So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. *Genesis 12:1-4a*

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

Psalm 121 (*congregation chants the refrain in bold print*)

I lift up my eyes to | *the hills*.*

From where does my | *help come*?

²My help comes from | *the Lord*,*

who made heaven and | *earth*.

³**He will not let your foot | *be moved*;***

he who keeps you will not | *slumber*.

⁴**Behold, he who keeps us | *rael****

will neither slumber nor | *sleep*.

⁵The Lord is your | *keeper*;

the Lord is your shade on your | *right hand*.

⁶The sun shall not strike | *you by day*;

nor the moon by | *night*.

⁷**The Lord will keep you from all | *evil*;***

he will | *keep your life*.

⁸**The Lord will keep your going out and your | *coming in****

from this time forth and for- | *evermore*.

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans.

What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, ⁶just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: ⁷"Blessed are those

whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; ⁸blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” . . .

¹³For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. *Romans 4:1-8, 13-17*

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (*all stand and sing*)

C Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” ³Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has

ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” *John 3:1-17*

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn: 702 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

- 1 My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray;
Take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day
Be wholly Thine!
- 2 May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart;
My zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me,
Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be,
A living fire!
- 3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my guide; Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away, Nor let me ever stray
From Thee aside.
- 4 When ends life's transient dream, When death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll, Blest Savior, then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove; O bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–87 Text: Public domain

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 \dagger of the world to come. 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, 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, 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, Casilda & James Meade, Pauline Strong.**

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

Offertory: 422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image

On my heart imprint Your image, Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation, And my glory and salvation!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt. Text: Public domain

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 indeed 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 T is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

P Blessed are you, O, Lord our God. You created us in your image; and in the mystery of your great love for us you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, born of Mary by the power of the Spirit.

Led by that Spirit he was tempted as we are tempted; He proclaimed your forgiveness to sinners; he loved even his enemies. Despised and rejected, he bore the alienation of the world as he stretched out his arms on the cross; and by his all-sufficient sacrifice he has drawn all people to himself giving his life as a ransom for many.

As we gather in his name and celebrate his testament, send your Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be for us the very body and blood of your Son, Christ Jesus, redeemer of the world.

Jesus' Words of Institution, then the following...

P Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P Blessed are you, O, Lord our God. By your Son's life-giving passion and death, his resurrection and his ascension into glory, our Lord Jesus continually intercedes for us and for all he has claimed as his own.

As we now share together this Bread of Life and this Cup of Salvation, unite us with all your faithful people in the forgiveness of sins and bring us at length to that eternal celebration of life at the Lamb's high feast.

P Hear us, Abba Father, as we pray as our Lord Jesus 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 **O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

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.**

Distribution (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 said in testimony of the mystery and the miracle of faith.)

Nunc Dimittis (*Now Depart*)

1 **O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the nations Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.**

2 **All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,
God's Holy name resounding Through all eternity.**

P Let us pray... Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven, the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage that our fasting, our alms, and our prayer may show forth your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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

Stand

Hymn: 918 Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

- 1 Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.
- 2 Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield;
Be Thou still my strength and shield.
- 3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.

Text: William Williams, 1717–91, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Peter Williams, 1722–96, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. William Williams, 1717–91
Text: Public domain

All sit for a moment of reflection.

- P** Go in peace to love and 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
- **Mid-week Lenten devotions:** Wednesdays at 7 pm on Zoom
- **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).

Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Matthew

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