



**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**



A Divine Worship Liturgy – March 8, 2026



**Third
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: 684 Come unto Me, Ye Weary

- 1 "Come unto Me, ye weary,
And I will give you rest."
O blessed voice of Jesus,
Which comes to hearts oppressed!
It tells of benediction,
Of pardon, grace, and peace,
Of joy that hath no ending,
Of love that cannot cease.
- 2 "Come unto Me, ye wand'ers,
And I will give you light."
O loving voice of Jesus,
Which comes to cheer the night!
Our hearts were filled with sadness,
And we had lost our way;
But Thou hast brought us gladness
And songs at break of day.
- 3 "Come unto Me, ye fainting,
And I will give you life."
O cheering voice of Jesus,
Which comes to aid our strife!
The foe is stern and eager,
The fight is fierce and long;
But Thou hast made us mighty
And stronger than the strong.
- 4 "And whosoever cometh,
I will not cast him out."
O patient love of Jesus,
Which drives away our doubt,
Which, though we be unworthy
Of love so great and free,
Invites us very sinners
To come, dear Lord, to Thee!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, 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 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, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious
to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with
penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the
unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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 the Book of Exodus

All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the Lord, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" ³But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵And the Lord said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in

the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the Lord by saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?" *Exodus 17:1-7*

A The Word the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 95:1-7 (*congregation chants the refrain in bold print*)

Oh come, let us sing | to the Lord;*

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal- | vation!

²Let us come into his presence with thanks- | giving;*

let us make a joyful noise to him with | songs of praise!

³For the Lord is a | great God,*

and a great King a- | bove all gods.

⁴In his hand are the depths | of the earth;*

the heights of the mountains are his | also.

⁵The sea is his, for he | made it,*

and his hands formed the | dry land.

⁶Oh come, let us worship and | bow down;*

let us kneel before the Lord, our | Maker!

⁷For he | is our God,*

and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep | of his hand.

Today, if you | hear his voice,*

⁸do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,

as on the day at Massah in the | wilderness,

⁹when your fathers put me | to the test*

and put me to the proof, though they had | seen my work.

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

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. *Romans 5:1-8*

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 fourth chapter

C Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus] came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁷There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."⁸(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.)⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock."¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here."¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband';¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet."²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship."²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father."²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews."²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him."²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things."²⁶Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

²⁷Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with

her?" ²⁸So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, ²⁹"Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" ³⁰They went out of the town and were coming to him. . . .

³⁹Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did." ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."
John 4:5–30, 39–42

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn: 699 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

- 1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 "Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
 Thy head upon My breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
 So weary, worn, and sad;
I found in Him a resting place,
 And He has made me glad.
- 2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 "Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one,
 Stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
 Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
 And now I live in Him.
- 3 I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light.
Look unto Me; thy morn shall rise And all thy day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found In Him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk Till trav'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–89, alt. 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 ✠ 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, 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. Strømme, 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 ✠ 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:642 O Living Bread from Heaven

- 1 O living Bread from heaven,
How well You feed your guest!
The gifts that You have given
Have filled my heart with rest.
Oh, wondrous food of blessing,
Oh, cup that heals our woes!
My heart, this gift possessing,
With praises overflows.
- 2 My Lord, You here have led me
To this most holy place
And with Yourself have fed me
The treasures of Your grace;
For You have freely given
What earth could never buy,
The bread of life from heaven,
That now I shall not die.
- 3 You gave me all I wanted; This food can death destroy.
And You have freely granted The cup of endless joy.
My Lord, I do not merit The favor You have shown,
And all my soul and spirit Bow down before Your throne.
- 4 Lord, grant me then, thus strengthened With heav'nly food, while here
My course on earth is lengthened, To serve with holy fear.
And when You call my spirit To leave this world below,
I enter, through Your merit, Where joys unmingled flow.

Text: Johann Rist, 1607–67; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. 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).

LENT
Pray + Fast + Give

Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Matthew

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