



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

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



Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026



The Resurrection  
of Our Lord

**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. To this we say, "Amen!"



## PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

### *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** Hail thee, festival day! Blest day to be hallowed forever;  
Day when our Lord was raised, Breaking the kingdom of death.

**C** All the fair beauty of earth From the death of the winter arising!  
Ev'ry good gift of the year Now with its master returns:

**P** Rise from the grave now, O Lord, The author of life and creation.  
Treading the pathway of death, New life You give to us all:

Text: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, c. 530-609; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.  
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**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

**P** Christ Jesus died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures;

**C** He was buried and was raised on the third day in  
accordance with the scriptures.

**P** Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him,

**C** so that he might save us.

**P** This is the LORD for whom we have waited;

**C** let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

**P** This is the day that the Lord has made;

**C** we will rejoice and be glad in it!

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

*Rejoice*

## **HYMN: Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds**

- 1 Now all the vault of heav'n resounds  
In praise of love that still abounds:  
    "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!  
Repeat their song of glory here:  
    "Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!"  
    Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
  
- 2 Eternal is the gift He brings,  
Therefore our heart with rapture sings:  
    "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Now still He comes to give us life  
And by His presence stills all strife.  
    Christ has triumphed! He is living!  
    Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
  
- 3 O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;  
Set heart and will on things above  
    That we conquer through Your triumph;  
Grant grace sufficient for life's day  
That by our lives we truly say:  
    "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
    Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
  
- 4 Adoring praises now we bring  
And with the heav'nly blessed sing:  
    "Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"  
Be to the Father and our Lord,  
To Spirit blest, most holy God,  
    All the glory, never ending!  
    Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.

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## The GREETING

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C** Christ 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

**P** 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 the Father, through Your only-begotten Son,  
Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting  
life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's  
resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit;  
through Jesus Christ, 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**

Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), <sup>37</sup>you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

*Acts 10:34-43*

**A** The Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 16**

Preserve me, | O God,\* for in you I take | refuge.

<sup>2</sup>I say to the LORD, "You | are my Lord;\* I have no good a- | part from you."

**<sup>3</sup>As for the saints | in the land,\***

**they are the excellent ones, in whom is all | my delight.**

**<sup>4</sup>The sorrows of those who run after another god shall | multiply;\***

**their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out**

**or take their names | on my lips.**

<sup>5</sup>The LORD is my chosen portion | and my cup;\* you | hold my lot.

<sup>6</sup>The lines have fallen for me in pleasant | places;\*

indeed, I have a beautiful in- | heritance.

**<sup>7</sup>I bless the LORD who gives me | counsel;\***

**in the night also my heart in- | structs me.**

**<sup>8</sup>I have set the LORD always be- | fore me;\***

**because he is at my right hand, I shall not be | shaken.**

<sup>9</sup>Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being re- | joices;\*

my flesh also | dwells secure.

<sup>10</sup>For you will not abandon my soul | to Sheol,\*  
or let your holy one see cor- | ruption.

<sup>11</sup>**You make known to me the | path of life;\***  
**in your presence there is fullness of joy;**  
**at your right hand are pleasures for- | evermore.**  
**Preserve me, | O God,\***  
**for in you I take | refuge.**

### **A reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians**

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup>For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. *Colossians 3:1-4*

**A** The Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

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

**C** Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah.  
Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

(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. Matthew, the twenty-eighth chapter.

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

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup>And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup>And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." <sup>8</sup>So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me." *Matthew 28:1-10*

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

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

## SERMON

### Hymn: He Is Risen, He Is Risen

- 1 He is risen, He is risen!  
Tell it with a joyful voice.  
Christ has burst the three days' prison;  
Let the whole wide earth rejoice.  
Death is conquered, we are free;  
Christ has won the victory.
- 2 Come, you sad and fearful hearted,  
With glad smile and radiant brow.  
Death's dark shadows have departed,  
All our woes are over now;  
Through the passion that he bore,  
Sin and pain have pow'r no more.
- 3 Come with high and holy hymning;  
Chant our Lord's triumphant might.  
Not one gloomy cloud is dimming  
That bright glorious morning light  
Breaking o'er the purple east,  
Symbol of our Easter feast.
- 4 Christ is risen, Christ is risen!  
And has opened heaven's gate.  
We are free from evil's prison,  
Risen to a holier state;  
And a brighter Easter beam  
On our longing eyes shall stream.

Text: Cecil Francis Alexander (1846)

Music: Neander



## 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, Jackie Wheeler, Joyce Deebrah, Dorothy Weener, Jeanette Mota, Dolly Singh, Khamlita D'Ornellas, Narda Seoprasad, Kirsten Sandblom, Pastor George Ramsudh, Joan Dookram, Ruth 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 Drepaal, Justin Shaw, Pastor David Gerber, Andrea Doodnauth, Pastor Jean Cenat, Casilda & James Meade, Pauline Strong, Jen Santos.**

**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.

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 ...evermore praising You and saying:

**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.

*Distribution*

Post Communion Canticle

**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 T give you peace. **C** Amen.

*Sit*

**Announcements**

## **HYMN: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today**

- 1 Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!  
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!
  
- 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
Unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!  
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!
  
- 3 But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!  
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!  
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!  
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!
  
- 4 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
Praise eternal as His love; Alleluia!  
Praise Him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

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***A*** *ll sit for a moment of reflection.*

***P*** Rejoice in the resurrection and live in hope, peace, and joy.  
Go and share the Good News.

***C*** **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**)  
+ **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](http://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](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).

*Happy Easter*

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**Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Matthew**

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