



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



*The Lord is my Shepherd*

April 26, 2026

Fourth Sunday  
of Easter

**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** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## Confession of Sins

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

## Absolution

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C** Amen.

**P** Jesus Christ is ris'n today,  
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!

**C** Who did once upon the cross,  
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!



## **Hymn: 819 Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good**

- 1 Sing praise to God, the highest good,  
The author of creation,  
The God of love who understood  
Our need for His salvation.  
With healing balm our souls He fills  
And ev'ry faithless murmur stills:  
To God all praise and glory!
- 2 What God's almighty pow'r has made,  
In mercy He is keeping.  
By morning glow or evening shade  
His eye is never sleeping.  
Within the kingdom of His might  
All things are just and good and right:  
To God all praise and glory!
- 3 We sought the Lord in our distress;  
O God, in mercy hear us.  
Our Savior saw our helplessness  
And came with peace to cheer us.  
For this we thank and praise the Lord,  
Who is by one and all adored:  
To God all praise and glory!
- 4 He never shall forsake His flock,  
His chosen generation;  
He is their refuge and their rock,  
Their peace and their salvation.  
As with a mother's tender hand,  
He leads His own, His chosen band:  
To God all praise and glory!
- 5 All who confess Christ's holy name, Give God the praise and glory.  
Let all who know His pow'r proclaim Aloud the wondrous story.  
Cast ev'ry idol from its throne, For God is God, and He alone:  
To God all praise and glory!

Text: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1640–90; (sts. 1–3, 5): tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, adapt.;  
(st. 4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, adapt. Text: Public domain

## The GREETING

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C** He 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, merciful Father, since You have wakened from  
death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we  
hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by  
name and follow where He leads; through the same 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 Acts of the Apostles

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup>And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup>And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup>And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. *Acts 2:42-47*

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

### Psalm 23 (*congregation sings verses in bold text*)

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my | shepherd;\*

I | shall not want.

<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green | pastures.\*

He leads me beside still | waters.

**<sup>3</sup>He re- | stores my soul.\***

**He leads me in paths of righteousness for his | name's sake.**

**<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**

**I will fear no evil, for you are | with me;\***

**your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my | enemies;\*

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup | overflows.

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days | of my life,\*

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for- | ever.

### A reading from the first Epistle of St. Peter

This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup>For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. <sup>21</sup>For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup>He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. <sup>23</sup>When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but

continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. *1 Peter 2:19-25*

**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. John, the tenth chapter.

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

[Jesus said:] "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup>But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." <sup>6</sup>This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup>So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." *John 10:1-10*

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

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

**SERMON**

**H**allelujah!

## Hymn: 711 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

- 1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us;  
    Much we need Your tender care.  
In Your pleasant pastures feed us,  
    For our use Your fold prepare.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
    You have bought us; we are Yours.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
    You have bought us; we are Yours.
  
- 2 We are Yours; in love befriend us,  
    Be the guardian of our way;  
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us,  
    Seek us when we go astray.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
    Hear us children when we pray.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
    Hear us children when we pray.
  
- 3 You have promised to receive us,  
    Poor and sinful though we be;  
You have mercy to relieve us,  
    Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
    Early let us turn to You.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
    Early let us turn to You.
  
- 4 Early let us seek Your favor,  
    Early let us do Your will;  
Blessèd Lord and only Savior,  
    With Your love our spirits fill.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
    You have loved us, love us still.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
    You have loved us, love us still.

Text: Hymns for the Young, 1836, 4th ed., London, 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  $\dagger$  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 Schnepp, Justin Shaw, Deo Bhagwatprasad, Ismael Ulloah, Patrick Fredricks, Eleanor Drepaul, Pastor David Gerber, Andrea Doodnauth, Pastor Jean Cenat, Casilda & James Meade, Pauline Strong, Jen Santos, Kenneth Ragnauth, Megan Latchman, Jhoann Fuentes, Elisa Santiago, William Seepaul**

**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.

**P** Hear us, Abba Father, as we pray as the words the 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.**

**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 ✠ give you peace. **C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

**Announcements**

## Hymn: 710 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

- 1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;  
He makes me down to lie  
In pastures green; He leadeth me  
The quiet waters by.
- 2 My soul He doth restore again  
And me to walk doth make  
Within the paths of righteousness,  
E'en for His own name's sake.
- 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
Yet will I fear no ill;  
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod  
And staff me comfort still.
- 4 My table Thou hast furnishèd  
In presence of my foes;  
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,  
And my cup overflows.
- 5 Goodness and mercy all my life  
Shall surely follow me;  
And in God's house forevermore  
My dwelling place shall be.

Text: The Psalms of David in Meeter, 1650, Edinburgh  
Text: Public domain



*All 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).

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**Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Matthew**

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