



Evangelical
Lutheran
Church
of
St. Matthew

•
America's Oldest Lutheran Congregation
Chartered December 6, 1664

•
**361 years of
Gospel Ministry**

•
A friendly household of faith

•
A congregation of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

•
The Rev. Peter A.D. Deebrach, Pastor



OWE NO ONE ANYTHING
except to

Love
ONE ANOTHER,

for he
WHO LOVES ANOTHER
has fulfilled the law.

ROMANS 13:8

September 6, 2026

Fifteenth Sunday *after*
PENTECOST

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. To this we say, "Amen!"



SERVICE OF THE WORD

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 Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

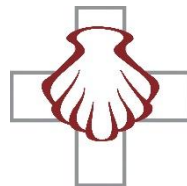
P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.



C Amen.

Hymn: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

- 1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.
- 2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.
- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.

The 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 (LSB 942)

P Kyrie! God, Father in heav'n above,
You abound in gracious love, You are the maker
and preserver of all things. Lord, Have mercy **C** Lord, have mercy

P Kyrie! O Christ, our king,
Salvation for all You came to bring.
O Lord Jesus, God's own Son, Our mediator at
the heav'nly throne: Hear our cry and grant
our supplication. Christ, Have mercy **C** Christ, have mercy

P Kyrie! O God the Holy Ghost,
Guard our faith, the gift we need the most,
And bless our life's journey, That we may leave
this sinful world with gladness. Lord, Have mercy **C** Lord, have mercy

Adapted: German version, Ordnung der ceremonien, 1537/38, Naumburg; tr. W. Gustave Polack, 1890-1950, alt.; Latin, 9th cent.
Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004133

HYMN OF PRAISE - Gloria in Excelsis

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.
C Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

Adapted. Text: Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951, based on "Gloria in excelsis Deo" © 1998 Augsburg Fortress

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

P Let us pray... O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your
humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the
things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them;
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 - *I will listen to what the Lord God is saying.* (Psalm 85:8)**

A reading from Ezekiel the Prophet

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel? *Ezekiel 33:7-11*

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

Psalm 119:33-40 (*congregation speaks verses in bold text*)

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.

³⁶ **Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷ Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood; give me life in your way.

³⁸ **Fulfill your promise^l to your servant,
which is for^l those who fear you.**

³⁹ Turn away the reproach that I dread, because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

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

Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. *Romans 13:8-14*

A The Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

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

G Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

G Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹¹For the Son of Man came to save the lost. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

¹⁵If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." *Matthew 18:15-20*

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

Hymn: Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace

- 1 Lord of all nations, grant me grace
to love all people, ev'ry race;
and in each person may I see
my kindred, loved, redeemed by thee.
- 2 Break down the wall that would divide
thy children, Lord, on ev'ry side.
My neighbor's good let me pursue;
let Christian love bind warm and true.
- 3 Forgive me, Lord, where I have erred
by loveless act and thoughtless word.
Make me to see the wrong I do
will crucify my Lord anew.
- 4 Give me thy courage, Lord to speak whenever strong oppress the weak.
Should I myself the victim be, help me forgive, rememb'ring thee.
- 5 With thine own love may I be filled and by thy Holy Spirit willed,
that all I touch, where'er I be, may be divinely touched by thee.

Text: Olive Wise Spannaus, 1916-2018, alt.

Affirmation of Faith - Apostles' Creed (*stand*)

**☩ 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 catholic* Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

(* catholic = universal Christian)

Prayer of the Church

After each petition, the following is said: Lord, in your mercy. **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, Violet Monson, Brenda Carmichael, Zonia & Resa Bucknor, Agnes D’Ornellas, Eunice Lyte, 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, 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 Drepaul, Pastor David Gerber, Pastor Jean Cenat, Casilda & James Meade, Pauline Strong, Kenneth Ragnauth, Natasha Ragnauth, Jhoann Fuentes, Elisa Santiago, William Seepaul, Ronald Bakker, Annette & Twila Evanson, Gertrud Schulze, Rudolph Kisson, Chandramah & Raymond Yarally.**

▪ Comfort all who grieve the loss of loved ones including

† The falling asleep in death of Dr. Ruth Zerner, longtime member of St. Matthew.

† The family of Pastor Dereck Pillay on the death of his son, Samuel.

† The family of Sharon Obi on the death of her son.

✠ The people of Venezuela, Colombia and Nepal in the aftermath of natural disasters

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.

LSB 781 We Give Thee But Thine Own sts. 1–2, 4, 6

- 1 We give Thee but Thine own, Whate’er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
- 2 May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!
- 4 To comfort and to bless, To find a balm for woe,
To tend the lone and fatherless Is angels’ work below.
- 6 And we believe Thy Word, Though dim our faith may be:
Whate’er for Thine we do, O Lord, We do it unto Thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–97

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

Benediction

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son,
and the Holy Spirit bless and preserve you. **C** **Amen.**

Announcements

Hymn: Where Charity and Love Prevail

- 1 Where charity and love prevail,
there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love,
by love we thus are bound.
- 2 With grateful joy and holy fear
God's charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and soul
now love God in return.
- 3 Let us recall that in our midst
dwells Christ, God's holy Son;
as members of each body joined,
in him we are made one.
- 4 Let strife among us be unknown;
let all contentions cease.
Be God's the glory that we seek;
be his our only peace.
- 5 For love excludes no race or clan
that names the Savior's name;
his family embraces all
whose Father is the same.
- 6 We now forgive each other's faults
as we our own confess,
that we may love each other well
in Christian gentleness.

Text: Latin hymn; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.
© 1960 World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

All sit for a moment of reflection.

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Worship
Servant }

Officiating Minister: Rev. Peter Deebrah, Pastor



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
- **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 Psalms (150 chapters).

Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Matthew

178 Bennett Avenue, New York, NY 10040

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