



**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



guide me
IN YOUR TRUTH
AND TEACH ME,
FOR YOU ARE
GOD MY SAVIOR,
AND MY HOPE
IS IN YOU
all day long

PSALM 25:5

September 27, 2026

Eighteenth Sunday After
PENTECOST

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 in Scripture and He freely pours forth 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 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 We are gathered to hear God's Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise. Recognizing our unworthiness, let us 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: When Morning Gilds the Skies

- 1 When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awaking cries:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
When evening shadows fall,
this rings my curfew call:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
- 2 When mirth for music longs,
this is my song of songs:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
God's holy house of prayer
has none that can compare
with "Jesus Christ be praised!"
- 3 To him, my highest and best,
I sing, when love-possessed:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Whate'er my hands begin,
this blessing shall break in:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
- 4 No lovelier antiphon
in all high heav'n is known
than "Jesus Christ be praised!"
There to the eternal Word
the eternal psalm is heard:
oh, Jesus Christ be praised!
- 5 Let all of humankind in this their concord find:
may Jesus Christ be praised! Let all the earth around
ring joyous with the sound: may Jesus Christ be praised!
- 6 Sing, sun and stars of space, sing, all who see his face,
sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!" God's whole creation o'er,
today and evermore, shall Jesus Christ be praised!

Text: German hymn, 19th cent.; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, 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.
♪ **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...Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor
and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing
Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ,
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

The word of the Lord came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live. *Ezekiel 18:1-4, 18-32*

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-9 (*congregation sings verses in bold text*)

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

⁸You are gracious and upright, O Lord; therefore you teach sinners in your way.

⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

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

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others.

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. *Philippians 2:1-13*

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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

C 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 twenty-third chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But

if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him." *Matthew 21:23-32*

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

♪ Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

Hymn: Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way

- 1 Lord, help us walk Your servant way
Wherever love may lead
And bending low, forgetting self,
Each serve the other's need.
2. You came to earth, O Christ, as lord,
But pow'r You laid aside.
You lived Your years in servanthood;
In lowliness You died.
- 3 No golden scepter but a towel
You place within the hands
Of those who seek to follow You
And live by Your commands.
- 4 You bid us bend our human pride
Nor count ourselves above
The lowest place, the meanest task
That waits the gift of love.
- 5 Lord, help us walk Your servant way
Wherever love may lead
And, bending low, forgetting self,
Each serve the other's need.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr. (1923-2007)

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

C 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. **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, Violet Monson,**
Brenda Carmichael, Zonia & Resa Bucknor, Agnes D'Ornellas, Eunice Lyte, Carmen
D'Ornellas, Sheila Motie, Jackie Wheeler, Joyce Deebrab, 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 Persaud,
Jhoann Fuentes, Elisa Santiago, William Seepaul, Ronald Bakker, Annette & Twila Evanson,
Gertrud Schulze, Rudolph Kissoon, Chandramah & Raymond Yarally, Sheila Pillay.

▪ Comfort all who grieve the loss of loved ones including...

† Pastor Charles 'Chip' Froehlich retired servant of God in the Atlantic District LCMS

† 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 we offer up the
first- fruits of self and possessions.

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

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. **♪ Amen.**

Announcements

Hymn: O Master, Let Me Walk with You

- 1 O Master, let me walk with you in lowly paths of service true;
tell me your secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
- 2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.
- 3 Teach me your patience; share with me a closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong,
- 4 In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broad'ning way,
in peace that only you can give; with you, O Master, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, alt.

P Go in peace. 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 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.

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

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