Evangelical
Lutheran
Church
of
St. Matthew

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America's Oldest Lutheran Congregation
Chartered December 6, 1664

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361 years of Gospel Ministry

•

A friendly household of faith

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A congregation of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

•

The Rev. Peter A.D. Deebrah, Pastor

WE PREACH CHRIST CRUCIFIED

Restore us,

O God, and cause

Your face to shine

upon us, that we

may be saved.

Psalm 80 : 3

First Sunday of the Church Year

November 29, 2026

First Sunday of Advent

Welcome to a Divine Liturgy of Word and Sacrament. In our worship we gather as the family of God in His 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

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 The Sun of righteousness shall rise with shining beams of healing. Let us gather under the wings of God's mercy and prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Gracious God,

C **we acknowledge that we are sinners and we confess our sins—those known to us that burden our hearts, and those unknown to us but seen by you. We know that before you nothing remains hidden, and in you everything is revealed. Free us from the slavery of sin; liberate us from the bondage of guilt; work in us that which is pleasing in your sight; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P From the house of David, God raised up a mighty Savior.

C **Blessed be the Lord God Almighty, who comes to set us free.**

P Remembering the covenant, God delivered us from our enemies.

C **Blessed be the Lord God our righteousness, who comes to set us free.**

P Called to be heirs of God's kingdom, we are free to worship without fear.

C **Blessed be the Lord God and King, who comes to set us free.**

P With a heart full of mercy and compassion, God saves us and forgives us all our sins. Christ Jesus, the dawn from on high, shines upon us, and by the light of the Holy Spirit guides our feet into the way of peace. **C** **Amen.**



Hymn: LSB336 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

1 Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
once for favored sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

2 Ev'ry eye shall now behold him
robed in glorious majesty;
those who set at nought and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall their true Messiah see.

3 Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshipers.
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!

4 Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,
claim the kingdom as thine own.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

The GREETING

℗ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. ☪ **And also with you.**

Kyrie - *Lord. Have mercy*

℗ In peace let us pray to the Lord. ☪ **Lord, have mercy.**

℗ For the peace from above and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord. ☪ **Lord, have mercy.**

℗ 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. ☪ **Lord, have mercy.**

℗ For this holy house and for all who offer here their
worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. ☪ **Lord, have mercy.**

℗ Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. ☪ **Amen.**

℗ The Lord be with you. ☪ **And also with you.**

℗ Let us pray…Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. ☪ **Amen.**

Sit

Hymn: We Light the Advent Candles

1 We light the Advent candles against the winter night
to welcome our Lord Jesus, who is the world's true light;
to welcome our Lord Jesus, who is the world's true light.

2 The first one will remind us that Christ will soon return.
We light it in the darkness and watch it gleam and burn.
We light it in the darkness and watch it gleam and burn.

▪ **THE READINGS** - *I will listen to what the Lord God is saying. (Psalm 85:8)*

A reading from Isaiah the Prophet

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

4 From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for you.
5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
8 Yet, O Lord, you are as a father to us;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people. *Isaiah 64:1-9*

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

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 *(Psalm Tone I; congregation sings verses in bold text)*

Restore | us, O God; // let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.
2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and | come to help us.

Restore | us, O God; // let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
4 O Lord | God of hosts, // how long will your anger fume when your | people pray?
5 You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.

Restore | us, O God; // let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
6 You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O | God of hosts; // let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

17 Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,
the one you have made so strong | for yourself.
18 And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.

Restore | us, O God; // let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

A reading from the first Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians.

Grace to you and peace from God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.
4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has
been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in
Christ, in speech and knowledge of every kind— 6 just as the testimony of Christ
has been strengthened among you— 7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual
gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also
strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord
Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the communion of
the Son of God, Jesus Christ our Lord. *I Corinthians 1:3-9*

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(all stand and sing…)*

♫ **Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

P **The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.**

♫ **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "In those days, after that suffering, the sun
will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, 25 and the stars will be
falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26 Then they will see 'the Son-of-Man coming in clouds' with great power and
glory. 27 Then the Son-of-Man will send out the angels, and gather his elect
from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender
and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you
see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.
30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken
place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven,
nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert; for you do not know
when the time will come. 34 It is like someone going on a journey, who leaving
home and putting the slaves in charge of their own work, commands the

doorkeeper to be on the watch. [35] Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the lord of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, [36] or else, coming suddenly, the lord may find you asleep. [37] And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake." *Mark 13:24-37*

℗ This is the Gospel of the Lord. ♫ **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON

Hymn: LSB355 O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide

1 O Savior, rend the heavens wide;
come down, come down with mighty stride;
unlock the gates, the doors break down;
unbar the way to heaven's crown.

2 O Father, light from heaven send;
As morning dew, O Son, descend.
Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring:
To Jacob's line rain down the King.

3 O Morning Star, O radiant Sun,
when will our hearts behold your dawn?
O Sun, arise; without your light
we grope in gloom and dark of night.

4 Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies;
grim death looms fierce before our eyes.
Oh, come, lead us with mighty hand
from exile to our promised land.

5 There shall we all our praises bring
ever to you, our Savior King;
there shall we laud you and adore
forever and forevermore.

Text: German spiritual song, Köln, 1623; tr. Martin L. Seltz, 1909-1967, alt.
Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

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Afirmation of Faith - The Nicene Creed *(stand)*

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 catholic* 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 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** 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 Schnepp, Deo** Bhagwatprasad, **Ismael** Ulloah, **Patrick** Fredricks, **Eleanor** Drepaul, **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, **Dianna** Schrader.

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*

Stand

℗ 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.**

The GREAT THANKSGIVING.



℗ The Lord be with you. ♫ **And also with you.**

℗ Lift up your hearts. ♫ **We lift them to the Lord.**

℗ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

♫ **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

℗ It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. You comforted Your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom You will also make all things new in the day when He comes to judge the world in righteousness. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

♫ **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.**

℗ Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the salvation you have granted to us through Jesus, the Word made flesh, the child of Mary; the Light of the world, our Immanuel. Send the Spirit of your Son into our hearts, that as your beloved children we may welcome our Savior who comes to us in his body and blood.

Jesus' Words of Institution of His Holy Supper are chanted, then the following…

℗ Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

ℂ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

℗ Heavenly Father, You fulfilled your promises in the death, resurrection, and ascension of your Son, the King of all nations. We praise you for embracing us as your children who now dwell in the brightness of His glory. With all the people of your promises, we wait our Lord's final coming when we will share in that feast which shall never end.

C Amen. Come, O precious Ransom, come!

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.**

♫ **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

♫ **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 Almighty God, we thank you that as the broken bread was gathered into one loaf, the broken fragments of our history are gathered up and healed by the redeeming act of Christ. Send us forth in peace, form us into what we celebrate, the body of Christ in the world. Nourished by this sacrament, give us strength and courage to serve you in daily life with joy and singleness of heart. In the name of Christ we pray. **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. ♫ **Amen.**

Sit

Announcements

Hymn: TFF38 Soon and Very Soon

1 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we are goin' to see the King!

2 No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we are goin' to see the King!

3 No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we are goin' to see the King!

4 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we're are goin' to see the King!
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

Text: Andraé Crouch

All sit for a moment of reflection.

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. First time visitors, please sign our guest book.

Announcements

- **Glad that you have worshipped** today in our gathering 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
- **Next Sunday, Dec. 6:** St. Matthew's 362nd Anniversary.
- **Friday, December 25: Christmas Day**
- **Your offering,** given with joy and in thanksgiving to God, **is an important and integral part of worship**. We return to the Lord a portion of what He has first given us out of His Fatherly love. Your offering, in and out of season, support of the ministry of the congregation.
- **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**
- **Visit our church website** www.stmatthewnyc.org
- 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).

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