

# ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

11213 Highway 49, Gulfport, MS 39503

**LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD**



**Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.**

**Worship, 10:00 a.m.**

**Church Phone: 864-6264**

**E-Mail Address: [m1919@bellsouth.net](mailto:m1919@bellsouth.net)**

**Web Page: [stmatthewgulfport.tripod.com](http://stmatthewgulfport.tripod.com)**

# *Third Sunday after the Epiphany*

January 26, 2025

## **Prelude**

**Welcome in the name of our Lord Jesus.** Cry room and restroom facilities are available. Please ask an usher for the location. Please fill out the connection card in your bulletin and place it in the offering plate during the offering. If your connection card contains a prayer request, the Pastor will come down the aisle and collect it prior to the prayers. Pencils are located by the hymnals at the ends of the pews.

*Stand*

## **Entrance Hymn: 802 – Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**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.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**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.**

**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.**

## Kyrie

**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**A** 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.

**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.


**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C** Amen.

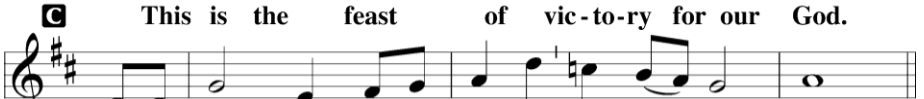
## Hymn of Praise: This Is the Feast

LSB 155

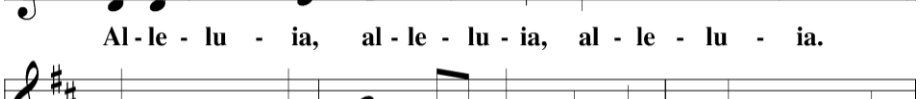
*Refrain*



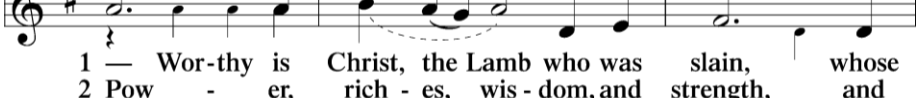
**C** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.




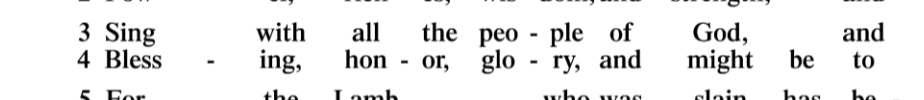
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and  
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and  
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to  
5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*  
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*  
gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*



*Final Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; 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*

## Old Testament Reading

*Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10*

<sup>1</sup> All the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel.

<sup>2</sup> So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup> And he

read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.

<sup>5</sup>And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. <sup>6</sup>And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

<sup>8</sup>They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

<sup>9</sup>And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. <sup>10</sup>Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

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

## Epistle Reading

*1 Corinthians 12:12–31a*

<sup>12</sup>For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in one Spirit we were all baptized

into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup>For the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? <sup>18</sup>But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup>If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

<sup>21</sup>The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." <sup>22</sup>On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup>and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, <sup>24</sup>which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, <sup>25</sup>that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup>If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

<sup>27</sup>Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup>And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various

kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup>Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup>Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup>But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

And I will show you a still more excellent way.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

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

*Stand*

### Common Alleluia and Verse

**C** Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

### Holy Gospel

*Luke 4:16–30*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.

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

<sup>16</sup>And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. <sup>17</sup>And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

<sup>18</sup>“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me



to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives  
and recovering of sight to the blind,

to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

<sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

<sup>20</sup>And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the  
attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the

synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup>And he began to say to  
them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your

hearing." <sup>22</sup>And all spoke well of him and marveled at the  
gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they

said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" <sup>23</sup>And he said to them,

"Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Physician, heal  
yourself.' What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do

here in your hometown as well." <sup>24</sup>And he said, "Truly, I say to  
you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. <sup>25</sup>But in

truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days  
of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six

months, and a great famine came over all the land, <sup>26</sup>and

Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the  
land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. <sup>27</sup>And there

were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha,  
and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the

Syrian." <sup>28</sup>When they heard these things, all in the synagogue  
were filled with wrath. <sup>29</sup>And they rose up and drove him out

of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which  
their town was built, so that they could throw him down the

cliff. <sup>30</sup>But passing through their midst, he went away.

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

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

*Sit*

**Sermon**

Pastor DeSanto

**Hymn of the Day: 700 – Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

*Stand*

**Nicene Creed**

*LSB 158*

**☐ 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 \* of the world to come. Amen.**

*Sit*

**Collection of Prayers:** The Pastor will come down the aisle and collect any prayer requests.

**Offering** The offering plate will be passed down the rows. Both offerings and the connection cards may be placed in the plate.

**Offertory: 706 – Love in Christ Is Strong and Living**

*Stand*

## Prayer of the Church

*Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3)*

*Sit*

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

LSB 160

**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.

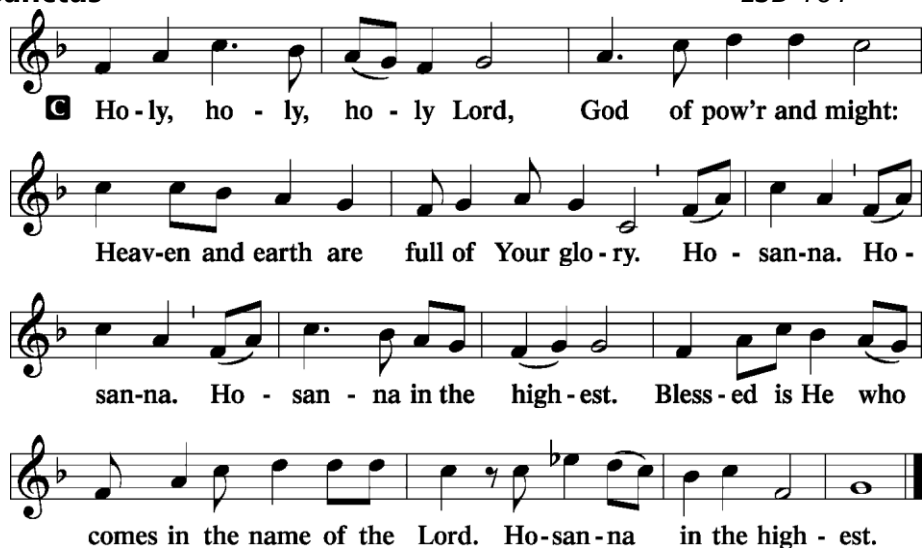
**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company

of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name,  
evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

LSB 161



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Bless-ed is He who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends

of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

Hear us as we pray in Christ's name and as He has taught us:

### **Lord's Prayer**

*LSB 162*

**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.**

### **The Words of Our Lord**

*LSB 162*

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in

remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{†}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

### Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

### Agnus Dei

LSB 163

**C** Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Sit*

### Hymns during Communion:

650 – Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

623 – Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray

## **Distribution**

*The pastor and those who assist him distribute to those who come to receive, saying:*

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

**Amen.**

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

**Amen.**

*Membership in St. Matthew congregation is not required for partaking of the Lord's Supper. Those who commune with us are those who are one with us in faith. We believe that the Lord's body and blood are present in Communion together with the bread and the wine. We also believe God gives us forgiveness of sins through this means of grace and strengthens us for Christian living according to his will. Those who profess our belief, who have been baptized, who have been instructed in the meaning of this Sacrament, and who are able to examine themselves spiritually before partaking of this divine blessing are invited to join us in receiving Holy Communion.*

*Stand*

*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.



**C** Amen.

### Thank the Lord



**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

### Post-Communion Collect

*LSB 166*

**A** Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; 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**

*Stand*

## **Recessional Hymn: 525 – Crown Him with Many Crowns**

WORSHIP NOTES: In our prayers we remember our shut-ins: Donna Johnston, Rosa O'Bannon and Don Burnett.

Most of our shut-ins have expressed an openness to receive phone calls from members if you would like to do so.

We also pray for all who are ill or have any needs.

## **READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK**

**February 2, 2025**

### **The Purification of Mary and Presentation of Our Lord**

**Old Testament Reading:** I Samuel 1:21-28

**Epistle Reading:** Hebrews 2:14-18

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 2:22-32, (33-40)

| <b>CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK</b> |                                      |                         |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>DATE</b>                  | <b>EVENT</b>                         | <b>TIME</b>             |
| Today                        | Sunday School/Bible Class<br>Worship | 9:00 a.m.<br>10:00 a.m. |
| Friday                       | Fellowship Dinner                    | 5:00 – 7:30<br>p.m      |
| Next Sunday                  | Sunday School/Bible Class<br>Worship | 9:00 a.m.<br>10:00 a.m. |

**FOR THOSE NEWER TO THE CHURCH:** Thank you for being with us today! Please consider filling out the Connection Card in your bulletin, which can be placed in the offering plate during the offering or simply given to an usher or to the pastor. There is also information about the church on the table in the narthex.

**2024 BUILDING FUND CAMPAIGN** St. Matthew is having a Building Fund Campaign to support the interior remodeling of our Church Building. The funds will be used primarily to replace carpet with new flooring, paint interior walls as needed, and replace any light fixtures that maybe needed. Your support of this initiative is appreciated as we continue to modernize our facility. All contributions should be marked for 2024 Building Fund.

**ALTAR WORKERS** are needed to help setting the altar for communion. Individuals and couples can volunteer. The parament colors are changed, communion is set up before church service and cleaned after church. Anyone interested should please see Judy Parker.

**NEWSLETTER** If you have an article you would like to contribute to next month's newsletter, please email it to the office at [m1919@bellsouth.net](mailto:m1919@bellsouth.net), or drop it off in the office, by the last Sunday of the month.

**REFRESHMENTS** Volunteers are needed to provide refreshments after Sunday Church Service. The sign-up sheet is located on the table in the entry hallway.

**HANDBELL CHOIR** is getting organized and will be practicing after church. The choir needs members to replace members who moved. If you are interested or have questions, please see Cynthia or Maryelizabeth.

**LAWN FUND** The table with sale items is for the Lawn Fund. If you bring any items, please have sale price on the item.

**GIRL SCOUTS** will meet at the church every other Friday from 5:30 to 7:15 pm. Please contact Cheryl Boatner at (228) 860-8221 if you know of someone that is interested.

The **CONTAINERS** for medicine bottles, eyeglasses, egg cartons, and Mardi Gras beads are on the table in the first hall pass the foyer. These items will be donated to charity.

**SERVING US TODAY** ASSISTING WITH COMMUNION: Jacob M; READER: William U; USHERS: Sue H & Julie U; ALTAR: Shirley

*Sunday, January 19, 2025*  
*Attendance: 63 Communion: 61*  
*Offering: \$6,820*