

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

Web Page: stmatthewgulfport.tripod.com

Second Sunday after Christmas

January 5, 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: 380 – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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.

G Amen.

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

G 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-to-ry 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 God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; 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

Old Testament Reading

1 Kings 3:4–15

⁴ The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And

your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

¹⁵And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 1:3–14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the

foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

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 2:40–52

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

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

⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

⁴¹Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹And he said to

them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sit

Sermon

Pastor Linck

Hymn of the Day: 397 – As with Gladness Men of Old

Stand

Nicene Creed

LSB 158

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 * 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

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



C 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 ∇ 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 ∇ 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: 368 – Angels We Have Heard on High

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

January 12, 2025

The Baptism of Our Lord

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7

Epistle Reading: Romans 6:1-11

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:15-22

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK		
DATE	EVENT	TIME
Today	Sunday School/Bible Class	9:00 a.m.
	Worship	10:00 a.m.
	Take Down Decorations	11:00 a.m.
Next Sunday	Sunday School/Bible Class	9:00 a.m.
	Worship	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.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING The Church Council will meet on Sunday, January 19, 2025, following the Worship Service.

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

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS will be taken down today after church service. Please stay and help.

HANDBELL CHOIR is getting back together. If you are interested in joining 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 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: Tim D;
READER: Robert R; **USHERS:** Carolyn P & Bea C; **ALTAR:** Shirley E.

Sunday, December 29, 2024

Attendance: 49 Communion: 46

Offering: \$2,790.50