

# 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)**

# *Fourth Sunday in Advent*

December 22, 2024

## **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: 507 – Holy, Holy, Holy**

*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** 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.**

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

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

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

**Old Testament Reading**

*Micah 5:2–5a*

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has given birth;  
then the rest of his brothers shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of  
the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth.

<sup>5</sup>And he shall be their peace.

When the Assyrian comes into our land  
and treads in our palaces,  
then we will raise against him seven shepherds  
and eight princes of men;

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

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

### **Epistle Reading**

*Hebrews 10:5–10*

<sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,  
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body have you prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,  
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

<sup>8</sup>When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken  
pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and  
sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then  
he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He  
abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And by  
that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the  
body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**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 1:39–45*

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

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

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup>and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup>and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

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

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

*Sit*

**Sermon**

Pastor DeSanto

**Hymn of the Day: 357 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

**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**



## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

**P** The Lord be with you.

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

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

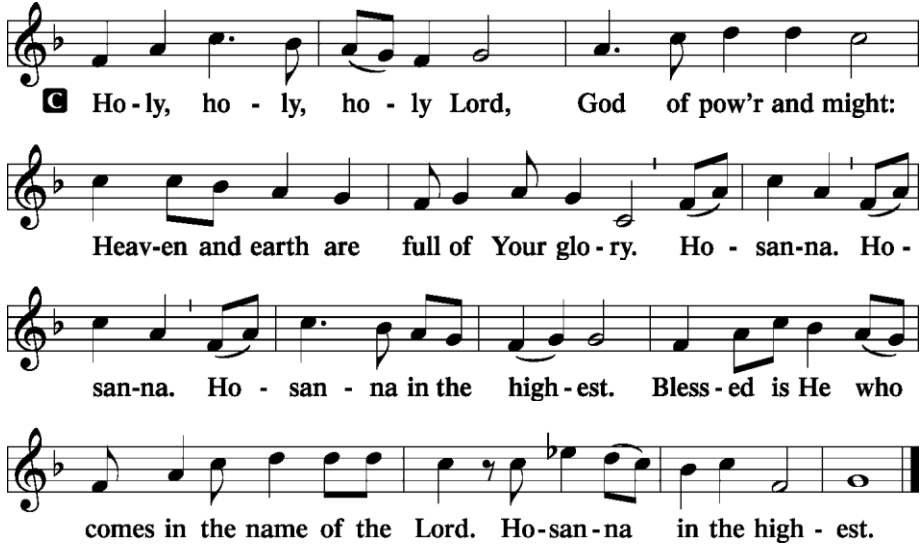
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. 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

✠ 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.*

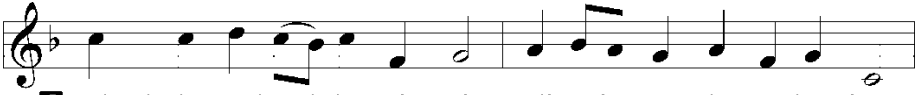
*Stand*

*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



**G** 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.

**G** 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: 803 – Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee**

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 December 29, 2024 First Sunday after Christmas**

**Old Testament Reading:** Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15

**Epistle Reading:** Colossians 3:12-17

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 2:22-40

<b>CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK</b>		
<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>TIME</b>
Today	Sunday School/Bible Class Worship	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
Next Sunday	Sunday School/Bible Class Worship	9:00 a.m. 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.

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP:** Join us for our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24. This will be a service of Holy Communion featuring the singing of *Silent Night* by candlelight. Ask your friends and relatives to join you.

**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.



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

**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:** Cody G.; **READER:** William U.; **USHERS:** Julie U. & Sue H.; **ALTAR:** Sue H.

*Sunday, December 15, 2024*  
*Attendance: 54 Communion: 54*  
*Offering: \$2,318*

Offering Received Nov, 2024	Interest Income Nov, 2024	Budget Nov, 2024	Nov Offering & Interest Income vs. Nov Budget	Nov Offering & Interest Income % vs. Nov Budget %
\$16,923	\$868	\$17,892	(\$101)	-0.6%

Offering Received Year to Date, 2024	Interest Income Year to Date, 2024	Budget Year to Date, 2024	YTD Offering & Interest Income vs. YTD Budget	YTD Offering & Interest income % vs. YTD Budget %
\$178,539	\$9,837	\$196,812	(\$8,436)	-4.3%

2024 Building Fund Campaign		
Contributions Received	Goal	% Goal
\$16,732	\$15,000	112%