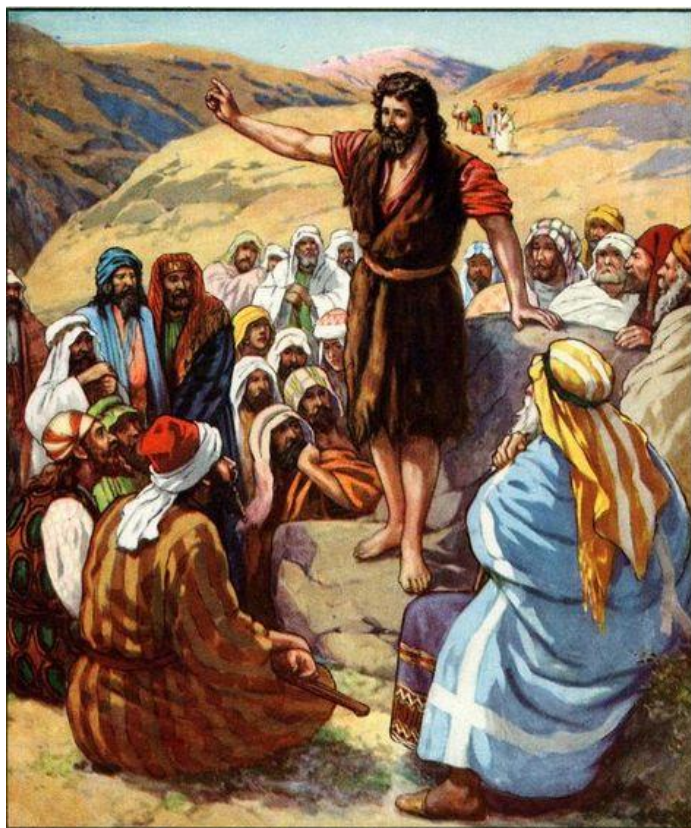


ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

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 in Advent

December 8, 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: 905 – Come, Thou Almighty King

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 our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; 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

Old Testament Reading

Malachi 3:1–7b

¹Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵“Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

⁶“For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, ‘How shall we return?’

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Philippians 1:2–11

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more

and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the". The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics: "words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." The piece ends with a double bar line.

Holy Gospel

Luke 3:1-14

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

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

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall become straight,
and the rough places shall become level ways,
⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

⁷He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?"
¹¹And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." ¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" ¹³And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sit

Sermon

Pastor Truax

**Hymn of the Day: 338 – Come, Thou Long-Expected
Jesus**

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

Dedication of Quilts

P Since the Lord has taught us in His holy Word that everything is sanctified by the Word of God and prayer, it is fitting that we bless and sanctify these quilts.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

O God, You have directed us to bring offerings for Your glory. We implore You to bless these quilts. Grant that they may reflect our love for You, benefit Your Church, and bring joy to those who use them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P The Lord Almighty, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless these quilts and those who use them.

C **Amen.**

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.**

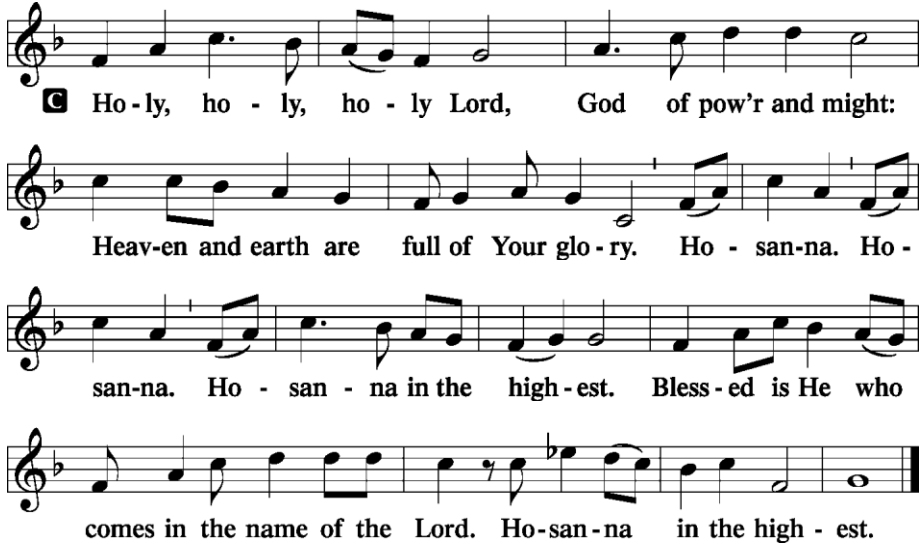
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 ✠ 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:

623 – Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray

650 – Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

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:

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

☑ **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: 918 – Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

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 15, 2024 Third Sunday in Advent

Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Epistle Reading: Philippians 4:4-17

Gospel Reading: Luke 7:18-28

| CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK | | |
|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| DATE | EVENT | TIME |
| Today | Sunday School/Bible Class Worship Birthday Party for Jesus | 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. |
| Tuesday | LWML Potluck | Noon |
| Wednesday | Soup and Sandwiches Advent Service | 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. |
| Saturday | Christmas Baskets | 9:00 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.

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.

MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICE We continue our mid-week Advent Services on Wed. Dec. 11. The theme of this year's sermons is *The Hymns of Advent*. Wednesday's featured hymn is "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry". Worship begins at 7:00 p.m. following the Soup and Sandwich Supper at 6:00p.m.

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 FOOD BASKETS: Names, phone numbers, addresses and number of people in the household for Christmas Baskets need to be submitted by St. Matthew members to the church office or Carolyn Peterman by December 8th. Those members submitting names must either deliver the basket or have the recipient pick the basket up on December 14th.

HANDBELL CHOIR is getting organized and will be practicing after church. The choir needs two 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 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: Don N.; USHERS: Don & Rose S.; ALTAR: Sue H.

Sunday, December 1, 2024
Attendance: 51 Communion: 47
Offering: \$2,605