

# 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)**

# *Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany*

February 23, 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: 790 – Praise to the Lord the Almighty**

*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-ty 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.

O God, the Strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; 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

*Genesis 45:3–15*

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

<sup>4</sup>So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup>And now do

not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup>For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup>And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup>So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup>Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. <sup>10</sup>You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup>There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' <sup>12</sup>And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. <sup>13</sup>You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." <sup>14</sup>Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. <sup>15</sup>And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

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

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

## Epistle Reading

*1 Corinthians 15:21–26, 30–42*

<sup>21</sup>For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

<sup>30</sup>Why am I in danger every hour? <sup>31</sup>I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! <sup>32</sup>What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." <sup>33</sup>Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." <sup>34</sup>Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

<sup>35</sup>But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" <sup>36</sup>You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup>And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup>But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. <sup>39</sup>For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. <sup>40</sup>There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. <sup>41</sup>There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

<sup>42</sup>So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

- 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 6:27–38*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>27</sup>[Jesus said:] "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,  
<sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.  
<sup>29</sup>To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. <sup>31</sup>And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.



<sup>32</sup>"If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup>And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. <sup>35</sup>But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup>"Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup>give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

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

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

*Sit*

**Sermon**

Pastor DeSanto

**Hymn of the Day: 711 – Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us**

*Stand*

**Nicene Creed**

*LSB 158*

**G** **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: 394 – Songs of Thankfulness and Praise**

*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)*

## **Service of the Sacrament**

### **Preface**

*LSB 160*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**G** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

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

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

**G** **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

**G** 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  $\nabla$  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  $\nabla$  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:**

**621 – Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent**

**618 – I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table**

**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: 918 – Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah**

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**  
**March 2, 2025**  
**The Transfiguration of Our Lord**

**Old Testament Reading:** Deuteronomy 34:1-12

**Epistle Reading:** Hebrews 3:1-6

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 9:28-36

<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.

**THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS:** All Thrivent members have until March 31, 2025, to direct Choice Dollars to an organization. St Matthew is listed as an organization for Choice Dollars. If you have questions, contact Cynthia.

**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 Building Fund.

**FOOD PANTRY** As included in the last newsletter, we are collecting food items for the food pantry for Harrison Central Elementary. What is needed most right now are breakfast bars or Pop Tarts, and small boxes of juice. Thank you.

**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: Carolyn P.

*Sunday, February 16, 2025*  
*Attendance: 55 Communion: 52*  
*Offering: \$3,512*

Offering Received Jan, 2025	Interest Income Jan, 2025	Budget Jan, 2025	Jan Offering & Interest Income vs. Jan Budget	Jan Offering & Interest Income % vs. Jan Budget %
\$16,790	\$784	\$20,944	(\$3,370)	-16.1%

Offering Received Year to Date, 2025	Interest Income Year to Date, 2025	Budget Year to Date, 2025	YTD Offering & Interest Income vs. YTD Budget	YTD Offering & Interest income % vs. YTD Budget %
\$16,790	\$784	\$20,944	(\$3,370)	-16.1%