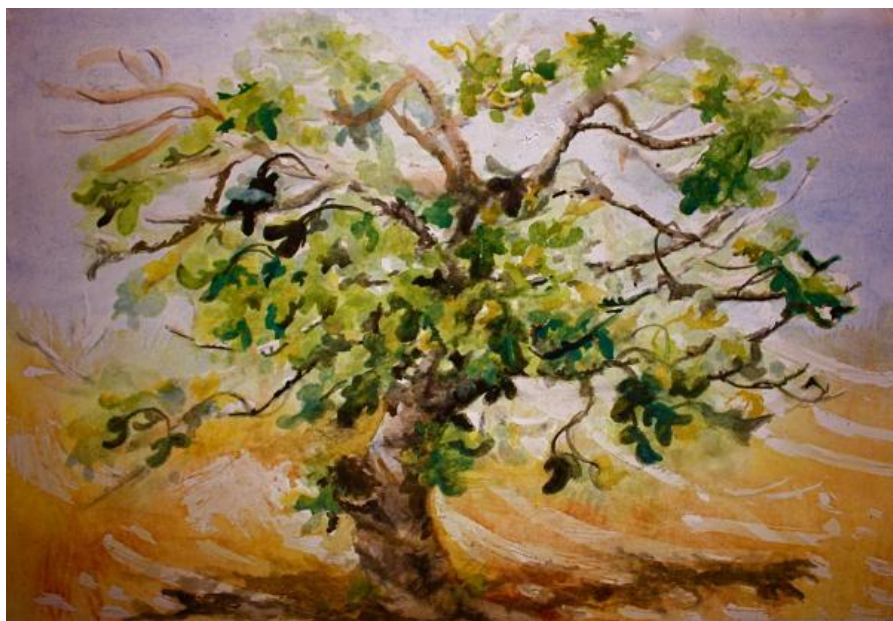


# ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

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 in Lent*

March 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: 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.

**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.**

### **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

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

**P** Let us pray.

O God whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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**

*Ezekiel 33:7–20*

<sup>7</sup>"So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at

your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

<sup>10</sup>“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

<sup>12</sup>“And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins. <sup>13</sup>Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. <sup>14</sup>Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, <sup>15</sup>if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. <sup>16</sup>None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live.

<sup>17</sup>“Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. <sup>18</sup>When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. <sup>19</sup>And when the wicked turns from his

wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by them. <sup>20</sup>Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways."

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

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

## Epistle Reading

*1 Corinthians 10:1–13*

<sup>1</sup>I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." <sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, <sup>10</sup>nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. <sup>11</sup>Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. <sup>12</sup>Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. <sup>13</sup>No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not

let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

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

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**Alleluia and Verse (Lent)**

*LSB 157*

**G** **Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.**

**Holy Gospel**

*Luke 13:1–9*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

<sup>6</sup>And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found

none. <sup>7</sup>And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' <sup>8</sup>And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. <sup>9</sup>Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

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

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

*Sit*

**Sermon**

Pastor Easterling

**Hymn of the Day: 761 – Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me**

*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*

**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)*

## **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



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.”

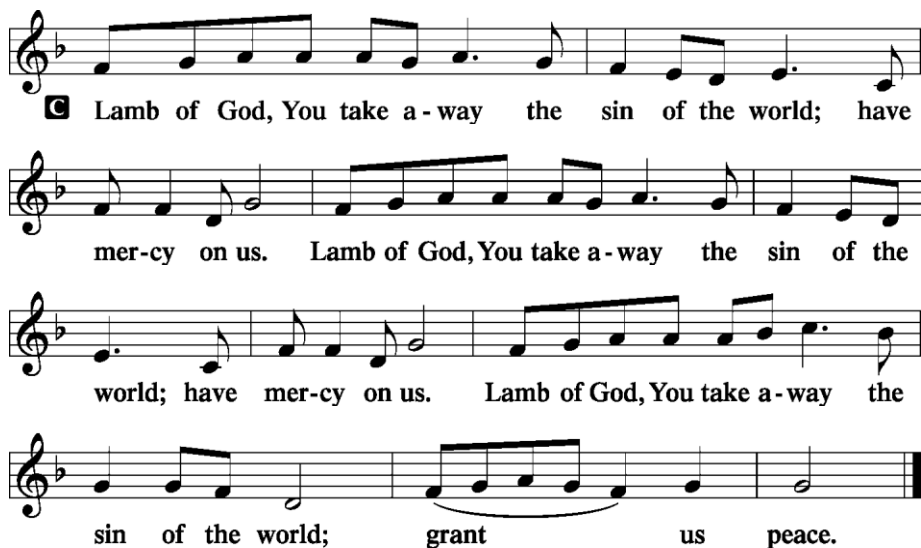
### Pax Domini

**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:

**570 – Just as I Am, without One Plea**

## 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.

### Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have prepared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re - veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

### 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**  
**March 30, 2025**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**Old Testament Reading:** Isaiah 12:1-6

**Epistle Reading:** 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

<b>CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK</b>		
<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>TIME</b>
Today	Sunday School/Bible Class Worship Council Meeting	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday	Soup and Sandwiches Lenten Service	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
Next Sunday	Sunday School/Bible Class Worship 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 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.

**COUNCIL MEETING** is scheduled after church today.

**MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP** continues on Wednesday, March 26, under the theme: **We Go to Jerusalem**. This week's segment: *In a Crowd*. Soup and sandwich supper at 6:00 p.m. Worship at 7:00 p.m.

**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.

**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, or drop it off in the office, by the last Sunday of the month.

**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.

**SERVING US TODAY** ASSISTING WITH COMMUNION: Michael S.;  
READER: Carla H.; USHERS: Sue H. & Julie U.; ALTAR: Judy P.

*Sunday, March 16, 2025*

*Attendance: 65 Communion: 61*

*Offering: \$3,418*