

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

11213 Highway 49, Gulfport, MS 39503

LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD



1ST SUNDAY *OF Advent*

Rev. Stephen S. Linck, Pastor

Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.

Worship, 10:00 a.m.

Pastor's Cell: (850) 525-1328

Pastor's Email: pastorlinck@bellsouth.net

Church Phone: 864-6264

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Web Page: stmatthewgulfport.org

First Sunday in Advent

November 23, 2025

**** Please disconnect all cell phones from Bluetooth, or set to Airplane Mode during the service to reserve bandwidth for our live-stream. Thank you. ****

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.

Announcements

Stand

Entrance Hymn: 903 – This is the Day the Lord Has Made, vs. 1-4

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.

- C** 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 together:

**C Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 2:1–5

¹The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²It shall come to pass in the latter days

that the mountain of the house of the LORD
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,
³and many peoples shall come, and say:
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.
⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 13:11–14

¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come
for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us
now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone;
the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of
darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk

properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:1–11

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

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

¹Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." ⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

⁵"Say to the daughter of Zion,
'Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'"

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them.

⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸Most of the crowd spread

their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" ¹⁰And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" ¹¹And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the living
and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,**

**the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

Sit

**Hymn of the Day: 332 – Savior of the Nations, Come,
vs. 1-3, 6**

Sermon

Pastor Linck

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: Insert – Blest Be the Tie That Binds, vs. 1-3

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Sharing of Peace

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.**

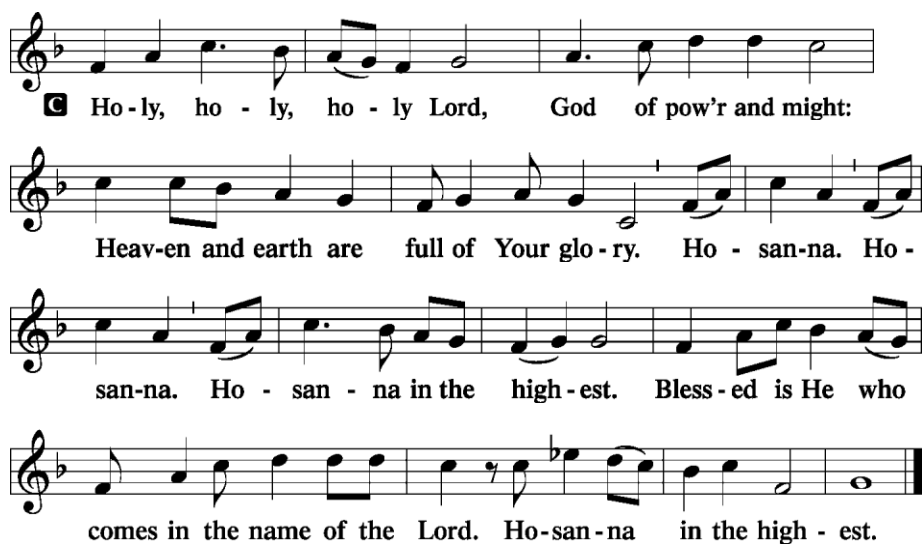
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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, 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



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 ✠ 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:

637 – Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

351 – Creator of the Stars of Night

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.

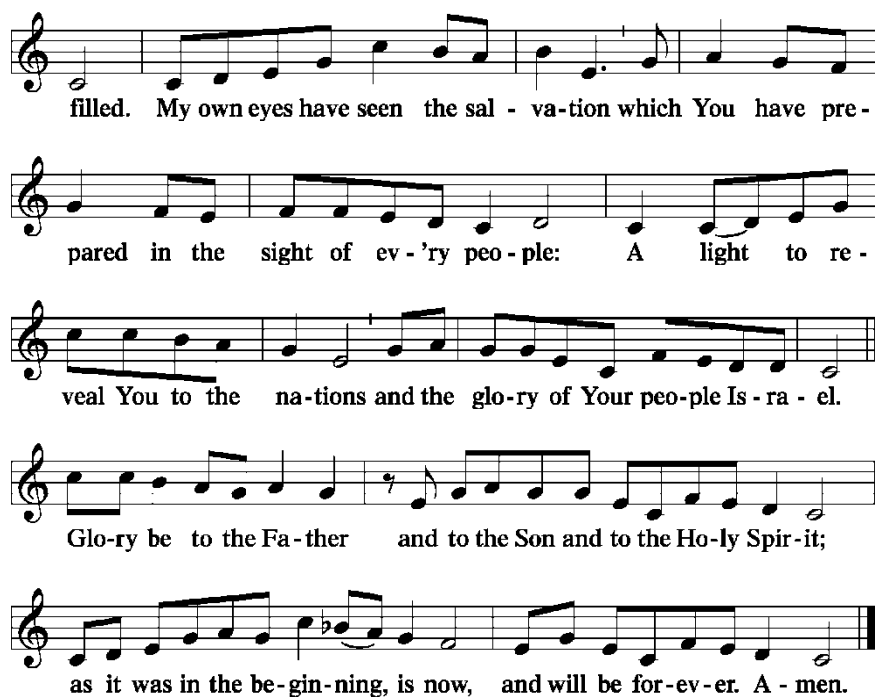
G Amen.

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 165



G Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have pre -

pared 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 together.

C 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. 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.

Recessional Hymn: 673 – Jerusalem, My Happy Home, vs. 1-4

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 7, 2025

Second Sunday in Advent

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Epistle Reading: Romans 15:4-13

Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:1-12

Serving: Carolyn P. & Bea C., Cody G., Don N.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK		
DATE	EVENT	TIME
Today	Sunday School/Bible Class	9:00 a.m.
	Worship	10:00 a.m.
	Decorating for Christmas	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.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES will begin soon. If you are interested for yourself or a family member, please see Pastor Linck after the service, or email him at pastorlink@bellsouth.net.

MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES are scheduled for December 3, 10, and 17. Soup and sandwich supper starts at 6:00 p.m., with service following at 7:00.

CAROLING St. Matthew's annual caroling will commence Saturday, December 6, at 3 p.m. Carolers will meet at Summerfield Assisted Living, 14744 N. Swan Rd, Gulfport. Join us as we spread good cheer!

LWML will have a brief meeting Dec 7 right after service in Bible Study room to discuss Christmas Lunch.

CHURCH DECORATIONS go up after the service today. Please consider staying to help – refreshments will be served afterward. (NO 5th Sunday Potluck)

THE QUILTERS are looking for anyone willing to come tie quilts, no experience needed! Quilters meet every Thursday morning in the fellowship hall.

BUILDING FUND St. Matthew is continuing the Building Fund Campaign to support the remodeling of our Church Building. Your support of this initiative is appreciated as we continue to modernize our facility and make repairs after the recent lightning strike. All contributions should be marked for Building Fund.

CHRISTMAS WISH LIST items for the Harrison Central Elementary children are due Sunday, December 14th. If anyone needs help with purchasing the items, please reach out to Margaret Johnson at 228-669-9868.

GRIEF RECOVERY WORKSHOP The information meeting for this program will be held Tuesday, December 9th at 7:00 pm at St. Matthew Lutheran Church. The program officially begins Tuesday, January 6, 2026. Grief Recovery brochures are on the table in the Narthex.

SERVING US TODAY ASSISTING WITH COMMUNION: Ray H.; READER: Carla H.; USHERS: Cathy M. & Patricia E.; ALTAR: Cynthia C. and Patricia E.; MUSIC: Carla H. and Lennox M.

Sunday, November 23, 2025
Attendance: 80 Communion: 75
Offering: \$2,123.01