

# ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

11213 Highway 49, Gulfport, MS 39503

**LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD**



**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](mailto:pastorlinck@bellsouth.net)**

**Church Phone: 864-6264**

**E-Mail Address: [m1919@bellsouth.net](mailto:m1919@bellsouth.net)**

**Web Page: [stmatthewgulfport.org](http://stmatthewgulfport.org)**

## *Second Sunday in Advent*

December 7, 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: 901 – Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty,  
vs. 1-3,5**

*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** 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.**

## 933 My Soul Rejoices

LSB 933

1 My soul re - joice - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the  
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the

great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me  
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He

fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and  
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion

bless - ing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and  
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the

ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy  
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the

sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,  
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring

Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!  
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

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## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

**C** 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.  
**Amen.**

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 11:1–10*

<sup>1</sup>There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup>And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup>And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;  
and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,  
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup>They shall not hurt or destroy  
in all my holy mountain;  
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup>In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

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

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

*Romans 15:4–13*

<sup>4</sup>For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

<sup>5</sup>May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

<sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name."

<sup>10</sup>And again it is said,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."

<sup>11</sup>And again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him."

<sup>12</sup>And again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse will come,  
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him will the Gentiles hope."

<sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

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

**C Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## **Holy Gospel**

*Matthew 3:1–12*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup>"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." <sup>3</sup>For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.'"

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.

<sup>5</sup>Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers!



Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup>And do not presume 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. <sup>10</sup>Even 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.

<sup>11</sup>"I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

**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: 344 – On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's  
Cry, vs. 1-4**

**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: 333 – Once He Came in Blessing**

*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.

**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



**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:**

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

## 348 – The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

### **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.**

**(If you wish to receive a blessing instead of communion please cross your hands over your chest as a signal to the pastor.)**

*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  $\text{✠}$  in peace.

**G** Amen.

## Nunc Dimittis

LSB 165



**G** 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 together.



**☪ 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.

**☪ Amen.**

### **Recessional Hymn: 832 – Jesus Shall Reign, vs. 1-3,5**

*WORSHIP NOTES: In our prayers we remember our shut-ins: Donna Johnston 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 14, 2025**

### Third Sunday in Advent

**Old Testament Reading:** Isaiah 35:1-10

**Epistle Reading:** James 5:7-11

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 11:2-15

**Serving:** Michelle S. & Cynthia C., Michael S., Robert R.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK		
DATE	EVENT	TIME
Today	Sunday School/Bible Class Worship Birthday Party for Jesus/ LWML Meeting	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday 12/9	LWML Christmas Luncheon Interest Meeting: Grief Recovery Program	Noon 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday 12/10	Soup and Sandwiches Advent Service	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
Thursday 12/11	Quilting Club	10:00 a.m.
Next Sunday 12/14	Sunday School/Bible Class Worship <b>Christmas Wish List items due</b>	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.

**LWML CHRISTMAS LUNCH** will be at the church December 9 at Noon.

**ROSA O'BANNON** Please pray for the family of our member, Rosa O'Bannon who went to be with the Lord December 1.

**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](mailto:pastorlink@bellsouth.net).

**POINSETTIAS** For December 24 service at 7pm, please bring a poinsettia if you can from your home. We will put out as flowers. You can take home after the service

**THE QUILTERS** are looking for anyone willing to come tie quilts, no experience needed! Quilters meet Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. at the church.

**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: Cody G.; READER: Don N.; USHERS: Carolyn P. & Bea C.; ALTAR: Judy P. and Paula C.; MUSIC: Carla H. and Lennox M.

*Sunday, November 30, 2025*  
*Attendance: 53 Communion: 50*  
*Offering: \$3,189.05*