

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

11213 Highway 49, Gulfport, MS 39503

LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2026

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: 609 - Jesus Sinners Doth Receive, v.1,
5-7**

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.

Psalm 103:1-12

P ¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!

C ²Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,
³who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,

P ⁴who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
⁵who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

C ⁶The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all who are oppressed.
⁷He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.

P ⁸The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

C ⁹He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.

¹⁰He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

P ¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear
him;

C ¹²as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

Kyrie *LSB 152*

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.

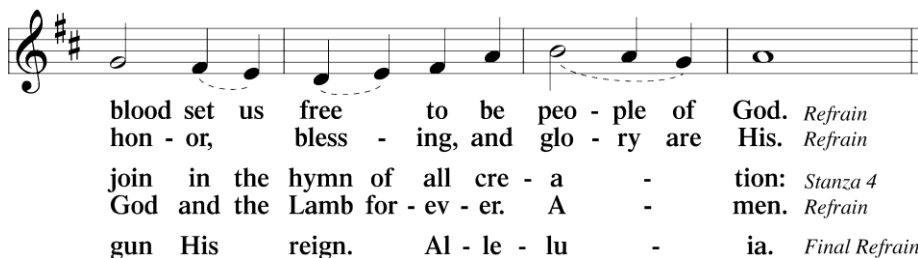
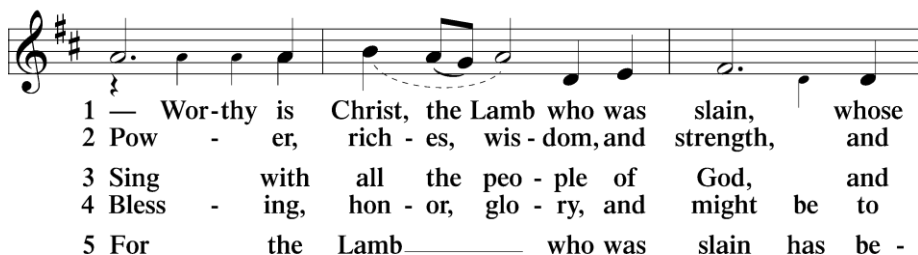
C Lord, have mercy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

This Is the Feast

LSB 155



Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

C O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 50:15–21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 14:1–12

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God.”

¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

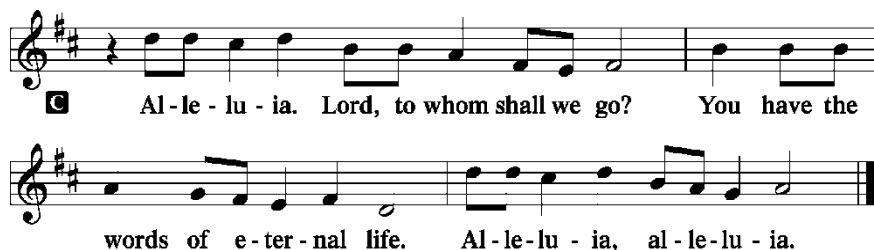
A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156



Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21–35

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²¹Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

²³“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants.

²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then

his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

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.**

Children's Message

All children are invited to come forward to the chancel steps for a children's message. Parents are welcome to accompany them.

Hymn of the Day: 843 - "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

Sermon: "When the Debt Cannot Be Repaid"

Matthew 18:21-35

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.

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. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life.

Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, 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

C 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

LSB 161

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.

The Words of Our Lord

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.”

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

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.**

Pax Domini

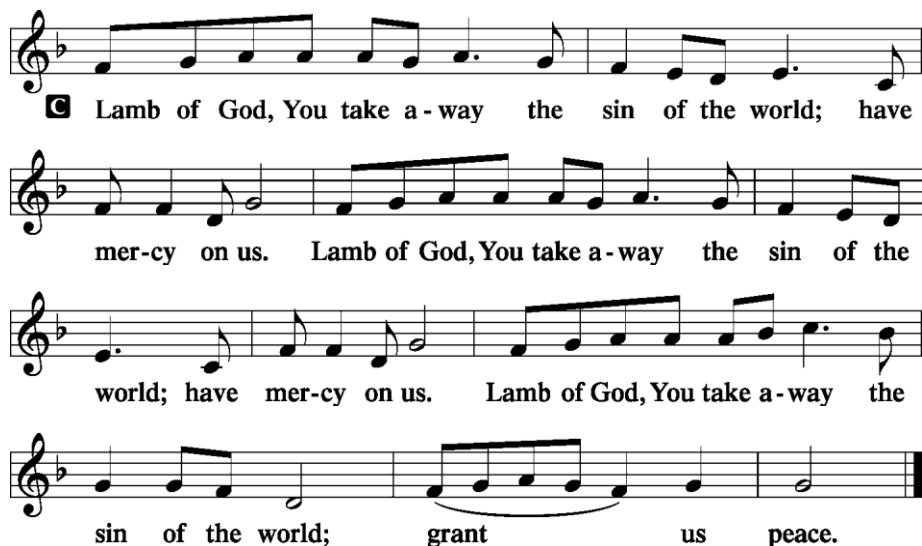
LSB 163

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:

611 - Chief of Sinners Through I Be

610 - Lord Jesus, Think on Me

563 - Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

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 ☩ in peace.

C Amen.

Thank the Lord

LSB 164



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

C We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Benediction

LSB 166

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: 555 - Salvation unto Us Has Come, v.1-5,10

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

September 20, 2026

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

Psalm: Psalm 27:1-9

Epistle: Philippians 1:12-14

Gospel Reading: Matthew 20:1-16

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK		
DATE	EVENT	TIME
Today	Sunday School/Bible Class	9:00 a.m.
	Worship	10:00 a.m.
	Voters Meeting	11.00 a.m.
Thursday 9/10	Quilting Club	10:00 a.m
Next Sunday 9/13	Sunday School/Bible Class	9:00 a.m.
	Worship	10:00 a.m.

VISITORS are always welcome: please let us know who you are, whether you are a snowbird, military, student, or just enjoying the sun, *and if there comes a time you desire to “officially” join our family, please let us directly know that by indicating such on the contact cards.* Also, we would love to make you a name tag, visitor or member, so all may greet you by name. Name tag signup sheet is in the Narthex (lobby).

SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING will be held after the service today. We will be discussing the following items: Property Insurance, CD renewal, Cabinets for Church lobby.

GAME NIGHT Game night is the second Friday every month from 6:30 - 8:00pm. Come join in the fun! Bring your favorite game to share or learn a new one such as: Pegs and Jokers, 5 Crowns or Garbage. If you know how to play Pinochle, come and teach us how to play, as we have several people who are interested in learning. Bring a snack to share and beverages will be provided.

CONNECTION CARDS There are business/connection cards on the table in the Narthex. Please take some and hand them out while you're

out in the community. Give them to your family members, friends, neighbors, or leave them with your tip at a restaurant.

GREETERS If you would like to volunteer to be a greeter, please let Don or Rose Shotzburger know. Greeters will stand by the doors after service, greeting newcomers and encouraging all to stay for refreshments and fellowship.

PLEASE BRING PLASTIC BAGS (from checkout lanes) not tied and put on table by medicine bottles. A member will take them to a school.

CRUISE RETREAT Grace Lutheran (Mobile) has invited our congregation to join them for a faith retreat and cruise, leaving Mobile January 11th. See the flyer in the Narthex for details.

EMAILS If you are not getting emails from Cynthia about St. Matthew announcements and events, please give her your email address, or email the office at m1919@bellsouth.net.

NARTHEX UPDATE Take a look at the proposed redesign of the Narthex/entryway, which is hanging on the wall near the nametags. Your feedback is welcome to Pastor, Tim, or any member of the council.

CHURCH DIRECTORY needs editing. If you are a member, please check the contact list in the tray on the desk in the office. If your name and contact information are incorrect or missing, please write the correct information on that copy. **Also, please add your birthdays and anniversaries!** We will update our online directory, and get a new paper directory out. Thank you!

ST. MATTHEW COOKBOOK LWML is putting together a church cookbook. We are asking for your favorite recipes that you would like to share. This includes entrees, desserts, salads, hors d'oeuvres, beverages, etc. Please give recipes to Stella Holmquist or email to holmies0707@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER Natalie will do the newsletter for October. Please send your contributions to the office (m1919@bellsouth.net) **by the 25th of the month.**

ROOF FUND Members can contribute to the roof fund every Sunday through November 29. A collection plate and blank envelopes are available on the table in the foyer for donations.

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. All contributions should be marked for Building Fund.

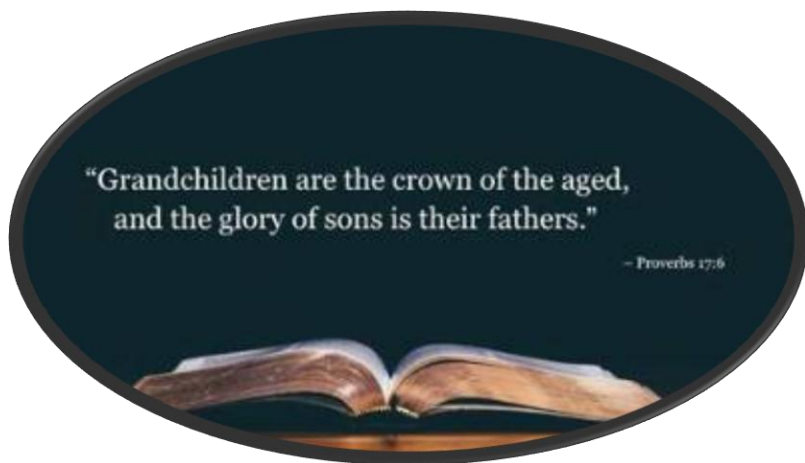
LAWN FUND The table with sale items is for the Lawn Fund. If you bring any items, please have sale price on the item.

CONTAINERS for medicine bottles, eyeglasses, egg cartons, cardboard rolls 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: Tim D.;
READER: Don N.; **USHERS** Rose S. & Patricia E.; **ALTAR:** Cyndy M.;
MUSIC: Maryelizabeth R. and Lennox M.

Sunday, September 6, 2026
Attendance: 57 Communion: 48
Offering: \$3,816

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
E-Mail Address: m1919@bellsouth.net
Web Page: stmatthewgulfport.org



Happy Grandparents Day