

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda NY
May 22nd, 2022**



AS WE GATHER

What have you witnessed? Jesus' disciples witnessed Jesus teach with authority, feed the five thousand with a few loaves of bread and some fish, heal people of a variety of diseases, and even bring Lazarus back to life. Yet, in spite of what they witnessed, they struggled to believe the story would continue after Jesus was crucified on Good Friday. Surprise! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Following the resurrection, they witnessed more amazing things Jesus said and did, and now they would get their chance to share what they had seen and heard. What have you seen and heard about Jesus? What have you seen and heard Jesus do in your life? Who can you share with what you have witnessed?

LSB 493 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Most merciful God, we are by nature sinful and unclean. We are guilty of placing our hopes and dreams in the people, places, and things of this world, which are here today and tomorrow are thrown in the fire. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus, who lived, died, rose, and ascended to Your right hand, and lead us to bear witness to the real hope we have in You. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

As a called and ordained servant of our ascended Lord Jesus and by His power and authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Go in peace and bear witness to the hope that is yours because of Jesus!

Thanks be to God!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Choir: "Go In Love"

First Reading *Acts 1:1–11*

¹In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” ⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle *Ephesians 1:15–23*

¹⁵For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that he worked in Christ

when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²²And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel *Luke 24:44–53*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." ⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and were continually in the temple blessing God.

In many and various ways God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

But not in these last days, He has spoken to us through His Son.

Let us confess our faith:

**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**

**LSB 492 On Christ's Ascension I now Build
Sermon**

Offertory

***Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen.***

Offering

Prayer of the Church

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord Jesus, we live in a world filled with hopelessness and fear. Yet You give fruits of the spirit of love and self-control, not fear. Lead us as we proclaim repentance and the forgiveness of sins in Your name to all nations. Ascended Lord,

empower us to be witnesses of hope.

Lord Jesus, we lift up to You those who are grieving, [*especially . . .*]. We pray that they do not grieve as those who have no hope. Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep. Ascended Lord,

empower us to be witnesses of hope.

Lord Jesus, we pray for those who are struggling with physical and mental health challenges, [*especially* . . .]. Give them strength to meet the days ahead—healing of body, mind, and spirit—and ever-present reminders that You are always with them. Ascended Lord,

empower us to be witnesses of hope.

Lord Jesus, some may trust in horses and chariots, but we trust in the Lord, our God. As we put our trust in You, we pray for our elected leaders and ask that You lead them with Your wisdom, that they govern diligently and faithfully. Ascended Lord,

empower us to be witnesses of hope.

Lord Jesus, we look forward to that day when You will beat swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. As we wait for that day, we ask that You watch over and work through all first responders and members of the military to bring peace and healing to our community and world. Ascended Lord,

empower us to be witnesses of hope.

Lord Jesus, into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your grace and mercy. In Your holy name, we pray.

Amen.

The Exhortation:

Dear friends in Christ, it is your desire to receive the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ for the assurance of the forgiveness of your sins, the strength of your faith in Him as your savior, and the grace to serve Him with a God-pleasing life. In order that these blessings may be yours, it is necessary that you bear in mind the Word of God recorded by St. John in his first epistle,; "if we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"

Confession and Absolution:

I ask you therefore, before the God who searches your heart: Do you confess the sins which you have committed in desire, thought, word and deed? Do you repent of them with all your heart, believe in Jesus Christ for forgiveness, and

sincerely intend, with the help of God the Holy Spirit, to amend your sinful life? If so then boldly declare; YES!

YES!

Upon this confession, I as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the place and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord remember us on Your kingdom and teach us to pray...

**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.**

Words of Institution:

Our Lord Jesus Christ on the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His Disciples, saying' "Take eat; this is my body which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

After the same manner also He took the cup when He had supped, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it all of you, this is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins. This do, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me."

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takes away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us, and grant us Your peace.

Amen.

The Distribution: LSB 811 Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices

O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good!

And His mercy endures forever!

Post- Communion Prayer

We give thanks, Heavenly Father, that you have given us a foretaste of the feast to come. Keep us firm in the faith during our pilgrimage on earth. Open our eyes to see Your daily and eternal Blessings so that we may continue to give You all the praise. Strengthen us in faith until faith is turned to sight, when we shall celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Benediction:

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ,

The love of God the Father,

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen, Amen, Amen

LSB 701 Draw Us to Thee