

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda, NY
August 20, 2023**



AS WE GATHER

The Lord's words through the prophet Isaiah remind us of the purpose of the sacred space into which we have entered: "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples" (Isaiah 56:7). Even from ancient times, the Lord God has invited all peoples—no matter who they are or where they have come from—to enter His presence and receive deliverance from their sin. In Christ Jesus, crucified and raised to life again for our salvation, we trust that the promises of God, offered to all, are also promises He makes personally to us. Jesus died for all, and Jesus died for you! Standing together as one, we, though many, form one family and belong to one everlasting kingdom. Together, we receive God's gifts. Together, we raise our united voice in prayers and praises. Together, we gather to experience the life God offers "for all peoples."

TLH 669 How Great Thou Art

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Thus says the LORD: “Keep justice, and do righteousness,

for soon My salvation will come, and My deliverance be revealed.”

The deliverance of the Lord comes to us today as we gather in this house of prayer, united as one with all people who trust in the name of Jesus. Let us search our hearts and minds, bowing before our gracious Father and confessing our sins to Him.

(We take a moment of silence for prayer and meditation upon the Word of God.)

Delivering Lord, You invite all people into Your holy house of prayer.

We confess that we have not kept justice, choosing to go our own way instead of following Your direction. We admit that we have not lived righteously, breaking Your commands by what we think, say, and do.

Saving Lord, You invite all people to know Your mercy.

At the cross of our Savior, Jesus Christ, You defeated our enemies of sin and death. Help us to live in this victory, trusting in Your promises, and gathering with all Your people to praise Your name forever. Amen.

Deliverance has come to you! Salvation is yours! To both Jews and Gentiles, to those of every nation under heaven, the Good News of Jesus has been given! God has heard your prayer for mercy and has offered you a place in His kingdom. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, and by the authority of Jesus, my King, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Introit

The LORD is the strength of his people;
he is the saving refuge of his anointed.

To you, O LORD, I call; my rock, be not deaf to me,
lest, if you be silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit.
Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to you for help,
when I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctuary.

Blessèd be the LORD!

For he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.
The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am
helped;
my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in
the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.***

Kyrie

***Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy
upon us.***

Gloria in Excelsis

Glory be to God on High,
***and on earth peace, goodwill toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee,
we worship Thee. We glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great
glory. O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the
only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the
Father, hat takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou
that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest
at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only
art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy
Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.***

Salutation and Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting Father, You give Your children many blessings even though we are undeserving. In every trial and temptation grant us steadfast confidence in Your loving-kindness and mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 56:1, 6–8

¹Thus says the LORD: “Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. . . .⁶“And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant—⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.”

⁸The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, “I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle Romans 11:1–2a, 13–15, 28–32

¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ²God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. . . .¹³Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry ¹⁴in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. ¹⁵For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? . . .²⁸As regards the gospel, they are enemies of God for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. ²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they

also may now receive mercy. ³²For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel Matthew 15:21-28

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the fifteenth **chapter**

Praise be to Thee, O Lord.

²¹Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon." ²³But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us." ²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

**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.**

TLH 521 What God Ordains Is Always Good

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 all the people of God, the Church, those who have been called out of the darkness of sin and death and into the light and life of the kingdom that is eternal. Gracious King, we praise You as the Creator and sustainer of life. From the womb to the tomb, and at every stage of life, Your hand is upon Your own, giving us all that we need to support our daily lives. United as one, we praise You, O Father. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Saving King, we praise You as the Savior and redeemer of life. Your nail-scarred hands and pierced side give evidence of the lengths to which You have journeyed in order to seek and save the lost. Made right with You by the shedding of Your innocent blood, we are recipients of what we could never earn nor deserve. United as one, we praise You, Lord Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Holy Spirit, we praise You as the restorer and renewer of life. You claim Your family through the outpouring of mercy that we experience in Holy Baptism. You enable our hearts to receive Your Word and our mouths to confess Your truth before our world. United as one, we praise You, Holy Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Sovereign King, You see all things in heaven and on earth. Nothing is outside Your watch and reign. Bless our families, our workplaces, our schools, and our church. Sustain the life of our community, and guide the leaders who labor among us for the blessing of all. Protect those in harm's way, especially the members of our military, that they may rest in Your promises. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Mighty King, Your strength is unmatched and Your power unfathomable. Break down any barrier of heart and mind that would distract us from seeing Your work in our midst. Draw unto Yourself for restoration those who hunger and thirst, those in need of food and shelter, those who experience loss of employment, and all who struggle to find purpose in their lives. Cause Your Word to reach to the ends of the earth, bringing Your saving Gospel to bear on the lives of all peoples and granting salvation to all who confess Jesus as Lord and God. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Healing King, You stooped down from Your heavenly throne to dwell among us in Christ. As You continue to bind up the brokenhearted and heal their wounds, we pray for all who are sick and suffering in any way, [*especially . . .*]. Help these and all others whom we name in our hearts to know the love You have for all peoples. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into Your hands we commend ourselves and all those for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

Salutation and Benedicamus

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.
Bless we the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Benediction

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. Amen. Amen.

TLH 700 Be Strong and of a Good Courage