

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda, NY
September 3rd, 2023**



AS WE GATHER

“Your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart” (Jeremiah 15:16). The prophet Jeremiah did not praise God with such words because his life was super easy. No, Jeremiah rejoiced in the Lord even as his life had plenty of problems. Why such delight in difficulty? Surrounded by evil in this world, like Jeremiah, we cling to the God who is good, learning to trust His Word as the means by which we receive His deliverance from our enemies of sin and death. The living, active, delightful voice of our Savior guarantees His ongoing presence in our life. Because of this, we rejoice! As we gather in the presence of Jesus this day, let us echo Jeremiah’s anthem of praise: “Your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart!”

****The Lord’s Supper will be celebrated at this service, Communion is offered to Lutheran members in Altar & Pulpit Fellowship only, we believe based on Scripture and the “Book of Concord”, (The Lutheran Confessions) that only those who share the same faith and teaching of Doctrine should Commune together. **Acts 2:42, 1 Cor. 10:17, 1 Cor. 11:26 and Rom. 16:17** is where we find this written, if this is your first time at St. Matthew, and would like to take Communion, please talk to the Pastor before the service. If you are taking Communion, please fill out the Communion Registration form. ****

Welcome to all our Members, Guests and Visitors today, if you’re a visitor, please introduce yourself to the pastor after service in the Narthex. We here at St. Matthew pray that you enjoy your time worshipping with us today.

TLH 533 Nearer, My God to Thee

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

Delight yourself in the LORD

and He will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the LORD;

trust in Him, and He will act.

He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,

and your justice as the noonday.

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for Him;

**fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man
who carries out evil devices!**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the
cross for our redemption.

**Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever
He leads.**

Delighting in Your goodness to us, we ask for this in the name of Your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Give Glory to God, our light and our life!

O come, let us worship Him.

***** I Love You Lord *****

I love you Lord, and I lift my voice

To worship You, O my soul rejoice.

Take joy, my King, in what You hear.

May it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear.

Give Glory to God, our light and our life!

O come, let us worship Him.

Old Testament Jeremiah 15:15–21

¹⁵O LORD, you know, remember me and visit me, and take vengeance for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance take me not away; know that for your sake I bear reproach. ¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. ¹⁷I did not sit in the company of revelers, nor did I rejoice; I sat alone, because your hand was upon me, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will you be to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail? ¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD: “If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall be as my mouth. They shall turn to you, but you shall not turn to them.

²⁰And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, declares the LORD. ²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle Romans 12:9–21

⁹Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is

honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the sixteenth chapter

Praise be to Thee, O Lord.

²¹From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.” ²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? ²⁷For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. ²⁸Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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**

TLH 279 Today Thy Mercy Calls Us

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

Rejoicing in God's promise to hear our prayers, we delight ourselves in Him, even in the difficulties of life. Together let us give voice to our constant prayers. Heavenly Father, You alone have the power to redeem Your enemies and make them friends. In the mercy of Jesus, who has claimed us as His own, enable us to show love to our enemies, heaping Your grace upon them. As You have loved us even though we never deserve it, help us to do the same to others in our lives. In Your love, O Lord,
help us to love as You have first loved us.

Lord Jesus, our hearts delight in Your goodness despite the evil of this fallen world. You entered into our midst because of Your mission to seek and save the lost. We join with You in this mission, Lord, commissioned by Your Gospel to make known among the nations what You have done. Restore us, renew us, and lead us! We delight in the new life You have given to all who trust in You. In Your joy, O Lord,

help us to rejoice in all things.

Spirit of truth, You resuscitate what is dead, mend what is broken, and overcome what is evil with the goodness found only in You. Turn us again and again to Your mercy that we, having received it from You, may then extend it to others. Work mightily through each of us in our vocations at church, home, work, and society. Fill the hearts and minds of all who need Your wisdom and discernment, equipping them for the challenges they face. Through it all, instill in us Your peace to guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. In Your peace, O Lord,

help us to be peacemakers.

Be near to those who are broken in heart, body, and mind. Comfort the lonely and renew the spirit of those who despair. Clothe the naked and shelter the homeless. Let those who walk through the desert of difficulty discover the oasis of Your living water. Hear the prayers we offer for those in our family of faith who need Your healing mercies, [*including . . .*]. Your caring love for us is genuine and eternal. In Your care, O Lord,

help us to care for others.

To You, gracious Father, be all the glory, honor, and praise, in Christ Jesus and in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

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: TLH 304 An Awe-full Mystery Is Here

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.

TLH 412 May we Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill