

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda NY
November 5th, 2023**



AS WE GATHER

Every year on either November 1 or the first Sunday of November, we pause our busy lives to remember the saints. Lutherans teach that saints are sinners baptized into Christ, they are sinners redeemed by the cross of Jesus, and they are sinners who gave us examples of trusting not in their own heroic feats but in the grace and mercy of God in Jesus. Why remember saints? Our Augsburg Confession of 1530 says it clearly: "Our churches teach that the history of saints may be set before us so that we may follow the example of their faith and good works, according to our calling" (AC XXI 1). Why remember the saints? To thank God for their life and witness, to be encouraged in our walk of faith, and to remember and rejoice for God giving us examples of how grace and faith look in the real lives of people we knew.

****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 worshiping with us today.

PREPERATION

TLH 463 For All the Saints vv 1-4

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

Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Lord, on this All Saints' Day, we gather in Your name to remember and rejoice.

We remember the ones we love—ones loved also by You.

We remember how You embraced them, showed them grace, and filled them with faith.

We remember with heavy hearts. We remember with thankful hearts.

We rejoice in the resurrection life promised in and through Jesus.

We rejoice that Jesus has overcome death forever.

We rejoice that You are God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who will never leave us nor forsake us.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *1 John 3:1*

In Baptism, God welcomes us into the family of Christ and embraces us with His love. Welcomed and embraced, we are free to confess our sins, trusting the power of Christ to lead us to newness of life.

We confess, good Lord, that we have sinned against You and our neighbors in thought, word, and deed. We have hungered and thirsted for unworthy things. Our hearts are not right within us. Forgive us, O God, for the sake of Jesus, our Brother.

Today we hear these beautiful words from John: “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.”

As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the X Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. Thanks be to God for our Baptism into Christ!

Introit

These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.
They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of
the Lamb.

In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.

For you are my rock and my fortress;
and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me.

Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it
was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. 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, that 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.

When we are poor in spirit,

You bless us.

When we mourn,

You bless us.

When we are meek,

You bless us.

When we hunger and thirst for righteousness,

You bless us.

When we show mercy,

You bless us.

When we are heartbroken,

You bless us.

When we make peace,

You bless us.

When we are persecuted for Your sake,

You bless us.

Your blessing abounds in all circumstances. Guide us to be a blessing to the people around us. Fill our hearts with peace as we remember those who have gone before us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading *Revelation 7:2–17*

²Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, ³saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.” ⁴And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel: ⁵12,000 from the tribe of Judah were sealed, 12,000 from the tribe of Reuben, 12,000 from the tribe of Gad, ⁶12,000 from the tribe of Asher, 12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali, 12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh, ⁷12,000 from the tribe of Simeon, 12,000 from the tribe of

Levi, 12,000 from the tribe of Issachar, ⁸12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun, 12,000 from the tribe of Joseph, 12,000 from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed. ⁹After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." ¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵"Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. ¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle *1 John 3:1–3*

¹See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel *Matthew 5:1–12*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: ³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. ⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. ⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. ⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. ⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. ⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. ¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven**

**and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living
and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

TLH For All the Saints 463 vv 5-8

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

As loved and redeemed children of God and in communion with all the
saints, let the incense of our prayer ascend to God.

That the Church, called from death to life by our Lord Jesus, would follow in the footsteps of all the saints who by God's grace were agents of Christ's life-giving service in the world, and for pastors, church workers, and all people of the Church, that they proclaim and demonstrate the Gospel of our salvation with boldness. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the leaders of the world and of this nation; for all voters and for those elected, that they will respect the truth of the God-given dignity of every man, woman, and child; for all who serve in the armed forces; for victims of violence and war; and for our enemies, Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For all those in any kind of need, those whom we have named and whom we name silently before You. [*Time of silence*]. Bring peace to the dying and comfort the bereaved. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For all the households of this congregation, that they be havens of peace and lively places of faith in Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For this holy assembly, that, setting our hope on Christ, we live to the praise of His glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In remembrance of all those who have died in the communion of Your Church: With thanks and praise, along with heavy hearts, we remember these loved ones. Having hope in Christ, we await the day we shall sing our praise reunited with the faithful, gathered before the throne of God. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Hear us when we call upon You, most merciful Father, and grant us grace to entrust our lives and our world to Your unfailing love, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

It is meet and right so to do.

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, who sustains us with faith, fills us with undeserved grace, and works in us to bear the fruit of the Spirit. 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

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

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.*

The Words of Our Lord

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

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Agnus Dei

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Distribution / TLH 314 Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. 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.

Thanksgiving

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
and His mercy endureth forever.

Let us pray.

CLOSING SENTENCES

Blessed are you

when we are poor in spirit.

Blessed are you

when we mourn.

Blessed are you

when we are meek.

Blessed are you

when we hunger and thirst for righteousness.

Blessed are you

when we are merciful.

Blessed are you

when our hearts are right within us.

Blessed are you

when we struggle to make peace.

Blessed are you

when we are reviled for trusting in Christ.

Blessed are you.

Rejoice and be glad, for yours is the kingdom of God!

Amen.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Amen, amen, amen.

Hymn to Depart TLH 660 I'm But a Stranger Here