

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda NY
January 21st, 2024**



AS WE GATHER

Since the beginning of creation, God has spoken. He spoke into being our universe and our very selves as the crown of His creation; He spoke when seeking out Adam and Eve in a fallen world; He spoke many times and many ways through the prophets; and He spoke by the very words that came from the mouth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. From Him came words of instructing, healing, forgiving, and of invitation to follow Him as we hear today with Philip and Nathanael. The Lord still speaks to us today in His Word, as His Spirit spoke instruction and encouragement of the use of bodies through Paul in his letter to the church of Corinth. Through all He speaks, we are called to listen to that Word to guide and direct, and to hear His continued words of forgiveness, peace, hope, and joy as “in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son”

****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

LSB 409 Hail, O Source of Every Blessing

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

Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

O LORD, You have searched me and known me!

You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You discern my thoughts from afar.

You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay Your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

Where shall I go from Your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, You are there!

If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me.

Speak, LORD,

for Your servant hears.

CONFESSION

As the psalmist declares, the Lord searches us, knows us, is ever-present with us, and leads us. He listens to us as we speak to Him. We come before Him in confession.

Silence for meditation.

“The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.”

We confess, heavenly Father, that we often choose not to call on You in times of need, nor in times of thanksgiving. We fail to be near You in our opportunities to pray, praise, and give thanks. Forgive us.

“Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.”

We confess, heavenly Father, that in our days of trouble we rely on ourselves and not You. We seek deliverance through our own devices and peace through the temporary offerings of this world. Forgive us.

“Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near.”

We confess, heavenly Father, we are the ones who are lost even though You are near and present in Your Word and means of grace. Our sins of thought, word, and deed separate us from You. Forgive us.

Speak, LORD,
for Your servant hears.

ABSOLUTION

As we speak and call out to the Lord in prayer and confession, He calls to us, His people, through His Word of truth, mercy, and grace; for He has “saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of His own purpose and grace, which He gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.” As a called and ordained servant of the Word and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the X Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

But now thus says the LORD, He who created you, O Jacob, He who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine. Speak, LORD,
for Your servant hears. Amen.

Introit

From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the LORD is to be praised!
Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD,
praise the name of the LORD!
Blessèd be the name of the LORD
from this time forth and forevermore!
The LORD is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens!
He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people.

*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, 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

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend 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 Jonah 3:1–5, 10

¹Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, ²“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” ³So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days’ journey in breadth. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. . . . ¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***** **Choir: “Jude Benediction”** *****

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 7:29–35

²⁹This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, ³⁰and

those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods,³¹ and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.³² I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord.³³ But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife,³⁴ and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband.³⁵ I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia. The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹⁴After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God,¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."¹⁶ Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men."¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets and followed him.¹⁹ And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets.²⁰ And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

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.**

Sermon

LSB 396 Arise and Shine in Splendor

*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

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,

but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son.

As God has spoken to us in His Word through His Son, let us speak to Him in prayer. We pray for the Church of God and all people according to their needs. We praise You, heavenly Father, for calling us to faith through Your Spirit. As Your Body of believers, called to follow You, enable us to proclaim Your Word of salvation in all truth and purity. Soften the hearts and open the minds of all people, that they may know You have called them as Your own in grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

As Samuel heard Your call to faithful service, let us also heed Your call to serve You and serve others in joy. For those whom You have called to serve as church workers, bless their ministry, protect their health and well-being both mentally and physically, and grant Your continued presence and blessings upon their work. For those You have called in other vocations with various jobs and employments, let all work be done as work done for You and the benefit of others. For the unemployed and underemployed, continue to give patience and an awareness of the gifts and abilities that come from Your hand, all the while serving You. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

As Paul calls believers to flee from immorality, give to Your people steadfast faith and the ability to resist temptation. As You in Your Law have given a clear standard for the right use of our bodies, which were bought at a

price through the blood of our Savior, cause us to glorify You in our bodies and in our very selves. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As Jesus called His disciples to follow Him, so also help us heed His call and follow in faith. Even amid troubles and trials faced in body and soul, keep faith steadfast and firm with trust in Your presence, Your promises, and Your peace. Be especially with those who have requested our prayers, [*including . . .*]. As they call out to You, speak to them Your comfort, compassion, and care. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, 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; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. 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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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."

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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 / LSB 628 Your Table I Approach

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.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

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

Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, gracious Father, for what You have revealed to us through Your Son. As Your Spirit continues to call us through Your Word, grant us ears to hear, wills to obey, hands to serve, and hearts filled with the grace that You have bestowed in this Holy Supper. Strengthen and preserve us all our days; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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 upon you and be gracious unto you.

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

Amen, amen, amen.

LSB 924 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing