

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
North Tonawanda, NY  
April 14, 2024**



**AS WE GATHER**

Luke reports that at seeing the resurrected Jesus, the disciples “disbelieved for joy” (24:41). The theme of rejoicing is woven throughout the Scriptures. The psalmist exhorts: “Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!” (66:1–2). The prophet Isaiah assures God’s people that they will have cause for rejoicing as he writes: “For the LORD comforts Zion; . . . joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song” (51:3). Paul writes to people who know of the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ on that first Easter day: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice” (Philippians 4:4). The season of Easter is a time for joyous praise that begins now!

*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 657 Beautiful Savior**

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

### **OPENING SENTENCES**

This is the day that the LORD has made;

**let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;

**death no longer has dominion over Him.**

Christ has risen from the dead.

**God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.**

He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

**He has put all things under His feet.**

### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

**Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are by nature sinful, and we have not always lived as Your thankful and joyful people. We have indeed turned away from one another in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins. Have mercy on us, gracious Father; forgive us all that is past, blot out our sins, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, direct our lives so that we serve You in true faithfulness. Grant us steadfastness among all the changes of this world and build Your kingdom among us here through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him. May He keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit and grant you a victorious life on earth and finally a triumphant life with Him in heaven forever. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. As well-loved Easter people, rejoice and be glad! You are free indeed! **Amen.**

## **Introit**

In your presence there is fullness of joy;  
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.  
I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up  
and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,  
and you have healed me.

O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;  
you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints,  
and give thanks to his holy name.

For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

***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.***

## **SALUTATION**

The Lord be with you.

***And with thy spirit.***

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world.  
Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death,  
perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who  
lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

***Amen.***

### **First Reading Acts 3:11–21**

<sup>11</sup>While [the lame man who was now healed] clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's, astounded. <sup>12</sup>And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? <sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup>But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, <sup>15</sup>and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all. <sup>17</sup>"And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup>But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. <sup>19</sup>Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, <sup>20</sup>that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, <sup>21</sup>whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago."

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Epistle 1 John 3:1–7**

<sup>1</sup>See 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. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, 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. <sup>3</sup>And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. <sup>4</sup>Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>You know that he

appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup>No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Verse

Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia. Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures? Alleluia.

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

***Glory be to Thee, O Lord.***

Lector: As they were talking about these things, Jesus Himself stood among them, and said to them,

Pastor: *“Peace to you!”*

Lector: But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And He said to them,

Pastor: *“Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Touch Me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”*

Lector: And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, He said to them,

Pastor: *“Have you anything here to eat?”*

Lector: They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, and He took it and ate before them. Then He said to them,

*Pastor: "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."*

Lector: Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them,

*Pastor: "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And 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."*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise be to Thee, O Christ.*

**Apostle's Creed (rear cover of maroon hymnal)**

**TLH 201 Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won**

**Sermon**

*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. We pray for the whole church, that the message of salvation may joyfully be proclaimed throughout all the world and the forgiveness of sins be celebrated around the globe. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations of the world, that governments would be a source of blessing to those who are governed and that oppression in all forms may be

hindered, bringing a sense of security and well-being in every place. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for ourselves in this amazing season of our Lord's great victory that we may truly be Easter people all year long, radiating the light of Christ in our homes, workplaces, and communities. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who serve us through their callings, especially those who deal with special challenges or dangers on a regular basis, including police officers, firefighters, and other emergency personnel. Also, we remember at this time the military forces of our nation, those stationed both at home and abroad, whose efforts serve to defend our nation in challenging times. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for those with special concerns and needs this day: those who are hospitalized, [*especially . . .*], those who grieve, the unemployed and underemployed, the chronically ill and shut-in, and all others whose needs are known to us. Bless them with Your presence, gracious Father, that they may have a sense of purpose in their lives and find strength and hope for each day. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we bless You for having placed into our lives faithful Christian people to guide us. We remember those no longer among us on earth, who have completed their earthly races and have won the final victory in Christ. Lead us to follow in their way, that we may rejoice together eternally with saints and angels. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer. 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.**

**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.*

**TLH 410 Jesus, Lead Thou On**