

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda, NY
June 9th, 2024



AS WE GATHER

In the face of a world seeming to be falling apart, and maybe even your personal “world,” God’s Word has great and convincing comfort and hope for you this day. That hope, however, begins with knowing the real cause of our troubles. It is our sin and alienation from God that is at the root of all anger, frustration, bitterness, and death. We easily “lose heart” when all seems hopeless for us. The center and substance of hope in God is Jesus Christ whose resurrection from all that is darkness and death to us is the means and strength of faith to endure and stand firm through all that troubles us. For “if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you” (Romans 8:11). Far from being merely a blind hope for future deliverance, believing in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come far outweighs everything and anything that can happen to us now. Living in this hope, we do not lose heart.

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

Opening Hymn*Amazing Grace

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

OPENING SENTENCES

Our help is in the name of the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities,

O Lord, who could stand?

But with You there is forgiveness,

that You may be feared.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

and in His word I hope.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

From God's own Word we understand it is our sin that causes our troubles, doubt, fears, and death. For this reason, God's own Son became our Savior, taking the sin of the world upon Himself and paying our debt with His own death on the cross. All who have been baptized in His name have died with Him and live in the forgiveness of our sin. Let us therefore implore Him again and again for His forgiveness and life.

O God, I confess to You that I have sinned against You in my thoughts, words, and deeds by my own fault. For the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, forgive me my sins and restore to me the hope of Your eternal salvation.

God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith. I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to you, and in the stead 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.

Introit

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.
The LORD is the strength of his people;
he is the saving refuge of his anointed.
Oh, save your people and bless your heritage!
Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

*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

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, Your Son Jesus triumphed over the prince of demons and freed us from bondage to sin. Help us to stand firm against every assault of Satan, and enable us always to do Your will; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading Genesis 3:8–15

⁸They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹²The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle 2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1

¹³Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, “I believed, and so I spoke,” we also believe, and so we also speak, ¹⁴knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with

Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. ¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. ¹For we know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia. Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Alleluia.

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

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

²⁰Then [Jesus] went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. ²¹And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, “He is out of his mind.” ²²And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and “by the prince of demons he casts out the demons.” ²³And he called them to him and said to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. ²⁷But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house. ²⁸“Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, ²⁹but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”— ³⁰for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.” ³¹And his mother and his brothers came,

and standing outside they sent to him and called him. ³²And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you.” ³³And he answered them, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” ³⁴And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵Whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostle's 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. A

*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. Lord God our heavenly Father, we give You thanks and praise for Your good creation and for Your re-creation of a people of eternal hope and life, Your holy church throughout the world. Keep, we pray, all pastors and believers in the joyful hope of the resurrection and the life of the world to come. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Help all people of the world and especially of our own nation to not lose heart in the face of earthly troubles but to endure with faith in Your gracious promises of the forgiveness of sins and the hope and peace of Your new creation. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In the midst of trouble, anxiety, sickness, or fear of death, comfort, heal, and raise up all who call upon You in their need, [*especially . . .*]. Bless all who minister healing and deliverance to those in need. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the many brave and faithful believers who have gone before us, we give You thanks. Help us to remember all who have fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith, that we may likewise live all our days with our heavenly goal in mind. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, 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.

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.

Hymn*Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death