

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda, NY
June 23rd, 2024**



AS WE GATHER

. For all of the Bible's reassurances of how much God loves us, cares for us, protects and guides us, it is, nevertheless, of our fallen, sinful nature that we still at times harbor doubts and even despairingly want to argue with God Himself and question His love and promises. The undying question is "Why?" The troubles, setbacks, trials, tragedies, and reverses in life do that. The Word before us today describes those times with the imagery of the destructive power of raging water and the greater power of God to deliver from threatening distress. Even when threatened with a raging flood, we are reminded that our help is still in the God who created everything. The trials of the otherwise "blameless and upright" man of God named Job (1:1) and the Lord's patient yet commanding love in His answer to Job's complaint should remind us to live our faith in daily repentance yet always still in praise of our saving God.

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.

PREPARATION

Opening Hymn LSB* 709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is
In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit,
Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Behold, now is the favorable time;
behold, now is the day of salvation.
Our help is in the name of the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

“In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I cried for help.” Let us prepare to receive the Lord’s instruction and deliverance this day by recalling our brokenness and sin, begging our Creator and Redeemer for forgiveness and deliverance.

Almighty God, in our weakness we are tempted to complain about our troubles and sufferings. Yet we know all the pains we endure are the result of our own sin and waywardness. Speak now Your promised forgiveness to us. Give us the faith to endure, trusting solely in Your mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of 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

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.
He made the storm be still,
and the waves of the sea were hushed.
Then they were glad that the waters were quiet,
and he brought them to their desired haven.

Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wondrous works to the children of men!
Let them extol him in the congregation of the people,
and praise him in the assembly of the elders.

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 & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, in Your mercy guide the course of this world so that Your church may joyfully serve You in godly peace and quietness; 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 Job 38:1–11

¹Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: ²“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? ³Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me. ⁴“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. ⁵Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? ⁶On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, ⁷when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? ⁸“Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb, ⁹when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band, ¹⁰and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors, ¹¹and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed’?” This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle 2 Corinthians 6:1–13

¹Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. ³We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything. ¹¹We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide open. ¹²You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections. ¹³In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

VERSE

Alleluia! Who then is this, that even wind and sea obey Him? Alleluia!

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

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

³⁵On that day, when evening had come, [Jesus] said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” ³⁶And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. ³⁷And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. ³⁸But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” ³⁹And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” ⁴¹And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even wind and sea obey him?”

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. Amen.

**Hymn LSB* 783 Take My Life and Let It Be
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. Almighty and eternal God, You see the chaos and rage of the world unhinged from Your design and guidance. Turn the hearts of tyrants and calm the minds of those lost in error. Raise up and strengthen leaders! who know and follow Your will of peace and freedom. From our need we turn to You: Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Give to Your whole church throughout the world the boldness and humility to proclaim Your righteous judgments and Your gracious redemption to all. Give courage to all pastors and teachers in Your church to speak Your Word to a world in need of Your mercy. From our need we turn to You: Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For all Your people here present who wait upon You for forgiveness, instruction, and the courage of faith, be our very present help to trust in Your grace with all our being. From our need we turn to You: Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Hear our petitions for all who are sick; for the homebound in our parish; for any who cry to You for help and healing, [*especially . . .*]; and those who have requested our prayers. From our need and theirs we turn to You: Lord in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We remember all who have gone before us and are with You beyond the troubles of this world. Keep Your heavenly light in our hearts and minds that we may walk in sure and certain hope of our eternal salvation. From our need we turn to You: 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 LSB * 744 Amazing Grace