

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church**  
**North Tonawanda NY**  
**July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024**



**AS WE GATHER**

Life is not always easy. Life in and of faith is often less easy. In our readings today we encounter a few people who faced difficulty and challenges amid their godly callings. Ezekiel would be sent to speak the Word of God to a rebellious people who wouldn't happily receive the message. The apostle Paul would face his own personal struggles with his "thorn . . . in the flesh" (2 Corinthians 12:7) as he brought the Gospel to many on his mission journeys. Jesus Himself would not be welcomed as Savior when He returned to His hometown of Nazareth. Though things were far from easy, God would bless the work that He called His people and His own Son to do. Even in our times of difficulty and challenges living as His people, we are reminded of the same truth from the Lord: "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

\*\*\*\*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.*

**LSB \* 790 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**  
**OPENING SENTENCES**

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

**Amen.**

To You I lift up my eyes, O You who are enthroned in the heavens!

**Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till He has mercy upon us.**

Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt.

**Our soul has had more than enough of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Echoing the words of the psalmist, we lift our eyes to You, O Lord, enthroned in the heavens. As we do, we seek Your mercy. Our help is in the name of the LORD,

**who made heaven and earth.**

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"

**and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. Though we lift up our eyes to You, our souls have had more than enough of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud.

**As You claim us as Your own in Baptism through water and the Word, we struggle to live as Your children. As You call us in faith to trust in You, we face the contempt of others in the world around us. As You collect Your people together as Your church, we often fail to prioritize the work of Your kingdom and the mission You have set before us for the sake of others. We flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord, Jesus Christ.**

The Lord calls His people and sends them to proclaim His Word, even amid the scorn and contempt of the world. He sent Ezekiel, along with a promise: **“Whether they hear or refuse to hear, . . . they will know that a prophet has been among them.”**

He sent the apostle Paul, along with a promise:

**“My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.”**

He sent His own Son into the world, into our flesh, on our behalf. Though stricken, smitten, afflicted, and even rejected in His own hometown, the message of the Word made flesh continued to be proclaimed by the disciples:

**“So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent.”**

Gathered together as His church, be affirmed and assured that almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives the power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. All of your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all.

**Amen.**

### **Introit**

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!  
Blessèd is the man who takes refuge in him!  
For the LORD has chosen Zion;  
he has desired it for his dwelling place:  
“This is my resting place forever;  
here I will dwell, for I have desired it.  
I will abundantly bless her provisions;  
I will satisfy her poor with bread.  
Her priests I will clothe with salvation,  
and her saints will shout for joy.”

***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.

O God, Your almighty power is made known chiefly in showing mercy. Grant us the fullness of Your grace that we may be called to repentance and made partakers of Your heavenly treasures; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*Amen.*

## Old Testament Reading Ezekiel 2:1–5

<sup>1</sup> He said to me, “Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you.” <sup>2</sup> And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. <sup>3</sup> And he said to me, “Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled

against me. They and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day. <sup>4</sup>The descendants also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them, and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD.’ <sup>5</sup>And whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house) they will know that a prophet has been among them.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Epistle 2 Corinthians 12:1–10**

<sup>1</sup>I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. <sup>2</sup>I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. <sup>3</sup>And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— <sup>4</sup>and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. <sup>5</sup>On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. <sup>6</sup>Though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. <sup>7</sup>So to keep me from being too elated by the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. <sup>8</sup>Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. <sup>9</sup>But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. <sup>10</sup>For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark , the sixth chapter**

*Glory be to Thee, O Lord.*

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus] went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. <sup>2</sup>And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, “Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? <sup>3</sup>Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. <sup>4</sup>And Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.” <sup>5</sup>And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. <sup>6</sup>And he marveled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching. <sup>7</sup>And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. <sup>8</sup>He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts— <sup>9</sup>but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. <sup>10</sup>And he said to them, “Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. <sup>11</sup>And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” <sup>12</sup>So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. <sup>13</sup>And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

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.**

**LSB \* 672 Jerusalem the Golden**

**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 people of God in Christ Jesus, for His church, and for all people according to their needs. God of continued mercy, Your power is made perfect in weakness and Your grace is sufficient for us. As You called people of the past to proclaim the way of salvation, so also use us as Your instruments to proclaim the Gospel and to live as lights even among scorn and despising from a sinful world. Sustain Your church to remain strong in faith until the day You make all things new. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Sending Father, when Your Son was in this world, He was rejected in His hometown. Though despised, He continued on in the mission for our salvation and forgiveness of sins all the way to the cross. As disciples continued to proclaim a message of repentance, build us up as Your disciples within Your church to proclaim and receive the forgiveness of sins won for us through His death and resurrection. Raise up pastors, missionaries, teachers, and others in a churchly vocation to be sent by You to proclaim Your message of Law and Gospel. Strengthen laity to live as Your church each day among our neighbors, pointing to Your light and Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Compassionate Father, we face daily the trials of this world, the devil, and our own sinful flesh. Often a “thorn in the flesh” is a barrier to our faith and trust in You. Remind us Your grace is sufficient and Your power is made perfect in weakness. For those who are weak in body, mind, and spirit, grant Your continued presence. Heal according to Your will, and use us as Your church to encourage, support, and reflect Your grace to all who are in need, [*especially . . .*]. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Sustaining Father, You gather us together as Your people to hear Your Word and to receive Your means of grace. As Your church, strengthen our fellowship as we receive the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Fed, nourished, and strengthened in faith, enable us to



faithfully uphold Your calling to us as we are sent by You. 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.**

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, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

*Amen.*

### **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.*

### **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.”

### **PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**LORD’S PRAYER**      *Matthew 6:9–13*

*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.**

## **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.

Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through 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 \* 918 Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer**