

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
North Tonawanda, NY  
August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024**



**AS WE GATHER**

One of the saddest things in life is when we lose our sense of wonder—when we can no longer behold the beauty of God’s creation and be moved by it or when we take for granted the mystery of our salvation by the blood of the Lamb. The prophet Isaiah promises the restoration of wonder and the Spirit fulfills that promise with faith that trusts in what we have not seen. Today we ask the Lord to fill us with awe as we receive the inheritance of the saints who went before and add to it the witness of our age of the joy of salvation to bequeath to those who come after.

*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.*

**HYMN TLH \* 669 How Great Thou Art**  
**OPENING SENTENCES**

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

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”

**They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good.**

Holy and gracious God,

**I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that my heart may know peace.**

By the mercy of God, we are redeemed by Jesus Christ and in Him we are forgiven. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

**Introit**

O LORD, I love the habitation of your house  
and the place where your glory dwells.

Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity,  
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.

Prove me, O LORD, and try me;  
test my heart and my mind.

I wash my hands in innocence and go around your altar, O LORD,  
proclaiming thanksgiving aloud, and telling all your wondrous deeds

*.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 and merciful God, defend Your church from all false teaching and error that Your faithful people may confess You to be the only true God and rejoice in Your good gifts of life and salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*Amen.*

### **Old Testament Reading Isaiah 29:11–19**

<sup>11</sup>The vision of all this has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed. When men give it to one who can read, saying, “Read this,” he says,

“I cannot, for it is sealed.”<sup>12</sup> And when they give the book to one who cannot read, saying, “Read this,” he says, “I cannot read.”<sup>13</sup> And the Lord said: “Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men,<sup>14</sup> therefore, behold, I will again do wonderful things with this people, with wonder upon wonder; and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hidden.”<sup>15</sup> Ah, you who hide deep from the LORD your counsel, whose deeds are in the dark, and who say, “Who sees us? Who knows us?”<sup>16</sup> You turn things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the clay, that the thing made should say of its maker, “He did not make me”; or the thing formed say of him who formed it, “He has no understanding”?<sup>17</sup> Is it not yet a very little while until Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be regarded as a forest?<sup>18</sup> In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see.<sup>19</sup> The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the LORD, and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Epistle Ephesians 5:22–33**

<sup>22</sup>Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. <sup>24</sup>Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. <sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup>that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup>so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. <sup>28</sup>In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup>For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, <sup>30</sup>because we are

members of his body. <sup>31</sup>“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup>This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup>However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### VERSE

**Alleluia. Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart. Alleluia.**

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

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

<sup>1</sup>When the Pharisees gathered to [Jesus], with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands, holding to the tradition of the elders, <sup>4</sup>and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) <sup>5</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” <sup>6</sup>And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, “‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; <sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ <sup>8</sup>You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.” <sup>9</sup>And he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! <sup>10</sup>For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ <sup>11</sup>But you say, ‘If a man tells his father or his mother, Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban’ (that is, given to God)— <sup>12</sup>then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or

mother, <sup>13</sup>thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

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 TLH \* 422 Savior, I Follow On**

#### **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**

Guard Your people, O Lord, let not our hearts be empty of faith nor our minds filled with pride. Give us a healthy respect for the things of old, which we have received from those who have gone before and give us a living faith that trusts not in works but in Christ alone. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Give grace to Your church, that she be built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets and Christ the chief cornerstone, but also that she faithfully pass on the Gospel to those to come. Bless all pastors and church workers in their vocations to serve us with Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Give grace to the leaders of this and every land, that every people may enjoy good government, peace among the nations, security in their homes, and reward for virtue. Bless us in our service to our neighbor and those in need.

Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Give grace to those afflicted in body or mind that they may rest their cares upon You and be kept strong in the day of trouble, [*especially . . .*], and those we name in our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Give grace so that we may be grateful for Your blessings new every morning and we may be generous in sharing from Your abundant gifts to those in need. Be with the unemployed and those just entering the workforce, that our labors may be fruitful for our benefit and for Your glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Through Him, with Him, in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is Yours, almighty Father, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

**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.**

#### **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 \* 700 Be Strong and Of A Good Courage**