

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda, NY
September 22nd, 2024**



AS WE GATHER

In today's Old Testament Reading, Jeremiah has just learned of a plot against him, and he asks God to provide him justice, ridding him of his enemies. David's psalm likewise asks God to intervene and provide justice. Indeed, when we are weak in the face of opposition, that is when we need to rely on our great God. But if He measured out the same justice on us all, we would be doomed! Even one of the Twelve betrayed our Lord! But God "gives grace to the humble," James teaches in the Epistle. Only when we acknowledge God's grace in Christ can we pray for His justice. The Twelve were ignorant of Jesus' coming sacrifice, but we are well aware that by it we have received every grace and blessing. Today we thank God for His grace to us as He deals with the sin-filled world around us.

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 * 38 The Lord, My God, be Praised
INVOCATION**

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

OPENING SENTENCES

O God, save me, by Your name,
and vindicate me by Your might.
O God, hear my prayer;
give ear to the words of my mouth.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins to our heavenly Father.

**Almighty God, I confess all my sins and iniquities with which I have
ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal
punishment. I have relied on my own strength to endure during
temptation and persecution rather than Your faithful protection. I am
sorry for these my faults and ask Your forgiveness and pardon that I
may return Your faithfulness with ongoing reliance of faith.**

In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all
your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
God grant deliverance from every trouble and set your feet to walk in His
ways now and always.

Amen.

Introit

Delight yourself in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him, and he will act.
He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,
and your justice as the noonday.
Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;

fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man
who carries out evil devices!

***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, whose strength is made perfect in weakness, grant us humility and
childlike faith that we may please You in both will and deed; 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 Jeremiah 11:18–20

¹⁸The LORD made it known to me and I knew; then you showed me their
deeds. ¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. I did not know it

was against me they devised schemes, saying, “Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name be remembered no more.”²⁰ But, O LORD of hosts, who judges righteously, who tests the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle James 3:13—4:10

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. ¹What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ²You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? ⁶But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the

Lord, and he will exalt you.
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

VERSE

Alleluia. If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.
Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the ninth chapter
Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

³⁰[The disciples] went on from there and passed through Galilee. And [Jesus] did not want anyone to know, ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.” ³²But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him. ³³And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you discussing on the way?” ³⁴But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. ³⁵And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.” ³⁶And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.”

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 * 521 What God Ordains Is Always Good

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

The Introit appointed for today includes comforting words that we will use to guide our prayers today. Let us pray for ourselves and the church around the world.

**Guide and protect us and Christ's whole church to proclaim the Gospel.
We dearly want all people to hear the Good News.**

Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart. Let us pray for people in power through politics, those in businesses growing and distributing the resources of this world, armed forces protecting and defending us, and others who provide opportunities to use the talents You have given to us.

**Work faith in their hearts, O God, so that they may meet the needs of
all people in peace, and we may follow their lead in serving You.**

Commit your way to the LORD; trust in Him, and He will act. Let us pray for those who make and adjudicate the laws of our country and others.

Turn the hearts of those who seek to harm us or our nation and work against peace around the world, O God. Let us see Your justice.

He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. Let us pray for those near and dear to us, [*including . . .*], that God would heal, restore, and comfort them according to all His good plans for them.

Grant doors of opportunity for health care professionals, first responders, and us, that we may work together with them for the good of those for whom we pray.

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for Him. Finally, let us pray for all who oppose our gracious God.

Open the hearts of our enemies, O God, and all who oppose Your reign of love, so that they may know Your grace and mercy.

Fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart.

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 TLH * 53 Abide, O Dearest Jesus