

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
North Tonawanda, NY  
January 28, 2024**



**AS WE GATHER**

In a world where there is nothing new under the sun, we still run to anything that appears to be new. When Jesus taught in the synagogue, the hearers heard a man speak with the authority of the author of the Scriptures. They were surprised and even more surprised when His Word was not simply theoretical but silenced an unclean spirit and relieved the man of this demon. In their amazement, they could not help but tell the story to any who would listen. Yet even as Jesus' fame spread, so did opposition to His teaching and preaching.

*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\***

### TLH 669 How Great Thou Art

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

#### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**      *Psalm 32:1–2*

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,”  
**and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Silence for reflection.*

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 by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**O most merciful God who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**Amen.****

Almighty God has had mercy upon you and has given His only Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

## **Introit**

Many are the sorrows of the wicked,  
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.

Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.

Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the  
iniquity of my sin.

Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you  
may be found;

surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

***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 God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; 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 Deuteronomy 18:15–20**

<sup>15</sup>“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— <sup>16</sup>just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ <sup>17</sup>And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to

them all that I command him. <sup>19</sup>And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. <sup>20</sup>But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*\*\*\* Choir: Always By Our Side\*\*\*\***

**Epistle** 1 Corinthians 8:1–13

<sup>1</sup>Concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. <sup>3</sup>But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. <sup>4</sup>Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” <sup>5</sup>For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”—<sup>6</sup>yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. <sup>7</sup>However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup>Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? <sup>11</sup>And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. <sup>12</sup>Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

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

<sup>21</sup>They went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath [Jesus] entered the synagogue and was teaching. <sup>22</sup>And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, <sup>24</sup>“What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup>And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” <sup>28</sup>And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

***Praise be to Thee, O Christ.***

### **TLH 657 Beautiful Savior**

#### **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 whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Father of love, You rescued Your fallen people with the sufferings and death of Christ, Your Son, our Brother in flesh.

Guide us to know and rejoice in His salvation and to proclaim this Gospel with boldness to our brothers and sisters. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Father of mercy, Your compassion has rescued us from the powers of evil

and set us free. Guide us to use this liberty to serve others as Christ has served us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Father of grace, You have provided us with the new life of Holy Baptism and granted us faith by the power of the Spirit. Keep us in this faith that we may be preserved from evil and delivered from all our enemies to everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Father of truth, You have given us Your Word that we might know the truth. Provide for us good and honest leaders who will heed the voice of Your Word and protect us from violence so that we may lead peaceful and godly lives without fear. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Father of comfort, You have borne in Your Son all our wounds. According to Your will, deliver all who are sick, who suffer, who are troubled in mind, and those near death that they may be preserved in faith in the day of trouble. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Father of hope, You have ended the reign of death by the resurrection of Your Son. Deliver us from death and grant Your peace to the dying and Your comfort to those who grieve. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Father of courage, You have promised to grant us all things needful for this body and life even as You have provided eternal life to us in Christ. Help us always to pray with confidence in Your mercy, knowing that Your every answer is for our eternal good. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

All these things for which we have prayed and all other things we need, we pray You to grant us in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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.*

**TLH 649 Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me**