

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda, NY
November 10th, 2024**



AS WE GATHER

As the liturgical year is coming to its end, God our Father gives us great encouragement that our salvation and deliverance from sin and sorrow is complete because of the forgiveness won for us by the blood of Jesus, the one and only sacrifice for your sin and the source of daily cleansing, faith, hope, confidence, and love. This faith is certain and full of hope even if your current circumstances would have you think otherwise. As God provided for the widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17), so was the widow's offering (Mark 12) an expression of confident faith in God's promised salvation. No clearer picture can be given of the certainty of hope in Christ our Savior than in the letter to the Hebrews as it tells of Christ's once-for-all sacrifice that not only forgives but takes away all sin and supplies us with newness of life by His life-giving body and blood all our days!

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 * LSB 770 What a Friend We Have in Jesus
INVOCATION**

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

OPENING SENTENCES

I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”
Christ Jesus is the mediator of a new covenant,
so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Hebrews 9:22, 26b*

Scripture says, “under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. . . . But Christ has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.” Let us prepare to receive forgiveness and cleansing from God our Savior by confessing our need and repentance of our sin.

Lord God, we come before You this day seeking Your mercy and grace for the forgiveness of our sins and the cleansing of our lives. We confess to You all our sins, both the wrong we have done as well as the love we have withheld and the good we have failed to do for others. Lord, have mercy on us.

God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith. I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to 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

Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wondrous works to the children of men!
Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!

Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
whom he has redeemed from trouble.
He raises up the needy out of affliction
and makes their families like flocks.
The upright see it and are glad,
and all wickedness shuts its mouth.

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 ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Grant us so firmly to believe in Your Son, Jesus, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy

Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading 1 Kings 17:8–16

⁸Then the word of the LORD came to [Elijah], ⁹“Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” ¹⁰So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.” ¹¹And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” ¹²And she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.” ¹³And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴For thus says the LORD the God of Israel, ‘The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.’” ¹⁵And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*******Choir-“Here I Am Lord “”*******

Epistle Hebrews 9:24–28

²⁴For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. ²⁵Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, ²⁶for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the

world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, ²⁸so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

VERSE

You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. Alleluia.

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

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

³⁸In his teaching [Jesus] said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and like greetings in the marketplaces ³⁹and have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, ⁴⁰who devour widows’ houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.” ⁴¹And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴²And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. ⁴³And he called his disciples to him and said to them, “Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. ⁴⁴For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

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

Lord God, our confidence and hope of life everlasting, graciously hear our prayer for Your whole church everywhere in the world, especially for those who hold steadfast to Your Word and promises. Sustain all faithful pastors with Your grace that they may deliver Your Word of salvation to all. Keep all Your people in peace and unity of faith. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give all nations and especially our own country trustworthy leaders who look to You for Your guidance in all their ministrations. Make their purpose to provide justice, peace, and freedom to all whom they have been called to serve. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

As we all live out our lives in a world disfigured by sin, sickness, and death, give to all who call upon You for help in times of trouble, anxiety, or illness Your healing presence, [*especially . . .*]. Help all who attend to those in need with Your strength and compassion. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For all those who have faithfully served You in the past, the patriarchs and prophets, the evangelists and apostles, and all Your saints, we give You thanks. Though undeserving, grant us communion and fellowship with all those in heaven whose victory we celebrate while still in our journey. Give us the faith and confidence to remain steadfast until we hear Your call to enter Your eternal presence. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Graciously receive our prayers, O God. Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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 * LSB 924 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing