

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
North Tonawanda, NY  
Advent Season 2024**



**AS WE GATHER**

Advent season starts the time that is referred to as the festival half of the Church Year. Between now and the final week of the Easter season, we will follow the life of our Lord Jesus Christ, from now, when we await His coming as a baby in Bethlehem, to the time when He physically leaves the earth at His ascension and then His disciples begin the new era of life in the church as it takes form in Jerusalem and beyond. It is a time for praise! A Danish hymn from around 1600 calls out to us as the church: "O Bride of Christ, Rejoice!" It closes each stanza with an address to our Advent Lord: "Hosanna, praise, and glory! Our King, we bow before Thee" (LSB 335). May the beginning of this new Church Year resound with our joyful praise that continues through Christmas and well beyond!

*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.*

**Opening Hymn LSB 338 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus  
INVOCATION**

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

**Amen.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Our help is in the name of the LORD,

**who made heaven and earth.**

In this season of penitence and reflection, let us think of our unworthiness; confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed; and ask for His merciful forgiveness.

**Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to life everlasting. Amen.**

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. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**Hymn LSB 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vv1-2**

*The lighting of the Advent candle on the Advent wreath occurs during the singing of the hymn.*

**OPENING SENTENCES**

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

**I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,

**who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever.**

The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.  
**The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.  
Praise the LORD!**

### **SALUTATION / PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Almighty Father, by the advent of Your Son into the world, the kingdom of heaven now is open to all who believe in Him. Give us grace to receive the Lord Jesus as our Emmanuel, God with us. By the working of Your Holy Spirit, inspire our praises in this season of blessed expectation. Lead us joyfully to serve Jesus, our Advent King, in our daily lives, so that when He comes again on the Last Day in power and majesty we may, by Your mercy, be gathered into Your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and our King.

**Amen.**

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM *Psalm 24***

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,

**for He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.**

Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

**He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Such is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

**Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!**

Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

**Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory! 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.**

#### **EPISTLE**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **HOLY GOSPEL**

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

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; He has come to His people and redeemed them. He has raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of His servant David. Through His holy prophets He promised of old that He would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us.

**He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember His holy covenant. This was the oath He swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship Him without fear, holy and righteous in His sight all the days of our life.**

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare His way, to give His people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

**In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**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.**

**HYMN: 353 Jesus Came, The Heavens Adoring  
SERMON**

**OFFERING / OFFERTORY**

*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.*

**THE LITANY**

O Lord,  
**have mercy.**

O Christ,  
**have mercy.**

O Lord,  
**have mercy.**

O Christ,  
**hear us.**

God the Father in heaven,  
**have mercy.**

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
**have mercy.**

God the Holy Spirit,

**have mercy.**

Be gracious to us.

**Spare us, good Lord.**

Be gracious to us.

**Help us, good Lord.**

From all sin, from all error, from all evil; From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death; From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion; From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death:

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity;

By Your Baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial;

By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

**Help us, good Lord.**

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

**Help us, good Lord.**

We poor sinners implore You

**to hear us, O Lord.**

To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy living;

To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived;

To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:

**We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weak hearted and the distressed:

**We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need;  
To direct and defend our president and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people;  
To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel;  
To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them;  
To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:

**We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

**We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**we implore You to hear us.**

Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,  
**have mercy.**

Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,  
**have mercy.**

Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,  
**grant us Your peace.**

O Christ,

**hear us.**

O Lord,

**have mercy.**

O Christ,

**have mercy.**

O Lord,

**have mercy. 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.**

### CLOSING COLLECT

Let us pray.

Accept, O almighty Lord, our praise for Your blessed Son, Jesus Christ, who came in the flesh to seek and to save us in our lost condition. Grant that at His second and glorious appearing He may find in us the fruits of the redemption that He has graciously accomplished for us; through the same, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

The almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the X Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless and preserve you.

**Amen.**

**Hymn: LSB 722 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me**