

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
North Tonawanda NY  
January 5, 2025**



**AS WE GATHER**

Have you ever received a surprise present, one that was out of your own price range to get? That, in a nutshell, describes Epiphany. The Wise Men came to give presents, and instead received one their wealth could not have bought. We are included in this. We are baptized for the forgiveness of sins by His blood on the cross that covers our sins, once for all. That water and blood give us the greatest—and most expensive—gift in the world. Here we see Jesus revealed, manifested, in a star, in the coming of the Magi and the gifts they bring.

\*\*\*\*The Lord's Supper will be celebrated at this service, Communion is offered to Lutheran members in Altar & Pulpit Fellowship only, we believe based on Scripture and the "Book of Concord", (The Lutheran Confessions) that only those who share the same faith and teaching of Doctrine should Commune together. **Acts 2:42, 1 Cor. 10:17, 1 Cor. 11:26 and Rom. 16:17** is where we find this written, if this is your first time at St. Matthew, and would like to take Communion, please talk to the Pastor before the service. If you are taking Communion, please fill out the Communion Registration form. \*\*\*\*

*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.*

**✘ PREPARATION ✘**

**LSB 394 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise**  
**INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father,  
**who called Abram and promised him and his heirs a land flowing with milk and honey;**  
and of Jesus, His Son,  
**who was offered once for all as a sacrifice for our sins;**  
and of the Holy Spirit,  
**who calls people through Word and Sacrament to believe in Jesus and a gives them a place to live beyond all imagination. Amen.**

**OPENING SENTENCES**

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.  
**For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him.**  
And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.  
**And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent.**  
For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,  
**and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Let us confess our sins to God our Father.  
**Most merciful God, I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean. I have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.**  
Do you recognize the truth—that you have not loved God with your whole heart nor loved your neighbor as yourself?  
**I confess that I have failed to keep the two great commandments by what I have done and what we have failed to do. Heavenly Father, I don't deserve Your forgiveness, but ask for it because of the greatest love shown at the cross.**

Hear the great news: God has used two common earthly elements—water and blood—to forgive your sins and make you His very own. Through the cross of Christ and the blood of Jesus shed there, and because you have been baptized, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the X Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Thank You, Lord, for revealing Your mercy and grace to me on this great day of Epiphany.**

Lord Jesus, thank You for shedding Your blood and giving us the waters of Holy Baptism,

**by which You sacrificed Your life for ours and made us a part of Your family forever. Amen.**

### **Introit**

I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;  
therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a  
scepter of uprightness;

you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond  
your companions;

your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.

***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.

Lord Jesus Christ, our great High Priest,

**cleanse us by the power of Your redeeming blood that in purity and peace we may worship and adore Your holy name;**

for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,

**one God, now and forever. Amen.**

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; 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 Isaiah 60:1–6**

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup>For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. <sup>3</sup>And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. <sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. <sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall

come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Epistle Ephesians 3:1–12**

<sup>1</sup>For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— <sup>2</sup>assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup>When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup>which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **VERSE**

Alleluia. Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. Alleluia.

## **Gospel St. Matthew 2:1-12**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter

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

<sup>1</sup>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>““And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”” <sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” <sup>9</sup>After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

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.

**LSB 399 The Star Proclaims the King Is Here**  
**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 and for all people according to their needs. Almighty God, You revealed Your Son to Gentiles on the day of Epiphany.

**Use us, we pray, to bring light and peace where there is none right now.**  
Lord Jesus, You were willing to shed Your blood on the cross for our forgiveness and have given us the hope of salvation.

**Thank You for shedding Your blood and giving us the waters of Holy Baptism to make us Your own sons and daughters through faith in You.**  
As You cared for the sick and still do, we remember before Your throne those among us who are sick and in need of Your care, [*especially . . .*].  
**As You did in Your earthly ministry, continue to love, care, touch, and heal them according to Your will.**

For Your kingdom, invisible to human eyes yet so very real, we lift up our voices in prayer.

**We pray that You would use us by the working of Your Holy Spirit to open hearts and eyes to Your love and see Your kingdom.**

Merciful Father in heaven, You hold all authority and power in Your hands. Use those whom You have installed as rulers over us for our good and not our harm.

**Use them to bring about blessing to those who are bringing justice and peace to our lands and to stop evildoers in their tracks.**

We also remember those who are persecuted for Your name.

**For those who have to endure torture and persecution, give them the hope of their eternal reward.**

Almighty God, You are the fountain of all wisdom. You know what we need before we ever ask, even when we do not know what to ask or even how to ask.

**We are but mortal men and women, but You are immortal, invisible, and wise. Look upon us with compassion, care for us, and meet our needs.**

These things we ask, almighty God, in Your name, trusting that in Your mercy and according to Your will, You will not only hear our prayers but answer them.

**Amen.**

## **PREFACE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## **PROPER PREFACE**

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all



places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. He is the long-awaited prophet and Savior, the Holy One who has destroyed the power of the devil and gives forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation by His sacrifice on the cross. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### **Sanctus**

*Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.*

### **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### **PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## 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.

## Distribution / LSB 383 A Great and Mighty Wonder

### Nunc Dimittis

*Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,  
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before  
the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy  
people Israel. 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.*

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
*and His mercy endureth forever.*

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, by Your blood, You have redeemed us from sin, death, and Satan, and through the waters of Holy Baptism, You have made us Your own people. Continue to guide us by Your Holy Spirit that You would be revealed to us more each day though Your Word and Sacrament; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*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.*

**LSB 400 Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning**