

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda, NY
January 12th, 2025**



AS WE GATHER

Today is the first of the bookends that mark the Epiphany season—the Baptism of Our Lord and His Transfiguration. In common is the command from God to “listen to Him.” We begin our journey of listening to the Lord, learning from those who went before, acknowledging the revelation of the Lamb of God in baptismal water, and looking to Him, the Word made flesh. In His Baptism, our Lord was not washed because He was unclean but because we are. The Father saw the prophetic words of Isaiah fulfilled in the water of the Jordan, and He claimed Jesus as His own Son and our appointed Redeemer. “You are Mine,” said the Lord to Jesus. Because He said those words to Jesus, they are now addressed to us—the people for whom Jesus was baptized.

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.

*****Choir to sing: “My Peace” and have the congregation sing along
from the last page of the folder***
For the people of Los Angeles**

LSB 409 Hail, O Source of Every Blessing
RITE OF BAPTISMAL RENEWAL

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

Amen.

Dear friends, we were buried into Christ by Baptism into His death and raised with Him to newness of life. I call upon you to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced the devil and all his works and ways and were made members of the Holy Christian Church. Do you renounce the devil?

Yes, I renounce him.

Do you renounce all his works?

Yes, I renounce them.

Do you renounce all his ways?

Yes, I renounce them.

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord?

Yes, I believe 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.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

Yes, 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.

Is it your purpose to continue steadfast in this faith and in the promise of Your Baptism and, as a member of the church, to be diligent in the use of the means of grace and prayer?

Yes, with the help of God.

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the

new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins,
strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting.

Amen.

May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the
day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

INTROIT

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights.

I will tell of the decree:

The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you.

Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.

You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.

Serve the LORD with fear,
and rejoice with trembling,
for his wrath is quickly kindled.

Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

***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.***

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.

Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; 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 43:1–7

¹But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life. ⁵Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. ⁶I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, ⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*****Choir- Faith, Hope and Love*****

Epistle Romans 6:1–11

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia. You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased. Alleluia.

Luke 3:15-22

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

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹⁵As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with

the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. ¹⁹But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison. ²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”
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 590 Baptized into Your Name Most Holy
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.

Silence for prayer and meditation.

Father, in Jordan's baptismal water, You fulfilled the word of the prophet and washed us clean to become Your own children. Grant that we may rejoice in our Savior's Baptism, which gives hope to our own Baptism and through which You now behold us as Your own people. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You have called us by name and placed upon us Your name and Your grace; give now Your Spirit that we may hear the voice of Your Son speaking hope through the Word and believe in Him faithfully to everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Embolden Your church with Your Word and gifts that we may address the world with hope of sins forgiven and death undone by the death and resurrection of our Lord and that hearing this Gospel, many may believe. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Equip and bless all pastors and church workers and those training for church work vocations, that at home and abroad there may be faithful servants to support and care for Your people in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Guide the leaders of our nation and locality with Your Word that they may act with integrity and serve in accordance with Your will, assisting virtue, justice, and peace here and in every place. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Give to Your people generous hearts that as richly as we have received, we may also give. Bless the tithes and offerings we bring with the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving for all Your goodness. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Abide with the troubled in mind, the wounded in body, and the broken in spirit, that they may know Your presence in their hour of need and be granted healing, comfort, and peace according to Your will. [*Hear us especially for . . .*] Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Recalling John, at whose hand our Lord was baptized, and those who delivered to us the faith in Word and Sacrament, grant that we may also so faithfully pass on the witness of Your mercy and be kept in life and be faithful unto death; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

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.**

Let us pray.

We give You thanks, almighty God, that in the waters of the Jordan, Jesus began His earthly work of redemption and sanctified water to be a means of grace and an instrument of our new life. Help us to see through Your own eyes the miracle of Your grace by which our Savior took upon us the full measure of our sin and by whom we have been born again by water and the Spirit; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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 537 Beautiful Savior