

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
North Tonawanda NY  
February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**



**AS WE GATHER**

Although this day is about the purification of Mary according to the law and the presentation of Jesus as the firstborn of her womb, these are saving acts done on behalf of all of us. This is what Simeon acknowledges when he sings the Nunc Dimittis. Here is the promise of God kept in Christ for his salvation and for the redemption of the Gentiles. Here we see the face of God, the display of His mercy, and the glory long promised. We sing with Simeon in praise of our Savior, while acknowledging that in the Holy Sacrament we see our salvation every bit as much as Simeon saw it in the baby in his arms.

\*\*\*\*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.*

**TLH 533 Nearer, My God, to Thee  
INVOCATION**

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

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Blessed are those who dwell in Your house, ever singing Your praise!  
**O LORD of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in You!**

*Silence is kept for meditation and reflection.*

Let us confess our sins to God our merciful Father:

**Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, and judge of all people, we confess that we are sinful and unclean. We have turned away from You and from one another in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You desire. We do repent of our sins and humbly beg Your mercy through Jesus Christ to forgive us all that is past and to move us by Your Spirit to serve You faithfully in the days to come.**  
**Amen.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon You and has sent His only Son, who suffered for us to forgive 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.  
**Amen.**

He who began this good work within you will 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**

We have thought on your steadfast love, O God,  
in the midst of your temple.  
Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised  
in the city of our God!

His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth,  
Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King.

Within her citadels

God has made himself known as a fortress.

As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the  
city of our God,

which God will establish forever.

***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, as Your only-begotten Son was this day  
presented in the temple in the substance of our flesh, grant that we may be  
presented to You with pure and clean hearts; through Jesus Christ, our Lord,

who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*Amen.*

### **Old Testament Reading 1 Samuel 1:21–28**

<sup>21</sup>The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. <sup>22</sup>But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, “As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the LORD and dwell there forever.” <sup>23</sup>Elkanah her husband said to her, “Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him; only, may the LORD establish his word.” So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him. <sup>24</sup>And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. And the child was young. <sup>25</sup>Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. <sup>26</sup>And she said, “Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. <sup>27</sup>For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him. <sup>28</sup>Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD.” And he worshiped the LORD there. This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*\*\*Choir – One Step He Leads\*\*\***

### **Epistle Hebrews 2:14–18**

<sup>14</sup>Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup>and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. <sup>16</sup>For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. <sup>17</sup>Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation

for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **VERSE**

Alleluia. Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel. Alleluia.

### **Gospel St. Luke 2:22–32**

The Holy Gospel according to St., the chapter

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

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) <sup>24</sup>and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” <sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup>And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. <sup>27</sup>And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup>he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, <sup>29</sup>“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation <sup>31</sup>that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Nicene Creed**  
**I believe in one God,**  
**the Father Almighty,**

maker of heaven and earth  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and  
the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.  
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

TLH 376 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Thee  
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**

Knowing the faithfulness of God, let us come before Him in prayer for ourselves, for the church, and for all people as they have need.

Blessed Lord, we give You thanks for Joseph's watchful care over Jesus, for Mary's love for her Son, and for the faith of Simeon and Anna, who waited upon You to show them their Savior. Give us such watchful hearts, such love for Jesus, and such trust in Your Word, that we may wait upon Your will with joy and peace. Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Gracious God, we thank You for the faithfulness of Hannah and those who in every generation have loved Your Word and served You. Keep, we pray, those who lead us in Synod and District, our pastor, all church workers, and those preparing for church work vocations. Guard them in Your Word that by their faithfulness we may be blessed and encouraged in faith and life in Christ. Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Heavenly Father, make us ready like Simeon to depart and be with You, and keep us faithful as Anna in the days that You give us, that whether we live or die, we may rejoice that we belong to You and have seen our salvation in Christ Jesus. Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Mighty Lord, we live in a world of danger and temptation. Grant us the blessing of good and faithful leaders who will hear and heed Your Word and good government so that the causes of justice and mercy may be accomplished among us. Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Faithful Lord, You gave to Hannah the child of promise, and to Mary and Joseph You entrusted the care of Your own Son. Bless all husbands and

wives, parents and children, that our homes may be places of blessing and love and preserve the sacred character of life, especially for the aged and the unborn. Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Merciful Father, behold in love those who suffer afflictions of body or mind and those whose hearts are weighed low with grief. Grant them a strong and sturdy faith in the days of their trial and deliver them from their troubles according to Your mercy. [*Hear us especially for . . .*] Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Gracious Lord, You give food for the body and for the soul. Grant that we may feast upon Your Word by faith and with our lips taste Your goodness in the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, that what we here receive we may keep in holy hearts and lives. Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Giving Lord, from You and to You are all things. Grant us to be wise and faithful stewards of all Your gifts, and fill us with generosity so that we may support the work of Your kingdom with tithes and offerings and care for the poor and the needy in love. Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

These and whatsoever things we should ask, we beg You to grant us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray.

**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.**

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, who, sharing Your eternal splendor, was presented on this day in Your temple in the substance of our human flesh and revealed by the Spirit as the glory of Israel and the light of all peoples. 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.**

Having in remembrance the holy incarnation and life of Your Son, Jesus Christ, acknowledging His all-sufficient suffering and death upon the cross for our sin, praising His victorious resurrection from the dead, confessing His ascension on high where He evermore intercedes for us, and looking for His coming again in glory, we pray You, Father, to sustain the people Your Son has redeemed and bring us to the marriage supper of the Lamb in His kingdom without end; for in You, with You, and to You all glory, honor, and

praise belong, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Hear us as we pray in His name as He has taught us:

## **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 / TLH 388 Just as I Am, Without One Plea 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.

Send Your Holy Spirit upon Your people, O Lord, that we who have heard Your Word may keep it in holy hearts and that we who have participated in the communion of Your Son's body and blood may be sanctified and preserved with all Your saints and come to eternal blessedness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

*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 674 Amazing Grace**