

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda NY
February 16th, 2025**



AS WE GATHER

Blessing abound in today's readings! Jeremiah laments the one who "trusts in man," but sees the one who "trusts in the Lord," to be like a tree planted with abundant water that "does not cease to bear fruit" (Jeremiah 17:5, 7, 8). Note that we are "planted,"—a passive verb, grace! Luke records another time Jesus preached using beatitudes. He concluded that we, his hearers, should rejoice and leap for joy, for our reward is great in heaven. Such grace! No wonder that Paul, in the Epistle, warns against those who doubt Christ's resurrection. Our Lord is only "the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Corinthians 15:20). Today our worship is full of rejoicing in the grace of God. It also gives us strength to produce fruit every day.

****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 352 O Savior, Precious Savior
INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES

I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received:
that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

In fact Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy,
for behold, your reward is great in heaven.

SALUTATION & Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading Jeremiah 17:5–8

⁵Thus says the LORD: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. ⁶He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. ⁷“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. ⁸He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought,

for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*****Choir –*****

Epistle 1 Corinthians 15:1–20

¹Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ²and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. ³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first

fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

VERSE

Alleluia. Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia.

Luke 6:17-26

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

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹⁷[Jesus] came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all. ²⁰And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. ²²"Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! ²³Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. ²⁴"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵"Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. "Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. ²⁶"Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

In many and various ways God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

But not in these last days, He has spoken to us through His Son.

Let us confess our faith:

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

**TLH 496 Hark! The Voice of Jesus Crying
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 ourselves, the church around the world, and all people in their various circumstances.

Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

Around the world many are poor and homeless, wandering far from home. Heavenly Father, meet their needs through us, Your servants, and even those people who may think they control them. Give them the clothing and shelter they need, and introduce them to the promise of Christ about His rule.

Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.

We pray, Lord Jesus, for Your blessings on all who work in voluntary relief organizations and professional counseling agencies. Protect and guide them so that their efforts bring thanksgivings, health, and new opportunities.

Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

O Holy Spirit, hear the prayers of those who are sick, in mourning, or unemployed, [*especially . . .*]. Answer them as Your plans allow, relieve

their suffering, calm their tears, and give them opportunity to use the gifts and abilities You have given them.

Blessed are you when people hate you.

Visit, strengthen, guide, and direct us in the church here and around the world, Lord, our God. Grant that what we say with our lips be reflected in how we live our lives and what we accomplish with our hands and feet.

These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

The Exhortation: Dear friends in Christ, it is your desire to receive the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ for the assurance of the forgiveness of your sins, the strength of your faith in Him as your savior, and the grace to serve Him with a God-pleasing life. In order that these blessings may be yours, it is necessary that you bear in mind the Word of God recorded by St. John in his first epistle, “if we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”

Confession and Absolution: I ask you therefore, before the God who searches your heart: Do you confess the sins which you have committed in desire, thought, word and deed? Do you repent of them with all your heart, believe in Jesus Christ for forgiveness, and sincerely intend, with the help of God the Holy Spirit, to amend your sinful life? If so then boldly declare; YES!

YES!

Upon this confession, I as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the place 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.

Lord remember us on Your kingdom and teach us to pray...

*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.*

Words of Institution:

Our Lord Jesus Christ on the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His Disciples, saying' "Take eat; this is my body which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

After the same manner also He took the cup when He had supped, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it all of you, this is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins. This do, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me."

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takes away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us, and grant us Your peace.

Amen.

PAX DOMINI

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

**Distribution / TLH 314 Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray
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.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You to strengthen us so that our intentions are turned to acts of service and our confessions of faith become lives reflecting Your gracious love and mercy; 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.

TLH 673 Let There Be Peace On Earth