

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
North Tonawanda, NY  
February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**



**AS WE GATHER**

Today's Old Testament Reading is the account of Joseph forgiving his brothers, who had sold him into slavery years earlier. Is it possible for us to forgive as he did? Joseph learned to trust in God and how He would arrange things. God has arranged everything for us too! The resurrection of Jesus is beyond our understanding but not beyond our comprehension. So Paul tries to explain about heavenly beings. We don't know much about them, but we can forgive because our Lord went a lot farther than we are called to follow, into death, for God to forgive us. Today Word and Sacrament strengthen us to follow His example in daily living.

*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.*

## LSB 790 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

### INVOCATION

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

### OPENING SENTENCES

As by a man came death,  
**by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.**  
As in Adam all die,  
**so also in Christ shall all be made alive.**  
What is sown is perishable;  
**what is raised is imperishable.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Confident of our Lord's victory over death, leading all who follow Him by faith, let us confess our sins. "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you." We confess our failure to love our enemies, O Lord.

**We have responded to them as they have dealt with us. We have not done to them as we wish they would have done to us. Forgive us, Father.**

"If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you?" We confess our giving preference to people who are like us.

**We have loved those near and dear to us and have dealt with others without love and mercy. Forgive us, Lord Jesus.**

"Judge not, and you will not be judged." We confess our judgment of people we think are not up to the standards we think we can meet.

**We have failed to pass on the forgiveness we have received from You, O Holy Spirit. Forgive us, Lord our God.**

"Forgive, and you will be forgiven." Your sins have been forgiven by the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! As a called and ordained servant of His, I therefore forgive you in the name of the Father and of the X Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## INTROIT

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;

fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way.

Fret not yourself because of evildoers;

be not envious of wrongdoers!

For they will soon fade like the grass

and wither like the green herb.

Trust in the LORD, and do good;

dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.

Delight yourself in the LORD,

and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the LORD;

trust in him, and he will act.

***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.*

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; 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 Genesis 45:3–15

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. <sup>4</sup>So Joseph said to his brothers, “Come near to me, please.” And they came near. And he said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup>And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup>For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup>And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup>So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup>Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. <sup>10</sup>You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup>There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.’ <sup>12</sup>And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. <sup>13</sup>You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” <sup>14</sup>Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. <sup>15</sup>And he kissed all his brothers and wept

upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Epistle 1 Corinthians 15:21–26, 30–42**

<sup>21</sup>For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death. . . . <sup>30</sup>Why am I in danger every hour? <sup>31</sup>I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! <sup>32</sup>What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” <sup>33</sup>Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” <sup>34</sup>Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame. <sup>35</sup>But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” <sup>36</sup>You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup>And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup>But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. <sup>39</sup>For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. <sup>40</sup>There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. <sup>41</sup>There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. <sup>42</sup>So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. Alleluia.

### **Luke 6:27–38**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter  
***Glory be to Thee, O Lord.***

<sup>27</sup>[Jesus said:] “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup> To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. <sup>31</sup> And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. <sup>32</sup> “If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. <sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. <sup>37</sup> “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

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 644 The Church's One Foundation  
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, our friends and family, the nations of the world, and our enemies. For the church, people gathered around Word and Sacrament, those who serve professionally that they reflect the Gospel they proclaim, and those who serve their family and friends quietly, that God remind them that they are indeed His children, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the nations of this world and their leaders, that God use them for the good of all and that they serve both the influencers and those who have been forgotten by society, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For artists and craftspeople, musicians and actors, that they use their gifts to the glory of God, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For troops deployed and police at home, for first responders and health professionals and volunteers that their efforts bring about healing and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those near and dear to us, [*including . . .*], that God give them health and healing, recovery and remission, solace and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For ourselves and our congregation, that God refresh and renew our resolve to spread the Gospel, love the people around us, and serve Him with all the resources He provides, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Into Your hands, gracious Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, grace, and compassion, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, 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.**



**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 698 May We Thy Precepts, Lord Fulfill**