

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



**AS WE GATHER**

Beloved heirs of God's glory—sinners and saints, sons and daughters—see God's promised revelation in Jesus' transfigured glory! All believing patriarchs, prophets, disciples, leaders, teachers, and confessors experience the tragic result of sin. Yet we are all invited into the light of Jesus! Our journeys, despite mistrust and faithlessness, are enveloped in God's forgiveness. The sinless Son of God appears before sinful Moses, Elilah, Peter, James, and John on the mountain together! A revelation like no other! This pivotal moment of glory compels us to anticipate the journey of the "gory," the pending crimes against Jesus: the cross, the mockery, the crucifixion. Death is coming! Soon, the church's alleluias will be hushed

\*\*\*\*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 worshipping with us today.*

**TLH 27 Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul**  
**INVOCATION**

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

**OPENING SENTENCES**

Jesus, take us to the mountain, where, with Peter, James, and John,  
**we are dazzled by Your glory, light as blinding as the sun.**

There prepare us for the night  
**by the vision of that sight.**

What do You want us to hear there, that Your dear disciples heard?

**Once again the Voice from heaven says of the Incarnate Word:**

“Listen, listen, everyone,

**This is My beloved Son!”**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

We confess our sin to God our Father.

**God of mercy and forgiveness, God of revelation and promise, we confess that we are burdened with sin—sin that consumes, unravels, deceives, and stifles faith. Enable us by Your Word to increase our willingness to bear our crosses, resist temptation, and follow You alone! In our journey, let us continually wage war against Satan and adversaries who would seek to eclipse Your glory.**

Almighty God, we have seen Your glory in the transfiguration of Jesus, Your only-begotten Son. We join in the lineage of prophets and apostles, believing in the glory and the cross of Jesus. Crucify our sins on that cross. Envelop us in the light of His glory in these words: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the X Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Introit**

Blessed are those who dwell in your house,  
    □ ever singing your praise!  
How lovely is your dwelling place,

O LORD of hosts!  
My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.  
Behold our shield, O God;  
look on the face of your anointed!  
For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor.  
No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

***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**

Behold Moses, from the tribe of Levi, prophet of Yahweh, and yet a sinner and thus denied access into the Promised Land.

**Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

Behold Elijah, a mighty prophet, judge of Israel, and yet a wounded sinner, hungry, afraid, and depressed.

**Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

Behold Peter, James, and John, bold confessors, preachers, disciples, witnesses, and sinners.

**Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord have mercy.**

And behold Jesus, the transfigured Son of God, the source of all comfort, defender against adversity, and fountain of grace.

**Amen.**

### **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.

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; 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 Deuteronomy 34:1–12**

<sup>1</sup>Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho. And the LORD showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan, <sup>2</sup>all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, <sup>3</sup>the Negeb, and the Plain, that is, the Valley of Jericho the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar. <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, ‘I will give it to your offspring.’ I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there.” <sup>5</sup>So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD, <sup>6</sup>and he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day. <sup>7</sup>Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was undimmed, and his vigor unabated. <sup>8</sup>And the people of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. Then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended.

<sup>9</sup>And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the LORD had commanded Moses. <sup>10</sup>And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, <sup>11</sup>none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, <sup>12</sup>and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*\*\*Choir – God is My Shepherd\*\*\***

### **Epistle Hebrews 3:1–6**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, <sup>2</sup>who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. <sup>3</sup>For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. <sup>4</sup>(For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) <sup>5</sup>Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, <sup>6</sup>but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **VERSE**

### **Gospel St. Luke 9:28–36**

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

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

<sup>28</sup>Now about eight days after these sayings [Jesus] took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup>And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. <sup>30</sup>And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, <sup>31</sup>who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup>Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. <sup>33</sup>And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. <sup>34</sup>As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup>And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!” <sup>36</sup>And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

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  
of all that is seen and unseen. 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 416 Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways  
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 church of God in Christ and for all who bear crosses and yet seek to follow Jesus. As the people of God, let us remember and treasure the saints of old, who struggled to guide and admonish God's people, trusting in His plan. Encourage us by their unwavering witness, determined leadership, and inordinate sacrifice.

**As living saints, give us courage to immerse ourselves into the redemption story of Jesus, sharing not only in His glory but also in His suffering.**

As the people of God, let us unite ourselves into a common and earnest confession that we are both sinners and saints, baptized into the glory of knowing and being known by Jesus.

**As living saints, give us courage to immerse ourselves into the redemption story of Jesus, transfigured, glorified, punished, and crucified.**

As the people of God, let us support one another amid so many crosses that are hard to understand and difficult to bear. Safeguard us from harsh, unrelenting judgment of one another. Let us seek to uphold one another in the mercy and grace of God generously given to each one of us.

**As living saints, give us courage to immerse ourselves into the redemption story of Jesus, generous in forgiveness, patience, understanding, and kindness. Help us to see the light of fellow believers, understanding that the crosses they bear are both visible and invisible to us.**

We commend to You, O Lord, the lives of all the witnesses of Your glory and heirs of Your eternal promises. In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**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 at His transfiguration revealed His glory



to His disciples that they might be strengthened to proclaim His cross and resurrection and with all the faithful look forward to the glory of life everlasting. 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 398 Renew Me, O Eternal Light**

### **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.*

### **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 54 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah**