

## St. Matthew Lutheran Church North Tonawanda NY



### **AS WE GATHER**

Who is the greatest conqueror ever to have walked on earth? Using the criterion of how much territory a conqueror ruled over, the Mongol warrior Genghis Khan could be considered the greatest conqueror in history. At the peak of his power in the thirteenth century AD, his rule extended over 4,860,000 square miles. Coming in at the second spot was the Macedonian ruler Alexander the Great. The borders of his empire in the fourth century BC included much of Europe and North Africa and parts of the Middle East and Asia, which totaled some 2,180,000 square miles. History reveals that those massive empires did not survive long past the deaths of these warrior leaders. In our worship, we acknowledge Jesus Christ as the "Conqueror renowned" (LSB 554:1) who "triumphed over cross and grave" (LSB 551:4). His coming to earth to bring about a matchless victory for us over evil and all that oppresses us is eternal and limitless!

*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.*

## Opening Hymn 425 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

### INVOCATION

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

### PSALM *Psalm 8*

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth! You have set Your glory above the heavens.

**Out of the mouth of babes and infants, You have established strength because of Your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.**

When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place,

**what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You care for him?**

Yet You have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

**You have given him dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,**

all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

**the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!**

**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.**

### SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## COLLECT

Let us pray.

Gracious Father, for the joy set before Him, Your Son, Jesus, endured the suffering of the cross. In our suffering, O Lord, strengthen our faith that we may know Your companionship in our darkest hours; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**FIRST READING** *Genesis 3:14–15* (The consequences of the first sin)

<sup>14</sup> So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PRAYER RESPONSE

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, when we, by our sin, had fallen away from You, You graciously came down to us. You became man to save humanity. You lived among us in lowliness that we may live with You in glory. You endured Satan’s attacks for us that You could crush the serpent’s head for us. By Your humble incarnation, Your life of purity and selfless service, and Your sacrificial death, You have redeemed us. Therefore, God our Father has highly exalted You and put everything under Your feet, and we humbly bow before You, for You are our Lord, and You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SECOND READING** *Hebrews 2:11–15* (The grace of God has appeared.)

<sup>11</sup> Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.

<sup>12</sup> He says, “I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises.”<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>13</sup> And again, “I will put my trust in him.”<sup>[c]</sup> And again he says, “Here am I, and the children God has given me.”<sup>[d]</sup> <sup>14</sup> Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—<sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *John 12:20–33* (Jesus tells of the death by which He will die.)

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>20</sup> Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. <sup>21</sup> They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup> Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus. <sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup> Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. <sup>25</sup> Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. <sup>27</sup> “Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name!” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup> The crowd that was there and heard it said it had

thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him. <sup>30</sup> Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. <sup>31</sup> Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up<sup>[a]</sup> from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup> He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

**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.**

**Hymn 560 Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed  
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

### RESPONSIVE LITANY

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

**Let our cry come to You.**

Almighty God, in the fullness of time, You sent the promised offspring,  
Your Son, Jesus Christ, to save us.

**By His redeeming death, He has crushed the serpent's head for us.**

Saved from sin, death, and the devil by His holy, precious blood and His  
innocent suffering and death,

**help us to find healing in His wounds**

and grant us eyes of faith

**to see that His cross is, for us, the tree of life.**

Throughout these forty days, O Lord, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus

**and help us to run with perseverance the race marked out for us,**

until the day when we and all the faithful rest and rejoice with You in  
paradise

**and experience the fullness of Your peace; through Your Son, Jesus  
Christ, our Lord.**

Hear us, O Lord, as we silently bring You our private petitions.

*Silent prayer*

Trusting in Your mercy, we pray as Your Son taught us:

**LORD'S PRAYER**     *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People:**     **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.**

**BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless you, defend you from all evil, and bring you to everlasting life.

**Amen.**

**Hymn LSB 887 Now the Light Has Gone Away**