

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 LSB 436 Go to Dark Gethsemane

INVOCATION

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

PSALM

Out of the depths I cry to You, O LORD!

O Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption.

And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities. 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.

Heavenly Father, by the death and resurrection of Your only Son, You have shown the world that the way of self-sacrifice is the way of life. Give us such a strong faith in Your providence that we will not shrink from any sacrifice You ask of us but rejoice to offer our lives to Him who gave His

life for us—that is, Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

FIRST READING *Genesis 6:1–22*

When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, ² the sons of God saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. ³ Then the LORD said, “My Spirit will not contend with^[a] humans forever, for they are mortal^[b]; their days will be a hundred and twenty years.” ⁴ The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and had children by them.

They were the heroes of old, men of renown. ⁵ The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. ⁶ The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. ⁷ So the LORD said, “I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them.” ⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. ⁹ This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God. ¹⁰ Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. ¹¹ Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight and was full of violence. ¹² God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. ¹³ So God said to Noah, “I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. ¹⁴ So make yourself an ark of cypress^[c] wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. ¹⁵ This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high.^[d] ¹⁶ Make a roof for it, leaving below the roof an opening one cubit^[e] high all around.^[f] Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. ¹⁷ I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. ¹⁸ But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons’ wives with you. ¹⁹ You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. ²⁰ Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. ²¹ You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them.” ²² Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER RESPONSE

Let us pray.

We praise You, O God, for hearing our cries for mercy and answering them in Your forgiving grace. While You could justly keep a record of our sins, You instead wash them away in the cleansing flood of Jesus' blood. Kept safe in the ark of Your church, help us daily to find new hope in Your promises, for You have shown us Your unfailing love in the gift of Your Son, in whom there is full redemption; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SECOND READING *1 Peter 3:13–22*

¹³ Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats^[a]; do not be frightened.”^[b] ¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ¹⁷ For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. ¹⁹ After being made alive,^[c] he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits—²⁰ to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God.^[d] It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 17:22–37*

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

²² Then he said to his disciples, “The time is coming when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it. ²³ People will tell you, ‘There he is!’ or ‘Here he is!’ Do not go running off after them. ²⁴ For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other. ²⁵ But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. ²⁶ “Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. ²⁷ People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. ²⁸ “It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. ²⁹ But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. ³⁰ “It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. ³¹ On that day no one who is on the housetop, with possessions inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. ³² Remember Lot’s wife! ³³ Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it. ³⁴ I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. ³⁵ Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left.” ³⁷ “Where, Lord?” they asked. He replied, “Where there is a dead body, there the vultures will gather.”

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 425 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
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, grant us true repentance over our sins

and steadfast faith in Your forgiveness,

knowing that while we justly deserve Your punishment,

You are a God who freely pardons.

When we are weighed down by guilt or despair, lift us up in Your mercy

and grant us a new beginning, standing in Your grace.

As You once gave the rainbow as a sign of Your mercy,

draw our eyes to the cross of Christ,
that we may see in Him the assurance that Your mercies are new every
morning
and Your faithfulness to us is great.
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*

**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 722 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me