

## **St. Matthew Lutheran Church North Tonawanda NY**



### **AS WE GATHER**

One of the newest jobs on offer today is being a “tasker.” A tasker does jobs that people do not have the time or the inclination to do—like holding a place in line for a concert, sports event, or any kind of sale. Websites and apps invite potential customers to describe their task, choose their tasker from the list provided, and thus get their job done. They list locations where taskers can be hired across the United States and even internationally. Then, taskers can choose from a list of jobs where they might take the customer's place. Throughout the season of Lent, we tell and retell how Jesus, the very Son of God, took our place and became a sacrifice to pay the price of our sins. This greatest of tasks He did not for any material payment but because of His dying love for us!

*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 157 There is a Fountain Filled with Blood

### INVOCATION

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

**Amen.**

### PSALM

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

**For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

**Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.**

You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with shouts of deliverance.

**I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.**

Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.

**Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.**

Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

**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.

God of love, You lifted up Your Son on the cross so that You could draw all people to Him. Fill us with thanksgiving for this incredible love that we dare to believe is ours. Help us to be faithful servants of Your new covenant, reaching out to all those whom You claim; through 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 7:1–5*

7 The LORD then said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. <sup>2</sup> Take with you seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and one pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, <sup>3</sup> and also seven pairs of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. <sup>4</sup> Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made.” <sup>5</sup> And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

Let us pray.

Gracious Father in heaven, in countless ways we have sinned against You, but You have been merciful to us and have forgiven our transgressions. As Your Son covered Himself in our guilt that our sins may be covered in His redeeming blood, help us to find our peace in Him, who gave Himself for us, for in Him we are protected from trouble, and Your grace is our hiding place; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

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** *Galatians 3:7–11*

<sup>7</sup> Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. <sup>8</sup> Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.”<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>9</sup> So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. <sup>10</sup> For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.”<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>11</sup> Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because “the righteous will live by faith.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *John 3:16–17*

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

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

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 436 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want**

### **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.**

Gracious God, heavenly Father, as You did not withhold Your Son, Your  
only Son,

**but gave Him up for us,**

grant us peace and assurance

**in the knowledge of Your saving love.**

For this is love—not that we have loved You but that You have loved us  
**and have given Your Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

Grant that this Good News spread throughout creation that more people in every place may know that You so loved the world that You gave Your only Son,  
**that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.**  
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.**

**TLH 653 Now the Light Has Gone Away**

