

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

North Tonawanda NY



AS WE GATHER

Some of the tools and implements that make our lives easier do not have very lengthy histories. Although ladders of rope, wood, and stone have been around for thousands of years, the trusty stepladder we use in so many ways was not invented until 1862, when John Basely of Dayton, Ohio, constructed a hinged ladder so it could be put away easily after use. Ladders have aided humans for centuries. They assist a person to reach high places safely. The ladder in Jacob's dream did that and more—it reached down to him on earth with an affirmation of God's promises. As we worship, God reaches to us with His promises of redemption, forgiveness, and love. What a great vision that is for us to share!

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 423 Jesus Refuge of the Weary

INVOCATION

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

PSALM

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?
My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.
Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
The LORD will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life.
The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

**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.
Eternal God, You so loved the world that You gave Your only Son into death for our sin. Take our lives, Lord, and use them to lift up Your Son so that all will be drawn to Him and find eternal life; for He 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 28:10–22*

¹⁰ Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹ And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. ¹² And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder^[a] set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! ¹³ And behold, the LORD stood above it^[b] and said, “I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. ¹⁴ Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. ¹⁵ Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” ¹⁶ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and

said, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.” ¹⁷ And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” ¹⁸ So early in the morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹ He called the name of that place Bethel,^[c] but the name of the city was Luz at the first. ²⁰ Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, ²¹ so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God, ²² and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER RESPONSE

Let us pray.

Lord God, You never slumber nor sleep and Your eyes are always open to our needs. On our journey through this life to the life of the world to come, graciously guide us and guard us through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, and in Him You will keep our going out and our coming in from this time forth and forevermore

SECOND READING *Ephesians 2:11–22*(We are one in Christ.)

Remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

For He Himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in His flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

And He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 1:43–51*

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” ⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” ⁴⁸ Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” ⁴⁹ Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” ⁵⁰ Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” ⁵¹ And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you,^[a] you will

see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

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 LSB 770 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

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.

LSB 722 Lord, Take My Hand, and Lead Me