

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda NY
April 6th, 2025



AS WE GATHER

There is a hymn that refers to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, calling it an “old, old story” (“I Love to Tell the Story” by Arabella Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911). The fact that God’s plan of salvation began thousands of years ago, and that the Bible is the record of events in ancient history, does not mean that old equals irrelevant. Today, God says through His prophet Isaiah, “Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old” (Isaiah 43:18). But before you throw away your old Bible, your old catechism, or your old hymnal, listen up! “Behold, I am doing a new thing; . . . do you not perceive it?” (v. 19). In the pattern of the exodus of old and the deliverance from the Babylonian captivity of old, and as “the old rugged cross” of Christ made His resurrection from the dead possible, the “new thing” of God’s doing today is all about freeing you from the slavery of sin, death, boredom, worry, and fear; re-creating you “that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness”

****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 worshiping with us today.

TLH 149 Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain
INVOCATION

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

Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

But now thus says the LORD, He who created you, . . . “Fear not, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are Mine.”

The LORD has done great things for us;

we are glad.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Isaiah 43:1, adapt.*

As the Lord God delivered His chosen people from Egyptian slavery through the sea yet on dry ground, and as He delivered His chosen people from their captivity in Babylon of old, so has He now delivered His chosen people to this day from slavery to sin and death through the cross and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. Remembering that your Holy Baptism is still a present reality today, let us return to the Lord our God in true repentance and faith.

Lord God, we confess that we have sinned against You and have fallen back into our old ways of neglecting You and our love for our neighbor. Create a new heart and spirit within us and make us to be Your new creation by faith in Your Son, Jesus Christ, that we may live under Him and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness both today and forever.

But now thus says the LORD, He who created you and formed you, “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine.”

Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Introit

Salvation belongs to the LORD;
your blessing be on your people!
But you, O LORD, are a shield about me,
my glory, and the lifter of my head.
I cried aloud to the LORD,
and he answered me from his holy hill.
I lay down and slept;
I woke again, for the LORD sustained me.
I will not be afraid of many thousands of people
who have set themselves against me all around.

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.

SALUTATION & Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 43:16–21

¹⁶Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. ¹⁹Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ²⁰The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give

water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ¹the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle Philippians 3:4b–14

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. ⁷But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

St. Luke 20:9–20

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

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

⁹[Jesus] began to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard and let it out to tenants and went into another country for a long while. ¹⁰When

the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants, so that they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. ¹¹And he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. ¹²And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out. ¹³Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.’ ¹⁴But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.’ ¹⁵And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? ¹⁶He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.” When they heard this, they said, “Surely not!” ¹⁷But he looked directly at them and said, “What then is this that is written: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’? ¹⁸Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.” ¹⁹The scribes and the chief priests sought to lay hands on him at that very hour, for they perceived that he had told this parable against them, but they feared the people. ²⁰So they watched him and sent spies, who pretended to be sincere, that they might catch him in something he said, so as to deliver him up to the authority and jurisdiction of the governor.

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 visible and invisible. 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 652 I Lay My Sins on 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

Prayer of the Church

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. O God, our Creator and Redeemer, we give thanks to You for Your whole world of nature and that You continue to sustain it in summer and winter, in seedtime and harvest, through times of trouble and in times of peace. We pray for peace continually that we may attend to Your Word and worship and proclaim Your majesty. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give You thanks especially for our redemption from sin and everlasting death. Though even as You count us as Your redeemed people, still we struggle to be faithful. In Your mercy, You remain true to Your promises and continue to provide the everlasting invitation, salvation, and healing through the forgiveness of sins for the sake of Christ. Bless and empower Your whole church on earth with steadfast faith. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those in the authority of government, that they may be guided in the way of truth and justice, providing for the peace and safety of all. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray also for all who are ill, the hungry, those in bondage, and all who travel. Grant that the prayers of all who turn to You in their need graciously come before You, so that they may receive Your help, provision, and comfort. Especially today we pray for (...) Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty and eternal God, we adore You as the God and Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus, and with the whole church on earth and all the hosts of heaven we ascribe to You honor and blessing, thanksgiving and praise. For all Your works of mercy of old, we praise You. For Your gifts of deliverance, renewal of life and hope, and the promise of eternal life through the cross and resurrection of Your Son, we praise You. Hear us for His sake, living and reigning with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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 overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the Paschal Feast in sincerity and truth.

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.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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 307 Draw Nigh and Take the Body of the Lord

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.

Let us Pray.

We give You thanks, almighty God, that You have made us Your own
people, a new creation in Jesus Christ, our Lord. By His body and blood You
have strengthened our faith, thus enabling us to tell forth Your praises.

Enlighten our paths and guide our steps that we may live according to Your
gracious will in faithfulness to You and love for one another; through Jesus
Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

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 309 O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee