

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda NY
April 20th, 2025**



AS WE GATHER

Jesus compels us to ponder the unthinkable, the amazing—to embrace a cataclysmic event that destroys death and literally makes all things new. Resurrection! Christ's brutal coronation and crucifixion ensures that the entire cosmos, the heavens and the earth, are renewed—in resurrection! Chills soar through our souls at the very thought of it all. In confident faith we are bold to confess that king Jesus unleashes His incomparable reign, crushing the evil aggression of principalities, authorities, and even Satan himself. Unrelenting shouts and songs of alleluia shape the church today because of resurrection. Setting aside all timidity, fear, and anxiety, the church acclaims "Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!" Resurrection confidence in Jesus unites our speech and our song on this day, as we await—with the same confidence—our own day of resurrection, with all the saints in glory.

****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.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!
Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

LSB 457 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today
INVOCATION

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!
Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!
In the name of the Father—who creates and re-creates new life in the kingdom of resurrection,
Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!
and of ✠ Jesus—who redeems and resurrects new life in the kingdom of resurrection,
Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!
and of the Holy Spirit—who sanctifies and breathes new life in the kingdom of resurrection.
Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins before God our Father, and Christ, our risen King!
Resurrected Lord and Savior, we confess before You that our Easter faith is meager; we have not acted decisively in sharing Your love. Our forgiveness for others is tepid. We fail to be gracious in conflict and forget that all believers belong to You—the crucified and risen Lord. Although we are undeserving, You have crowned us with resurrection certainty by Your life-changing grace and mercy. Death is destroyed. Easter life flourishes, now and forever!

Christ has died. We, too, shall die. Christ has risen. We, too, shall rise, because we are more than conquerors in and through Christ Jesus. Our eternal confidence and unwavering faith are in Him alone! Therefore as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen

Introit

I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.

The LORD is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation.

Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power,
your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.

You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed;
you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain,
the place, O LORD, which you have made for your abode,
the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established.

The LORD will reign forever and ever.

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.

KYRIE

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy

Gloria in Excelsis

Glory be to God on high:

and on earth peace, goodwill toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, by faith in Jesus alone, we boldly confess, sing, and shout, “Jesus is risen.” He is our prayer; He is our praise!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

You have overcome the powers of death and darkness. Divine grace, forgiveness, and eternal life for all are made certain in Your resurrection.

Jesus is our prayer; He is our praise!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let our sin be drowned daily in genuine repentance. Grant that we in faith wait patiently for our own day of resurrection, when we will live with all the saints in Jesus’ overwhelming light and unending feast. Jesus is our prayer; He is our praise!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Old Testament Isaiah 65:17–25

¹⁷“Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. ¹⁸But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. ¹⁹I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. ²⁰No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed. ²¹They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²²They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. ²³They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD, and their descendants with them. ²⁴Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear. ²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent’s food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain,”

says the LORD.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*******Choir: Worthy Is the Lamb: see insert*******

Epistle 1 Corinthians 15:19–26

¹⁹If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Alleluia. Christ Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Alleluia.

St. Luke 24:1–12

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

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. ²And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. ⁵And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be delivered into the

hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.”⁸ And they remembered his words,⁹ and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles,¹¹ but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.¹² But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

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.**

**LSB 461 I Know That My Redeemer Lives
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

Heavenly Father, Lord of all creation made new in resurrection, we give thanks to You that the light of Christ eclipses our sin and that the waters of Baptism keep us buoyant in a sure and certain faith unto life everlasting. We earnestly await the revelation of the new Jerusalem, where we will be resurrected and numbered with all the saints of light and life.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Dearest Jesus, You are the Lord of hope, life, and joy for all those who have fallen asleep. In You all will be made alive! Resurrection shall be ours, when we are delivered into the kingdom of God the Father. We give thanks that You destroyed the adversaries that seek to marginalize faith and divert us from knowing and confessing the one true God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Lord of life, together with the eyewitnesses of Your empty tomb, move us from skepticism to bold confidence, from scared silence to convincing emphatic proclamation of the risen Christ. Let us rejoice that we stand in the lineage of the prophets who foretold the risen Savior, the apostles and saints who were Jesus' companions, and for all of us who eagerly await the final day of resurrection.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

PREFACE

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

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.

PROPER PREFACE

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. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, 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.

Isaiah, mighty seer in days of old

The Lord of all in spirit did behold

High on a lofty throne, in splendor bright
with robes that filled the temple courts with light.

Above the throne were flaming seraphim;

Six wings had they, these messengers of Him.

With two they veiled their faces as was right,

With two they humbly hid their feet from sight

and with the other two aloft they soared;

One to the other called and praised the Lord:

“Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth!

Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth!

Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth!

His glory fills the heavens and the earth!”

The beams and lintels trembled at the cry
and clouds of smoke enwrapped the throne on high.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are You, Lord of the heavens and earth—made new! Your mercy is woven into the very words of Scripture and into the lives of the saints who confess Your holy name, and unrelentingly take hold of the resurrection as temporal and eternal truth. Grant that Your life-giving Word and Spirit invade our minds, our speech, and our hearts, that we may be credible witnesses of divine truth—Jesus alone was crucified, died, and raised to new life. By faith we claim this resurrection as our very own! That resurrection will usher us into eternity that we may share in the marriage feast of the Lamb that will have no ending. To You alone, O Father of all creation, Son of resurrection, and Spirit of joy, be all glory, honor, and worship, now and forever.

Amen.

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 manner also He took the cup when He had supped, 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 *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

AGNUS DEI

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Distribution / 477 Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, risen Savior, that You have made all things new through Your resurrection. In this Holy Sacrament Your body and blood nourish us with forgiveness and increase our faith. In this Meal we join all the saints who have prophesied, witnessed, and proclaimed resurrection. Grant that this feast enjoins us to all things new in this time and eternity. Shaped by resurrection hope, joy, and life, grant that we boldly love one another through You, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

The Lord bless you and keep you in Jesus' resurrection!

The Lord renew you in the promise of your resurrection—yet to be revealed.

The Lord guarantee you every dimension of eternal joy, hope, and new life.

Amen.

EASTER ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

LSB 478 The Day of Resurrection