

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda, NY
June 8th, 2025**



AS WE GATHER

It is the week of weeks—seven times seven plus one, the fiftieth day—when Pentecost arrives. It is the last day of Easter and the first day for the fruits of Christ's Easter victory to be proclaimed to the ends of the earth. Today we discover anew what it means to be united in the apostles' teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer. All things in common, the disciples are gathered to bring the nations together as one people by the Word of Christ's death and resurrection and the faith that apprehends and confesses this saving truth. All of this is enabled by the fire of the Spirit burning in us and through us so that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

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.

Hymn: Amazing Grace

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Blessed be the kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
now and to the end of the ages.

Amen. Alleluia!

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If
anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.”

**Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, “Out of his heart will
flow rivers of living water.”**

Now this He said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to
receive.

**Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful, and kindle in them the
fire of your love.**

But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the
Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness about
Me.

**Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful, and kindle in them the
fire of your love.**

And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the
beginning.

**Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful, and kindle in them the
fire of your love.**

I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When
the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth.

**Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful, and kindle in them the
fire of your love.**

He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will
speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify
Me, for He will take what is Mine and declare it to you. A little while, and
you will see Me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see Me.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Holy and gracious God,

I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.

By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

INTROIT

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful,
[] and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.

O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all;
[] the earth is full of your creatures.

These all look to you,

[] to give them their food in due season.

When you give it to them, they gather it up;

[] when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

When you send forth your Spirit, they are created,

[] and you renew the face of the ground.

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 upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; 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 Genesis 11:1–9

¹Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. ²And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. ³And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. ⁴Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.” ⁵And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. ⁶And the LORD said, “Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. ⁷Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another’s speech.” ⁸So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. ⁹Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle Acts 2:1–21

¹When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. ⁵Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” ¹²And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.” ¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷“And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; ¹⁸even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; ²⁰the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. ²¹And it

shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.

John 14:23-31

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

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

²³Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me. ²⁵“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. ³⁰I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, ³¹but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostle’s Creed

**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.**

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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us
pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For an abundance of the fruits of the earth and for a plentiful harvest, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the sick, the suffering, and the dying, [*especially . . .*], let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For an increase of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit to embolden the witness of God's people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For pastors, teachers, missionaries, lay leaders, and all who proclaim the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For unity in congregations and for the unity of the church, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For a spirit of repentance and renewal, for the forgiveness of our sins, and for a spirit of reconciliation and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In thanksgiving for those who have gone before, and for our faithfulness unto death, that we may receive the crown of everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

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.

BENEDICAMUS
Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
Amen.

Hymn: Awake, O Sleeper, Rise From Death