

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda, NY
June 29th, 2025**



AS WE GATHER

If you have ever enjoyed a homegrown tomato or plucked a ripe peach straight from the tree, you know there is no substitute for good fruit. Today, the Holy Spirit is continuing the work begun in your Baptism, bringing forth good fruit. Too often, we imagine bearing good fruit is a result of our own careful cultivation, paying special attention to getting things right. The Spirit takes another approach. Just as the flavor of fresh fruit is a delight to our senses, the Spirit delights our soul with the tantalizing tastes of joy, kindness, gentleness, and love! The Spirit teaches us to crave what is good and, in so doing, leads believers to produce the fruit the Lord always intended.

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.

LSB 770 What a Friend We Have In Jesus
INVOCATION

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

Dearly beloved, Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." In the last chapter of Mark our Lord promises, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." And the apostle Peter has written, "Baptism now saves you."

The Word of God also teaches that we are all conceived and born sinful and are under the power of the devil until Christ claims us as His own. We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation. But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent His Son Jesus Christ, who atoned for the sin of the whole world, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

The pastor addresses candidate:

How are you named?

Jack Thomas Morrow

The pastor makes the sign of the holy cross upon the forehead and heart of each candidate while saying:

Jack, receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your forehead and upon your heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all.

You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.

We pray that You would behold *Jack* according to Your boundless mercy and bless him with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in him, which has been inherited from Adam and which he has committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that they be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, they would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Hear the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

They brought young children to [Jesus] that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The pastor places his hands on the head of the candidate, and the congregation joins in praying:

**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.**

The Lord preserve your coming in and your going out from this time forth
and even forevermore.

Amen.

Sit

The pastor addresses the candidate and asks the following questions:

Jack do you renounce the devil?

Yes, I renounce him.

Do you renounce all his works?

Yes, I renounce them.

Do you renounce all his ways?

Yes, I renounce them.

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

Yes, I believe.

Do you believe 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?

Yes, I believe.

Do you 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?

Yes, I believe.

Jack, do you desire to be baptized?

Yes, I do.

The pastor pours water three times on the head of the candidate while saying:

Jack, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The pastor places his hands on the head of the newly baptized while saying:

The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting.

Amen.

The pastor may light a baptismal candle from the paschal candle and give it to the newly baptized while saying:

Receive this burning light to show that you have received Christ who is the Light of the world. Live always in the light of Christ, and be ever watchful for His coming, that you may meet Him with joy and enter with him into the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which shall have no end.

In Holy Baptism God the Father has made you a member of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and heir with us of all the treasures of heaven in the one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We receive you in Jesus' name as our brother in Christ that together we might hear His Word, receive His gifts, and proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Amen. We welcome you in the name of the Lord.

Stand

Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God and Father, we thank and praise You that You graciously preserve and enlarge Your family and have granted *Jack* the new birth in Holy Baptism and made him a member of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and heir of Your heavenly kingdom. We humbly implore You that, as he has now become Your child, You would keep him in his baptismal grace, that according to Your good pleasure he may faithfully grow to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Your holy name and finally, with all Your saints, obtain the promised inheritance in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Peace be with you.

Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful,

and kindle in them the fire of Your love.

Thus says the Lord GOD: "I Myself will take a sprig and plant it on a high and lofty mountain,

that it may bear branches and produce fruit.

And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD;

I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree,

dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish.

I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it."

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Almighty Father, we confess that by our inability, insolence, and inaction, we have not made Your ways our ways.

For our failure to walk in the ways of love, joy, and peace, forgive us, Lord.

Lord Jesus, we admit we too often conform our desires to the world around us, adopting its compromised standards for living.

For our failure to value the gifts of patience, kindness, and goodness, forgive us, Lord.

Holy Spirit, our very natures are set against You, Your Gospel proclamation, and the fruit You intend to bring.

For our failure to manifest the fruits of faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, forgive us, Lord. For Jesus' sake, melt our sinful hearts, and mold us into the reflections of Your righteousness that You call us to be.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, Jesus, to die for you, and for His sake forgives You all Your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word made flesh 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

Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not
turn back to folly.

Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.

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.

Lord of all power and might, author and giver of all good things, graft into our hearts the love of Your name and nourish us with all goodness that we may love and serve our neighbor; 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 1 Kings 19:9b–21

Behold, the word of the LORD came to [Elijah], and he said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁰He said, “I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.” ¹¹And he said, “Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD.” And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹²And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. ¹³And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁴He said, “I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.” ¹⁵And the LORD said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria. ¹⁶And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat

of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place.¹⁷ And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death.¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”¹⁹ So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him.²⁰ And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, “Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.” And he said to him, “Go back again, for what have I done to you?”²¹ And he returned from following him and took the yoke of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle Galatians 5:1, 13–25

¹For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. . . .¹³For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.¹⁴For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”¹⁵But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.¹⁶But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.¹⁷For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.²²But the fruit of the Spirit is

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Luke 9:51-62

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

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

⁵¹When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. ⁵³But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” ⁵⁵But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶And they went on to another village. ⁵⁷As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” ⁵⁸And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” ⁵⁹To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” ⁶⁰And Jesus said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” ⁶¹Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” ⁶²Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

LSB 601 All Who Believe and are Baptized 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. Gracious Holy Spirit, grow the faith of all those who believe. Bring forth the fruit of holiness and supply them with opportunities to display that fruit for the sake of their neighbor. Abiding Holy Spirit, be a companion for all who feel lonely and isolated, and preserve them from depression and despair. Send us, Your people, to be visible and tangible witnesses that Your presence is with them always. Interceding Holy Spirit, plead for all who face sorrow, sickness, or adversity, comforting them with Your tender care, [*especially . . .*]. Sanctifying Holy Spirit, strengthen Your church. Give all the baptized passion for Your Word, eagerness for service, and courage to reject the world's faulty wisdom and misplaced priorities. Fan into flame hearts that might be a beacon for those in darkness. Eternal Holy Spirit, preserve Your church until the day of the return of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Father, one God, now and forever.

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. Amen. Amen.

LSB 922 Go, My Children, With My Blessing