

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda, NY
July 13th, 2025**



AS WE GATHER

Today's Old Testament Reading is full of what God demands that someone should or should not do; it sounds almost scary. But it is only His putting us in our place and telling us how He wants to work through us and share His love, already poured out on us: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18). But we try to limit the definition of "neighbor." We don't have to! Today we thank God for giving us, for Jesus' sake, "the inheritance of the saints in light," as Paul writes in the Epistle (Colossians 1:12). It is time to set aside our daily activities to let God put us in our place as His friends, followers, and family.

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 523 O Word of God Incarnate
INVOCATION**

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

OPENING SENTENCES

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,
for His steadfast love endures forever.
It is He who remembered us in our low estate,
for His steadfast love endures forever;
and rescued us from our foes,
for His steadfast love endures forever;
He who gives food to all flesh,
for His steadfast love endures forever.
Give thanks to the God of heaven,
for His steadfast love endures forever.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us approach the throne of mercy, humbly, and in need of forgiveness.
We confess, Lord our God,
**that we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We do not reflect
Your love, heavenly Father, in the way we treat others. Forgive us.**
We confess, gracious Lord Jesus,
**that we do not always give You the due honor and glory for all that You
have done for us in Your life, death, and resurrection. Forgive us.**
We confess, O Holy Spirit,
**that we forget that even our faulty attempts at loving as You have loved
us are covered by Your overarching grace and mercy.**
Our gracious God has done all that was needed for us to be His friends,
followers, and family. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore
forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of
the Holy Spirit,
Amen.

INTROIT

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

It is he who remembered us in our low estate,
for his steadfast love endures forever; and rescued us from our foes,

for his steadfast love endures forever;
he who gives food to all flesh,

for his steadfast love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of heaven,

for his steadfast love endures forever.

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.

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.

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And with thy Spirit,

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, in Your deep compassion You rescue us from whatever may hurt us. Teach us to love You above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading Leviticus 18:1–5; 19:9–18

¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²“Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, I am the LORD your God. ³You shall not do as they do in the land of Egypt, where you lived, and you shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan, to which I am bringing you. You shall not walk in their statutes. ⁴You shall follow my rules and keep my statutes and walk in them. I am the LORD your God. ⁵You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules; if a person does them, he shall live by them: I am the LORD. . . .
⁹“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. ¹⁰And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God. ¹¹“You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. ¹²You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD. ¹³“You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning. ¹⁴You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the LORD. ¹⁵“You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD. ¹⁷“You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle Colossians 1:1–14

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, ²To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. ³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, ⁷just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf ⁸and has made known to us your love in the Spirit. ⁹And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. ¹¹May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. Alleluia.

Luke 10:25–37

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

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

²⁵Behold, a lawyer stood up to put [Jesus] to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” ²⁷And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.” ²⁹But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” ³⁷He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles’ 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.**

**LSB 672 Jerusalem the Golden
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

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,
for His steadfast love endures forever.

That God would guide and protect the leaders of this world, that conflict and warfare might cease, and peace and harmony break out for all people, let us pray to the Lord,

for His steadfast love endures forever.

That our heavenly Father would so order the rain and snow that crops would grow for the benefit of all who need nourishment and strength, let us pray to the Lord,

for His steadfast love endures forever.

That our gracious Lord would keep the church around the world in His protective care and provide opportunity for the spread of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord,

for His steadfast love endures forever.

That the Holy Spirit would strengthen the skills of professional and neighboring caregivers so that healing and health may flourish, [*especially for . . .*], let us pray to the Lord,

for His steadfast love endures forever.

That God would enable the caring organizations here and abroad to focus on the needs of the downtrodden, oppressed, and forgotten so that many may give Him praise and glory as they find new opportunity to face each day in confidence and joy, let us pray to the Lord,

for His steadfast love endures forever.

These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake Your Son, Jesus Christ, our 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. Amen. Amen.

LSB Lord 722 Take My Hand and Lead Me