

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda, NY
July 27th, 2025**



AS WE GATHER

God's Word instructs us to stay connected to Christ. We experience that connection as we gather to hear God's Word, dine at our Lord's Table, and pray persistent, bold prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, communities, and world. Today we hear Abraham pleading with God on behalf of Sodom and Gomorrah. We hear Jesus teaching His disciples to pray. Jesus then illustrates the power of bold, persistent prayer and affirms the goodness of the One who hears our prayers. "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time" (1 Timothy 2:5–6).

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 809 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. Our God comes; He does not keep silence; before Him is a devouring fire, around Him a mighty tempest.

Jesus says, “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”

He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that He may judge His people.

The apostle Paul writes, “Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”

God says, “Gather to Me My faithful ones, who made a covenant with Me by sacrifice!”

Jesus said, “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give it to you.”

“Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High, and call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.”

Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Most merciful God,

we call upon You because we are troubled by our sins—our sinful thoughts, words, and actions. We are equally troubled by those times when we have failed to act or speak up. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus,

who delivered us through His perfect life, death, and resurrection so that we may glorify You with our lives.

Our God hears our prayers for mercy and graciously forgives our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Go in peace.

Amen.

INTROIT

Call upon me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.
With my whole heart I cry; answer me, O LORD!
I will keep your statutes.
I call to you; save me,
that I may observe your testimonies.
I rise before dawn and cry for help;
I hope in your words.
My eyes are awake before the watches of the night,
that I may meditate on your promise.
Hear my voice according to your steadfast love;
O LORD, according to your justice give me life.

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.

Heavenly Father, Your grace and mercy have strengthened Your people throughout the ages and emboldened them to come before You in all circumstances. Strengthen our faith and confidence so that we come to You boldly, consistently, and persistently; through Jesus Christ with whom You rule and reign with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading Genesis 18:20-33

The LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has promised him.” Then the LORD said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to Me. And if not, I will know.” So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD.

Then Abraham drew near and said, “Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will You then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from You to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the

wicked! Far be that from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?"

And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

Abraham answered and said, "Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will You destroy the whole city for lack of five?"

And He said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there."

Again he spoke to Him and said, "Suppose forty are found there."

He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it."

Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there."

He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there."

He said, "Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there."

He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it."

Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there."

He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

And the LORD went His way, when He had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle Colossians 2:6–19

⁶Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. ⁸See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. ¹⁶Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. ¹⁷These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, ¹⁹and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

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.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the tenth chapter,
Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when He finished, one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” And He said to them, “When you pray, say:

“Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.”

And He said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

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.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.**

LSB 718 Jesus, Lead Thou On

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

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I encourage you to lift your hearts to God and pray with me as Jesus has taught us and promises to hear us.

Our Father in heaven,

Heavenly Father, mercifully hear the prayers of your people on behalf of our congregation, community, nation, and world.

Holy be Your name.

Holy Lord, we know Your name is holy. We ask that it be kept holy among us as we bear that name and live as Your people in this world.

Your Kingdom come.

Lord Jesus, we thank You for planting Your Kingdom among us as You nourish us with Your body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. We eagerly anticipate the fullness of Your kingdom coming and ask that You continue to do Your good and gracious work in, through, and among us while we wait for Your return.

Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Heavenly Father, we know that it is Your will that all people come to the knowledge of the truth and are saved. Work Your will here on earth. Work through our governing authorities and their agents to bring Your will to all people.

Give us today our daily bread.

Loving Father, we thank and praise You for providing everything we need for our bodies and lives. Prevent us from being selfish and greedy. As You generously bless us, lead us to be a blessing to others, especially those who are in need.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

O Jesus, forgive and empower us to forgive others so that our relationships are ruled by Your peace. Create clean hearts within us so that we may approach You boldly, with confidence.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

Almighty God, as we face trials and temptations, strengthen us by the power of Your Spirit so we can stand firm against the devil, the world, and our sinful nature. Watch over all we name before You this day. Deliver us from evil now and forever.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

LSB 924 Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing