

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda NY
August 17th, 2025**



AS WE GATHER

The verbal command “Hold on!” is one that gets our immediate attention. We know instinctively that holding on will keep us safe or secure in some way as we journey through life. The pages of Scripture call us to “hold on” to some very special things. In the letter to the Hebrews, the writer enjoins us: “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering” (Hebrews 10:23). Paul directs his coworker, Timothy, (and all of us) to “Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called” (1 Timothy 6:12) and encourages him to be “holding faith and a good conscience” (1 Timothy 1:19). Our worship together gives us the opportunity to hold on not only to our Lord Jesus Christ but also to one another as we journey on together toward our heavenly home.

****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.

LSB 906 O Day of Rest and Gladness

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES

Forever, O LORD, Your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.

Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You have established the earth, and it stands fast.

By Your appointment they stand this day, for all things are Your servants.

If Your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.

I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have given me life.

I am Yours; save me, for I have sought Your precepts.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

Gracious God, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are by nature sinful and unclean. Daily we do things we ought not do and do not live up to our calling as Your people. We are not always careful listeners to Your Word and take for granted those who faithfully proclaim it to us. We know that we justly deserve Your punishment in this life and for eternity. But trusting in Your mercy, we come to You for forgiveness. Our trust is solely in the merits of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Grant us remission of all our sins and lead us to renewed lives that reflect Your goodness and love.

God is gracious and merciful and hears our supplications and joyfully restores us to His fold. By the command of our Lord Jesus Christ and as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Introit

Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you;
he will never permit the righteous to be moved.

Give ear to my prayer, O God,
and hide not yourself from my plea for mercy!

For it is not an enemy who taunts me—then I could bear it;
it is not an adversary who deals insolently with me—then I could hide
from him.

But it is you, a man, my equal,
my companion, my familiar friend.
We used to take sweet counsel together;
within God's house we walked in the throng.
But I call to God,
and the LORD will save me.

***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

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Merciful Lord, cleanse and defend Your church by the sacrifice of Christ. United with Him in Holy Baptism, give us grace to receive with thanksgiving the fruits of His redeeming work and daily follow in His way; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading Jeremiah 23:16–29

¹⁶Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD. ¹⁷They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, ‘It shall be well with you’; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, ‘No disaster shall come upon you.’” ¹⁸For who among them has stood in the council of the LORD to see and to hear his word, or who has paid attention to his word and listened? ¹⁹Behold, the storm of the LORD! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked. ²⁰The anger of the LORD will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intents of his heart. In the latter days you will understand it clearly. ²¹“I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. ²²But if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their deeds. ²³“Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God afar off? ²⁴Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD. ²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, ‘I have dreamed, I have dreamed!’ ²⁶How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, ²⁷who think

to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal? ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the LORD. ²⁹Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle Hebrews 11:17–31; 12:1–3

¹⁷By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, ¹⁸of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” ¹⁹He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. ²⁰By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. ²¹By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. ²²By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones. ²³By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict. ²⁴By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, ²⁵choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. ²⁷By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. ²⁸By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them. ²⁹By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as if on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven

days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Alleluia. Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD? What has straw in common with wheat? Alleluia

Luke 12:49-56

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

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

⁴⁹[Jesus said:] "I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. ⁵²For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. ⁵³They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." ⁴He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, 'A shower is coming.' And so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

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
and of all things 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 ascended into heaven
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 719 I Leave All Things to God's Direction
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:

We pray for the church, that God's people may live confidently and would
joyfully share the message of salvation in word and deed. And, remembering
those who in each generation have faithfully spoken the Word of the Lord,
we pray for His servants who today bring us the eternal message from our
God through the faithful preaching of Law and Gospel in our midst.

We pray for the nations of the world, that the presence of Christ be
experienced everywhere around the globe and that the Gospel message have
free course in every land. And we pray for the gift of peace in the world and
in our communities.

We pray for our land and for all people who are involved in the growing,
processing, and distribution of food. Grant that there be a blessing of
seasonal summer weather so that we may rejoice in the harvests that are now
beginning and will continue through the coming months.

We pray for our families and for those who share in our Christian fellowship and join with us in worship. Help us to never take them for granted that we may encourage all to share joyfully in our work together to the glory of God.

We pray for those with special concerns and needs this day, including those who are hospitalized or in care facilities, those who are grieving at this time, the unemployed and underemployed, and the chronically ill and shut-in, [*especially . . .*]. Help us to bring Your blessing to situations of need in all places.

God of the ages, we thank You for all those faithful people whose words and actions have guided us in the past, especially remembering those sisters and brothers in the faith no longer with us on earth, who now share in Your eternal presence. By the working of Your Holy Spirit, direct us to follow the leading of Jesus, our Great Shepherd, throughout our lives until that day when we stand in Your glorious presence in heaven.

Amen.

PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have called us as Your people and have shown us Your kindness. Confident of Your love and assured of Your mercy, we come before You, asking that we may receive Your blessings with heartfelt thanksgiving. Pour out upon us the gift of Your Holy Spirit and grant that we may receive the body and blood of our Lord as a guarantee of our salvation and a foretaste of the feast to come in Your

eternal kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

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.

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

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 LSB 715 Jesus Savior, Pilot Me

Nunc Dimittis

*Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before
the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy
people Israel. 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.*

Thanksgiving

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
and His mercy endureth forever.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Let us pray.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Send us Your Holy Spirit, the Spirit who brings to life the power of Jesus Christ. Bless us, Your children, that all we who partake of Christ's holy body and of His precious blood may be filled with Your heavenly peace and joy, so that, clinging to Christ our Lord, we may live in the hope of an eternity gathered around Your heavenly Table.

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 921 On What Has Now Been Sown