

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church**  
**North Tonawanda NY**  
**September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025**



**AS WE GATHER**

Jesus is blunt about the cost of discipleship. He does not sugarcoat the life He calls us to in the baptismal waters but neither does He diminish His promises, gifts, and blessings that accompany this life of faith. Today He calls us to count the cost, knowing that the way of the Christian is constantly tested and tried by our affection for the things of this life, our vulnerability to the enemies of the faith, and the weakness of our own sinful flesh. Part of that cost is not just in what you desire but also in what you are willing to surrender for the sake of Christ and His kingdom.

\*\*\*\*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.*

**TLH 39 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**  
**INVOCATION**

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

**Amen.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Most holy and merciful Father,

**we confess to You, and to one another, and to the whole company of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved You with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

**Have mercy and forgive us, Lord.**

We have taken for granted Your grace and mercy and lived as though You did not matter and we mattered most of all.

**Have mercy and forgive us, Lord.**

We confess to You, O Lord, that we have done the evil Your Word prohibits and have not done the good You command.

**Have mercy and forgive us, Lord.**

We confess that we have hidden our sin from You and from one another and have not confessed honestly before You or to those whom we have hurt.

**We are truly sorry for the sins we have committed in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done that is wrong and by our failure to do what is right. Have mercy and forgive us, Lord.**

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.**

He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

### **Introit**

Make me understand the way of your precepts,  
and I will meditate on your wondrous works.

My soul melts away for sorrow;  
strengthen me according to your word!

Put false ways far from me  
and graciously teach me your law!  
I have chosen the way of faithfulness;  
I set your just decrees before me.

I cling to your testimonies, O LORD;  
let me not be put to shame!

I will run in the way of your commandments  
when you enlarge my heart!

***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.

O almighty God, You have promised grace sufficient for us to hear the call of the Holy Spirit, believe in Him who You have sent to be our Savior, and walk in the way of salvation. Give courage and strength to Your people that we may deny ourselves and follow Christ in the way of the cross; through Him who died that we might live and who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*Amen.*

### **First Reading Deuteronomy 30:15–20**

<sup>15</sup>“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Epistle Philemon 1–21**

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved fellow worker <sup>2</sup>and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house: <sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, <sup>5</sup>because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and all the saints, <sup>6</sup>and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. <sup>7</sup>For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you. <sup>8</sup>Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, <sup>9</sup>yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus—<sup>10</sup>I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup>(Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) <sup>12</sup>I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. <sup>13</sup>I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, <sup>14</sup>but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own free will. <sup>15</sup>For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. <sup>17</sup>So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. <sup>18</sup>If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. <sup>19</sup>I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup>Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup>Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

Alleluia. Far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.  
Alleluia

### **Luke 14:25-35**

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

***Glory be to Thee, O Lord.***

<sup>25</sup>Now great crowds accompanied [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, <sup>30</sup>saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. <sup>34</sup>“Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? <sup>35</sup>It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

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.

**TLH 476 Ten Thousand Times Ten Thousand  
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 and for all people according to their needs. For the believers here at St. Matthew, that we walk with Christ the heavenly way and follow Him where He has led, that by His obedient life, His life-giving death, and His victorious resurrection we receive the crown of everlasting life, That we be wise unto salvation, counting the cost of following Jesus, and by His grace and favor be sustained upon the path of life against all temptations and doubt, That all the nations and their leaders work for peace, that the elected and appointed leaders of our own land act with integrity in the protection of our liberty and in the pursuit of justice, That the Lord bless the proclamation of His Word here and in every place and that pastors serve us faithfully in Christ's name, distributing to us the gifts of His grace in the Holy Sacraments, That all those afflicted in body or mind find healing and relief and those near death and the grieving find comfort, [*especially . . .*], and for all whom we name in our hearts, That we learn gratitude for the manifold and rich gifts which God supplies every day and that we learn generosity to share with those in need, That we receive in repentance and with faith the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ given to us in this Holy Communion and that we manifest the unity of heart and mind in all the doctrines taught us by His Word, That we be kept holy and blameless until the day of Christ's coming and be received by the mercy of God into the place of everlasting light and life in Christ,

*Silence for meditation.*

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**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, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### 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 / 674 Amazing Grace**

#### **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 Lord, You were born in flesh and blood to walk with us the path of our sin and death in order that we might walk with You by Baptism and faith. Lead us in the way of the cross that we may not depart from it but follow its path to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, 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.*

**TLH 52 Almighty Father, Bless the Word**