

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda, NY
September 14th, 2025**



AS WE GATHER

The charge against Jesus was always the same—He keeps the wrong company. But Jesus has come for sinners, and if you are not a sinner, He does not have anything for you. To emphasize why He has come, our Lord tells the stories of ninety-nine sheep left behind to find one who is lost and a woman who rejoices over finding one lost coin. You are that lost sheep and lost coin for whom Christ has come and in whom heaven rejoices. Jesus has come for you and for you He has offered Himself upon the cross and been laid in the tomb. This is the heavenly joy of the angels above, and it is our earthly joy as well. Christ came for us!

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 905 Come, Thou Almighty King
INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

O Lord, my God, I cry to You for help.

Heal and restore me, O Lord.

Most holy and merciful Father,

like sheep, O Lord, we have strayed and wandered from You. We have sinned against You and one another. We have done the evil You forbid, and we have not done the good You desire. There is no health in us. O merciful and divine Shepherd, cover our sins with Your forgiveness, clothe us with Your perfect righteousness, and preserve us in this faith and fear, that we may be kept to the day when Your Son comes to judge all people. Have mercy, O Lord, and fulfill Your Word to us in Christ, our Savior. Amen.

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. His peace be with you.

And also with you.

Introit

You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;

O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.

O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;
you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints,

and give thanks to his holy name.

For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

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, You are the Good Shepherd, without whom nothing is secure.

Rescue and preserve us that we may not be lost forever but follow You, rejoicing in the way that leads to eternal life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Old Testament Ezekiel 34:11–24

¹¹“For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep

and will seek them out. ¹²As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. ¹⁷“As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. ¹⁸Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet? ¹⁹And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet? ²⁰“Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, ²²I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle 1 Timothy 1:12–17

¹²I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he

judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, ¹³though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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.

St Luke, 15:1-10

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

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” ³So he told them this parable: ⁴“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. ⁸“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors,

saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

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 Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.**

LSB 803 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee 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 ourselves and for all people as they have need. O merciful Shepherd, You came into the world to save sinners. Grant to us forgiveness of our sins, renewal of our lost lives, and the grace to serve You in willing obedience all our days. O merciful Shepherd, grant us grace that we know Your Word as the sound of Your voice. Grant to us faithful pastors who will rightly divide Your Word of truth and bless all church workers and those in training to serve us in Your name. O merciful Shepherd, guard against all false doctrine and against those who teach in conflict with Your Word that the sheep of Your flock be preserved in faith to know and believe rightly by the power of Your Spirit. O merciful Shepherd, give us good and faithful leaders who will govern us according to Your will and lead us and all nations in the ways of peace, justice, and virtue, that we live good, holy, and upright lives without fear or threat. O merciful Shepherd, You do not abandon Your sheep even when they are wounded and infirm. Deliver the weak, the suffering, the troubled in mind, and those with hearts weighed low with grief, [*especially . . .*]. We pray that they be healed and comforted according to Your will and delivered from all that afflicts them on the day when You raise Your people to everlasting life. O merciful Shepherd, You daily and richly supply all things good and beneficial to us and guard us against the evil one. Give us a discerning mind and a generous heart that as You have done for us, we do for others in Your name. O merciful Shepherd, You set Your Table before us in the presence of our enemies. Grant to all who commune this day repentance and faith that they receive this holy food for their good and keep us united as one in doctrine and life. O merciful Shepherd, hear us and grant us all things beneficial to us and profitable for our salvation, but keep from us all things harmful

Silence for meditation.

Into Your hands, O merciful Shepherd, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, and confident that You will hear and answers us, O 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 917 Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise