

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda NY
September 21st, 2025**



AS WE GATHER

The Divine Service is unlike our other activities during the week—in the marketplace, our place of employment, or our school—where we struggle to be “the people of God” amid the temptations and confusing details of living in a world still disfigured by sin, tragedy, selfishness, and death. By our own fault, we daily fall short of our calling as Christians. We are reminded today of the judgment of God’s Law by the prophet Amos against our worry over money and our own needs that distract us from the often-greater needs of others and even our own true need of faith and reliance on God above all. Each day of the week, the demands of the Ten Commandments of God call us back to our need for forgiveness and God’s mercy, grace, help, and love.

****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 466 Christ, Thou Art the Sure Foundation
INVOCATION

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

I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy.
The LORD raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins in the light of God's holy Commandments.
Thus says the Lord: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy."
**Lord God, we confess to You that we often forget Your Word by
allowing other concerns of daily living and our own desires take priority
over Your ways of mercy and love. Forgive us, O Lord.**

Thus says the Lord: "You shall not murder."

**Lord God, we confess to You that we have hurt and harmed our
neighbors, especially by our neglect of the needs of others. Forgive us, O
Lord.**

Thus says the Lord: "You shall not give false testimony against your
neighbor."

**Lord God, we confess to You our rash words, harsh judgments, and
false accusations against our neighbor, but even more our failure to
defend and help those who have been wrongfully shamed, abused, or
accused. Forgive us, O Lord.**

God, our Savior, desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge
of the truth. For the sake of the one mediator between God and men, the man
Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, and by His command, I
proclaim to you His Word: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the
Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Introit

Your testimonies are righteous forever;
□ give me understanding that I may live.
Righteous are you, O LORD,
□ and right are your just decrees.
You have appointed your testimonies in righteousness
□ and in all faithfulness.
My zeal consumes me,
□ because my foes forget your words.
Your promise is well tried,
□ and your servant loves it.
Your righteousness is righteous forever,
□ and your law is true.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

O Lord, keep Your church in Your perpetual mercy; and because without You we cannot but fall, preserve us from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading Amos 8:4–7

⁴Hear this, you who trample on the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end, ⁵saying, “When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale, that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great and deal deceitfully with false balances, ⁶that we may buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and sell the chaff of the wheat?” ⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: “Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle 1 Timothy 2:1–15

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. ⁷For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the

Gentiles in faith and truth. ⁸I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; ⁹likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, ¹⁰but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. ¹¹Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. ¹²I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. ¹³For Adam was formed first, then Eve; ¹⁴and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. ¹⁵Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Alleluia. 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. Alleluia.

Luke 16:1-15

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

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹[Jesus] also said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. ²And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’ ³And the manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.’ ⁵So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶He said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’ ⁷Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He said, ‘A hundred measures of

wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’⁸ The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light.⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.¹⁰ “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.¹¹ If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?¹² And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own?¹³ No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”¹⁴ The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him.¹⁵ And he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.”

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 436 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want
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. Almighty and merciful God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
“The sum of Your word is truth, and every one of Your just and righteous
decrees endures forever.” With hearts renewed by Your gift of true
repentance in the light of our sins and true faith in the redemption given
through the sacrifice of Your own beloved Son for the life of the world, we

give You thanks for Your Word and work of Law and Gospel. Help us to keep Your Word and bring forth its fruit in our daily lives. We pray You so to rule and guide Your whole church, blessing all pastors with the spirit of unity in faith and confession. Grant Your blessing also of all here present whose faith is known to You, accepting their prayers and praises as from thankful hearts. We pray for the health and good will of all who serve in the authority of government in our nation that they may serve according to Your will that we may live in quietness and peace. Comfort and attend to all who are in trouble; those suffering sickness, injury, or fear of death; and especially those who have requested our prayers. [*Pause for silent prayer.*] Grant them patience and healing of both mind and body Remembering Your holy ones of old, the patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, as well as our loved ones of most recent memory, we ask You to include us in their company not on account of any merit on our part but solely because of Your great mercy. Grant all who have died in faith a place of peace and rest. Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, 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, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. 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 / 305 Soul, Adorn Thyself with Gladness

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.

With renewed hearts, gracious Lord, we give thanks that You have not forgotten us but have cleansed us and established us to be the people of Your own possession by the pledge of Your own Son's sacred body and blood, now strengthening our hope, our love, and our desire to reflect Your grace to all; 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 673 Let There Be Peace On Earth