

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda, NY
September 28th, 2025**



AS WE GATHER

Though it sounds like a contradiction, the “poor rich man” in today’s parable of Jesus apparently never really heard or just ignored the dire warning of God’s prophets like Amos against trusting in earthly gain and riches to the exclusion of trusting faith in the merciful promises of God. The temptation of earthly wealth infects all people throughout history to this day, regardless of outward circumstances, rich and poor alike. Paul sums up the challenge for faith as he contrasts the “great gain” (or profit) of godly faithfulness and the temptations (or pitfalls) of temporary riches. We all know the sentence of Paul, “The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil” (1 Timothy 6:10), which is so often misquoted as only “money is the root of all evil.” Money is not the problem. There’s no sin in possessing earthly riches. The deeper question is what or who is the object of our love and trust. The Christian’s true riches are in Christ Jesus, namely, the new life we have been given through our baptismal faith. It is the life we can take with us through and beyond the grave and gate of death. “Praise the LORD, O my soul! I will praise the LORD as long as I live” (Psalm 146:1–2), which will be forever!

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 worshipping with us today.

TLH 669 How Great Thou Art
INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES

I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy.

Put not your trust in princes, in whom there is no salvation.

Blessed is he whose hope is in the LORD his God.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *1 Timothy 1:17; Psalm 125:1*

The First Commandment is first because “we should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.” Let us in true repentance and good faith direct the fear, love, and trust of our hearts and minds “to the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God.”

Merciful God, the good fight of faith is fierce, the warfare between our love for You and the temptations of the world around us is long, even never-ending. We confess we have not loved You above all things, we are afraid at many times, and there is nothing and no one on earth worthy of our trust. In You, O Lord, we put our trust. In Your grace and forgiveness, let us never be ashamed. Deliver us in Your righteousness for the sake of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, Your Son.

“Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.” By your Baptism into Christ, God has pledged the forgiveness of all your sins and promised the eternal life to which you were called. Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

Amen.

Introit

Let your steadfast love comfort me
according to your promise to your servant.
Your hands have made and fashioned me;
 give me understanding that I may learn your commandments.
Those who fear you shall see me and rejoice,
because I have hoped in your word.
I know, O LORD, that your just decrees are righteous,
and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me.
Let your mercy come to me, that I may live;
for your law is my delight.

***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.

O God, You are the strength of all who trust in You, and without Your aid we can do no good thing. Grant us the help of Your grace that we may please You in both will and deed; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Old Testament Amos 6:1–7

¹“Woe to those who are at ease in Zion, and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria, the notable men of the first of the nations, to whom the house of Israel comes! ²Pass over to Calneh, and see, and from there go to Hamath the great; then go down to Gath of the Philistines. Are you better than these kingdoms? Or is their territory greater than your territory, ³O you who put far away the day of disaster and bring near the seat of violence?

⁴“Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and stretch themselves out on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the midst of the stall, ⁵who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David invent for themselves instruments of music, ⁶who drink wine in bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! ⁷Therefore they shall now be the first of those who go into exile, and the revelry of those who stretch themselves out shall pass away.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*******Choir: For the Beauty of the Earth*******

Epistle 1 Timothy 3:1–13

¹The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. ²Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, ⁵for if someone does not know how to

manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? ⁶He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil. ⁸Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. ⁹They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. ¹¹Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. ¹²Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. ¹³For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia. If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead. Alleluia.

St Luke 16:19-31

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

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹⁹[Jesus said:] "There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, ²³and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. ²⁴And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' ²⁵But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad

things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. ²⁶And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ ²⁷And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house—²⁸for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ ³⁰And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

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.**

**TLH 422 Savior, I follow 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

Let us pray. We praise You, O God, we acknowledge You to be the Lord. All the earth now worships You, the Father everlasting. Grant to Your whole church throughout the world the strength and peace of unity in the faith and proclamation of Your pure Word, that all people may know Your true glory of salvation from sin and the gift of redemption and eternal life. To You all angels cry aloud, the glorious company of the apostles praise You, the goodly fellowship of the prophets praise You, and the noble army of martyrs praise You. We pray You include us as those who acknowledge You now by faith that we may be received into their fellowship not by our merits but solely because of Your grace. You are the King of glory, O Christ, the everlasting Son of the Father. By Your death, You opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Grant Your saving Gospel to be proclaimed throughout the world to the salvation of many. Each day of our lives, O God, keep us mindful of the riches of Your grace that we may know the contentment of Your heavenly treasures and not be distracted by temptations of worldly wealth. Lord God, we pray for all who are in any need, for those who need the grace of Your help and healing, those who are in trouble, those who doubt Your kindness, those who fear death, and all who are sick or injured, especially those who have requested our prayers. *[Pause for silent prayer.]* Be their help, healing, and salvation. Make us to be numbered with Your saints in glory everlasting. Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our 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.

TLH 410 Jesus, Lead Thou On