

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
North Tonawanda NY  
October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025**



**AS WE GATHER**

From an early age, many of us learned that persistent pestering is rude, as parents make this clear to children who repeatedly ask for the same things over and over. We are thankful that our heavenly Father never grows weary of our asking Him for what we need, no matter how repetitive our requests may be. As we see in Jacob's persistent proclamation, "I will not let You go unless You bless me" (Genesis 32:26), in Paul's exhortation to continually persist in what we have learned and believed (2 Timothy 3:14), and in Jesus' parable of the persistent widow (Luke 18:1–8), we know we can bring all things to our heavenly Father persistently in prayer, trusting through it all that His will would be done.

\*\*\*\*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 904 Blessed Jesus, at Your Word**  
**INVOCATION**

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

**OPENING SENTENCES**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

**Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.**

This is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us.

**Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will hear you.**

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

As the Psalmist writes, “When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.” Our Lord hears our cries and invites us to speak to Him in our words and thoughts—to speak to Him in prayer.

**We confess that we have failed to bring all things to You in persistent and persevering prayer, instead seeking our own devices and other means for the guidance, direction, and answers we seek.**

Our Lord also invites us to bring to Him our faults and failings, our sins of what has been done and left undone, against Him and against our neighbors. We are reminded, “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

**But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Unlike Jacob, we have been quick to give up and to discount the blessings held in store for us by Your grace.

**Forgive us, Lord.**

As Paul writes, we confess we have not always endured sound teaching; rather, our itching ears have been opened to things that suit our own passions and desires.

**Forgive us, Lord.**

As in Jesus' parable, we seek out our own justice and even retribution for times we are wronged, impatient in our waiting and unrighteous in our trust in the perfect justice assured at Your time.

**Forgive us, Lord.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

### **Introit**

Remember your congregation, which you have purchased of old,

□ which you have redeemed to be the tribe of your heritage!

Remember this, O LORD, how the enemy scoffs,

□ and a foolish people reviles your name.

Do not deliver the soul of your dove to the wild beasts;

□ do not forget the life of your poor forever.

Let not the downtrodden turn back in shame;

□ let the poor and needy praise your name.

Have regard for the covenant;

□ arise, O God, defend your cause.

***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, almighty and everlasting God, You have commanded us to pray and have promised to hear us. Mercifully grant that Your Holy Spirit may direct and govern our hearts in all things that we may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of Your name; 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 Genesis 32:22–30

<sup>22</sup>The same night [Jacob] arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. <sup>23</sup>He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had. <sup>24</sup>And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. <sup>25</sup>When the man saw that he did not prevail against

Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup>Then he said, "Let me go, for the day has broken." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." <sup>27</sup>And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." <sup>28</sup>Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." <sup>29</sup>Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. <sup>30</sup>So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered."

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Epistle 2 Timothy 3:14—4:5**

<sup>14</sup>As for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup>and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. <sup>1</sup>I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: <sup>2</sup>preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. <sup>3</sup>For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, <sup>4</sup>and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. <sup>5</sup>As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

Alleluia. I tell you, He will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth? Alleluia.

## **Luke 18:1–8**

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

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

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus] told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. <sup>2</sup>He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. <sup>3</sup>And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ <sup>4</sup>For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, <sup>5</sup>yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’” <sup>6</sup>And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. <sup>7</sup>And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? <sup>8</sup>I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?” 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 575 My Hope is Built on Nothing Less  
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 people of God in Christ Jesus, for His church here at St. Matthew and all across the world, and for all people according to their needs. Ever-hearing Lord, You invite us to cast our anxiety on You because You care for us. We pray that in the midst of trials and temptations, we remain firm in faith and continue to place ourselves where Your Spirit strengthens, nourishes, and sustains the faith You give. Ever-providing Lord,

we thank You for Your creation and for providing all we need for this body and life. You give to us, Your people, all our abilities and vocations; help us to use our gifts to Your glory. Be with all whose work is dangerous and protect those who serve and protect others in our world, nation, and communities. Help us recognize You as the giver of all good things in our faithful response as Your stewards. Ever-guiding Lord, You place us where we are to be lights in a dark world and proclaim Your Word in truth and love. Empower us in our witnessing among family, friends, and strangers that they too may know the relationship You desire with all people through the Savior You have given. Grant Your Spirit to open ears and soften hearts that Your Gospel may be received and furthered throughout the world until You come again. Ever-present Lord, grant Your comfort and peace to those who face afflictions and who seek relief. We lift up to You those who persevere and have asked for persistent prayer, [*especially . . .*]. For those who mourn, grant Your presence that hope may be had even among tears of grief and sadness. Point all who grieve to the cross and the empty tomb and the assurance of eternal life. For the days You grant us, instill in us the persistence of prayer and perseverance of faith until at last we are called to You in everlasting glory. Into Your hands 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, 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 / LSB 673 Jerusalem, My Happy Home**

## **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.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; 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.*

**LSB 704 Renew Me, O Eternal Light**