

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda NY
November 2nd, 2025**



AS WE GATHER

What does it take to be worthy? Worthy of things such as achievements we desire, promotions for which we strive, inclusions for which we long, and accolades for which we aim? In the way of the world, we know being deemed worthy takes qualities such as hard work, dedication, fortitude, and even some fortunate timing with opportunity. Yet what does it take to be worthy of even greater things? Worthy of the lasting joys and inclusion of God's eternal kingdom? Our Readings today give us our answer. From Isaiah's lists of the wickedness of Judah, sins like scarlet will be white as snow. In 2 Thessalonians, Paul prays that God may make them "worthy of His calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith" (1:11). Is it by hard work? Determination? Fortitude? No, in faith, we find the answer is "By his power." From Luke 19, a very unworthy (and small) Zacchaeus was not deserving of anything good by our standards. Yet he received not only Jesus' attention but also salvation upon his house. What does it take to be worthy? For the things of God's kingdom, it takes faith in the One who has been perfectly worthy for us. "Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God" (LSB, p. 155).

****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 677 For All the Saints vv1-4

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Our help is in the name of the LORD,

who made heaven and earth.

If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.

Since we are gathered to hear God's Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life.

Though your sins are like scarlet,

they shall be as white as snow;

though they are red like crimson,

they shall become like wool.

Almighty God, our merciful Father, has declared us to be His children and gathered us into His one, holy church, in which He richly and daily forgives us our sins and grants us new life through His Spirit. In His mercy, He 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.

To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of His calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by His power,

so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Introit

The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me;
to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!
The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.
Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God shines forth.
Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and perform your vows to the Most High,
and call upon me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.

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, stir up the hearts of Your faithful people to welcome and joyfully receive Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, that He may find in us a fit dwelling place; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading Isaiah 1:10–18

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom! Give ear to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! ¹¹“What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the LORD; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of well-fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats. ¹²“When you come to appear before me, who has required of youth is trampling of my courts? ¹³Bring no more vain offerings; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations— I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly. ¹⁴Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates; they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. ¹⁵When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. ¹⁶Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, ¹⁷learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause. ¹⁸“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle 2 Thessalonians 1:1–12

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God our

Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: ²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. ⁴Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring. ⁵This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— ⁶since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, ⁷and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels ⁸in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, ¹⁰when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. ¹¹To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, ¹²so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Alleluia. Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. Alleluia.

Luke 19:1-10

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

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹[Jesus] entered Jericho and was passing through. ²And there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not,

because he was small of stature. ⁴So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. ⁵And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” ⁶So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. ⁷And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” ⁸And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.” ⁹And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

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 816 From All That Dwell Below the Skies

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 and all people according to their needs. Gracious Lord, in this sin-stricken world, we face trials and temptations and times of feeling unworthy of love from others and from You. Give us peace and understanding amid the noise around us that cause us to lose focus in many ways and be distracted in our relationship with You. Grant us strength to face our days, and assurance of Your presence. In times of guilt and shame, draw us to You. In times of unworthiness felt in this life, point us to Jesus, who for us became and was the worthy Lamb for the sins of the world. In sin known to us and sins known only to You, assure us of the forgiveness won for us through Christ's death and resurrection.

Guide those who wait for answers sought in this life and give them patience. Comfort those who wait with ailments of the body, mind, or soul, [*especially . . .*], and give them comfort in times of affliction. Grant Your peace to those who wait in grief and mourning of loved ones lost. In the midst of things unknown and unseen, strengthen our faith to hold to what we can be sure of as You reveal it to us through Your Word and Sacraments. Help us to keep our identity given by You as Your baptized children and redeemed people, that we may keep the hope found in You through Christ alone. Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend 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, 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 / LSB 648 Glorious Things of You Are Spoken

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 unworthy as we are, You bestow on us forgiveness of sins and nourishment of faith. In Your mercy, 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.

CLOSING SENTENCES

Though your sins are like scarlet,

they shall be as white as snow;

though they are red like crimson,

they shall become like wool.

To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of His calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by His power,

so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Salvation has come to this house,

for the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

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 677 For all the Saints vv5-8