

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda, NY
November 9th, 2025**



AS WE GATHER

We are not far from the “holiday season.” In the secular world, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s roll into one big celebration. It is typical to have holiday traditions around special times of the year. Traditions can serve to make some moments more memorable and meaningful. But sometimes traditions add stress to an already hectic calendar or distract us from the real reason for celebrating. Before jumping headlong into the holiday season, soak up this moment in worship. See how the Lord repeatedly meets us with His best. See how surrounding ourselves with His Word and sacramental gifts truly makes us ready to celebrate, for this season and 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 worshiping with us today.

TLH 403 Savior, Thy Dying Love
INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES

This is the day that the LORD has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

See what kind of love the Father has given to us,

that we should be called children of God; and so we are.

Jesus said, “By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Let all that you do be done in love.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The Lord has delivered us from the domain of darkness

and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Almighty God and Father,

we confess, as Your people, our need for Your merciful kindness. We are prisoners of our own wants, our own traditions, and our own inborn sinfulness. Our actions and interactions often fail as reflections of Your kingdom. Our thoughts and desires often reflect the domain of darkness You have delivered us from. We often act out of our love for ourselves, rather than our love for others or for You. Forgive us and free us, Lord, to love what You love and go where You lead, all by the grace of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son, Jesus, to die for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word made flesh, 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.

Introit

You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD!
He is their help and their shield.
Why should the nations say,
“Where is their God?”
Our God is in the heavens;
he does all that he pleases.
Their idols are silver and gold,
the work of human hands.
Those who make them become like them;
so do all who trust in them.
The dead do not praise the LORD,
nor do any who go down into silence.
But we will bless the LORD
from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!

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,

Living God, Your almighty power is made known chiefly in showing mercy and pity. Grant us the fullness of Your grace to lay hold of Your promises and live forever in Your presence; 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 Exodus 3:1–15

¹Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. ³And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.” ⁴When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” ⁵Then he said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶And he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. ⁷Then the LORD said, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” ¹¹But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I

should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” ¹²He said, “But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.” ¹³Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” ¹⁴God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” ¹⁵God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.” This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*******Choir: “Here I Am Lord” *******

Epistle 2 Thessalonians 2:1–8, 13–17

¹Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, ²not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. ³Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. ⁵Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. ⁷For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. ⁸And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. . . . ¹³But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits to be

saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. ¹⁴To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter. ¹⁶Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, ¹⁷comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia. He is not God of the dead, but of the living, for all live to him. A..

St Luke 20:27–40

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

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

²⁷There came to [Jesus] some Sadducees, those who deny that there is a resurrection, ²⁸and they asked him a question, saying, “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies, having a wife but no children, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. ²⁹Now there were seven brothers. The first took a wife, and died without children. ³⁰And the second ³¹and the third took her, and likewise all seven left no children and died. ³²Afterward the woman also died. ³³In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had her as wife.” ³⁴And Jesus said to them, “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, ³⁵but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, ³⁶for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. ³⁷But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the passage about the bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. ³⁸Now he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for all live to him.” ³⁹Then some of the scribes answered, “Teacher, you have spoken well.” ⁴⁰For they no longer dared to ask him any

question.

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 442 Lord of Glory, Who Hast Bought Us 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

Great I AM, who spoke from the burning bush on Sinai's height, make Your people to know Your voice. Help us to hear Your clear and consistent Word, that we might love what You love and go where You lead. Great I AM, who heard the cries of Egypt's slaves, shower Your mercy on the downtrodden, especially victims of oppression and violence. Be their strength and support and bring them comfort and deliverance through the Gospel. Great I AM, who mobilized Moses to bear Your name as a witness to Your ancient people, provide such servants for Your people today. Call pastors, missionaries, deaconesses, teachers, and ministers of Your Word, provide for their training and care, and preserve them in their callings from failure, fear, and burnout. Great I AM, who faced the Sadducees' interrogation about marriage, strengthen and support all Christian marriages. Supply them Your holy wisdom, defend them from evil attacks, and hold them in Your faithful hand, that they might trust they never walk alone. Great I AM, who declared Yourself to be the God of the living, battle for our sakes the enemies of death, disease, and disability that threaten our earthly life. [*Bring Your healing and comfort to . . .*]. Great I AM, who revealed Your glory to the world through the Gospel, preserve us in the one true faith, established for every good work and word, that all who believe and belong to You would have the eternal comfort and good hope of grace that comes through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with Father and Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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 54 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah