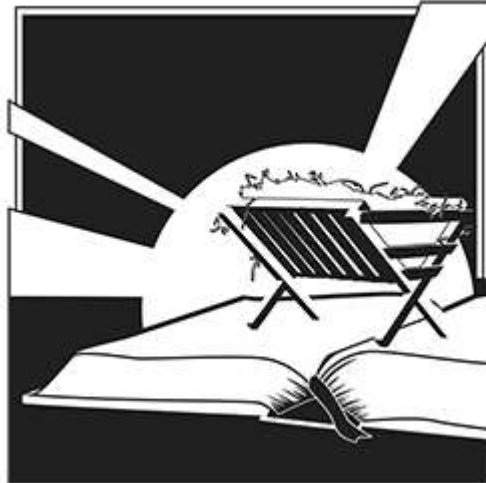


**St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
North Tonawanda NY  
December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025**



**AS WE GATHER**

Years ago, a singer named Joan Osborne sang, "What if God was one of us?" We don't have to wonder about the what-if because God *is* one of us. The God who tabernacled with His people is the same Word who became flesh and dwelt among us. He radically downgraded His living quarters from the throne room of heaven to a manger in the backwater town of Bethlehem. Through Jesus, the Word, we can see God's glory and our eternal life, even when life is more grinding than glorious.

\*\*\*\*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.*

**Christmas Day**

**LSB 387 Joy To the World**  
**INVOCATION**

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

**OPENING SENTENCES**

O LORD, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

**Will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You; how much less this house that I have built!**

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

**Heavenly Father, You sent Your Son, the Word, to become flesh and dwell among us. We confess we struggle to see His glory when life is difficult or when we are suffering. We look elsewhere for grace and truth instead of focusing on Your eternal Word. We have heard the Good News and struggle to share it. Forgive us, for the sake of You Son, Jesus Christ. Shine the light of Your love on us and dispel the darkness of our hearts.**

People of God, I have good news for you, “Your God reigns.” In the mercy of our almighty God, Jesus Christ was born to die for you, and for His sake, God forgives you for all of your sins.

**Alleluia! Amen!**

To all who receive Him, who believe in His name, He gives the right to become children of God, who are born not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man but of God.

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**LSB 392 God Loves Me Dearly**

### **Introit**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!  
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.  
The LORD has made known his salvation;  
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.  
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.  
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.  
Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

***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.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; 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 Isaiah 52:7–10

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” <sup>8</sup>The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. <sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup>The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Epistle Hebrews 1:1–6

<sup>1</sup>Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup>He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. <sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be

to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”? <sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.” This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

### **LSB 389 Let All Together Praise Our God**

Alleluia. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. Alleluia.

#### **John 1:1–14**

The Holy Gospel according to John, the first chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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 383 A Great and Mighty Wonder

### 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

Holy Lord, almighty God and Father, You laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. You nourish us and all creatures through Your created world. Guide us in being good stewards of Your world. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, the world we live in was created through You. In these last days, our Father has spoken to us through You. Give us ears to hear Your voice and willing hearts and minds to not only receive grace and truth but also live them out in our homes, neighborhoods, and communities. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Holy Spirit, we thank and praise You for the feet of those who brought us the Good News. We ask for Your blessing on all pastors, parents, grandparents, and servants in Christ's church that they may continue to share the good news of peace and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Great physician and healer, comfort all who are struggling physically, emotionally, or spiritually, [*especially . . .*]. Give them healing and hope. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we thank You for the gift of family. Knit families together with Your love, mercy, and grace. Give parents and children calm minds and quiet hearts focused on Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Silence for personal prayer.*

O God, we boldly and confidently lift these prayers to You, trusting in Your great  
**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, for You have done marvelous things. Your right hand and Your holy arm have worked salvation. You send good news—peace and salvation—and have spoken to us through Your Son, through whom You also created the world. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the heavenly host, we praise and honor Your glorious name and join in their unending hymn.

## **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 368 Angels We Have Heard on High**

### **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.*

## **CLOSING SENTENCES**

Let us pray.

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

**“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).**

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**

**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 388 Go Tell It on the Mountain**