

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda NY
February 15th, 2026**



AS WE GATHER

Jesus looks brilliant! As language changes, sometimes the most basic meanings of words change and expand with the times. For generations, the English word *brilliant* meant simply something that shines or radiates light. The word is thought to be derived from the prized gemstone beryl, which is mentioned in both the Old Testament book of Daniel (10:6) and the book of Revelation (21:20). Jesus' garments became "white as light," Matthew writes (17:2), in a way that mirrors Psalm 104, where the psalmist writes of God: "You are clothed with splendor and majesty, covering Yourself with light as with a garment" (vv. 1–2). As He stands on the mountaintop with Moses and Elijah, Jesus is shining, radiant, and brilliant. An expanded meaning of the word *brilliant* is "perfect, amazing, and wonderful." Jesus on the mountaintop is brilliant as He discusses how He will carry out God's plan of our salvation with two of the best coaches ever, Moses and Elijah. Jesus does not just look brilliant—He *is* brilliant!

****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.

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

LSB 915 Today Your Mercy Calls Us
INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES

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.

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us.

Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!

For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,”

has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

O God our Father, we admit and confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in thought and in word and in deed.

Have mercy on us and forgive us, O God.

We confess that we have not always listened to Your Word and have not brought glory to You through our words and our deeds.

Have mercy on us and forgive us, O God.

We confess that we have been thoughtless in our judgments, hasty in condemnation, begrudging in forgiveness, slow to seek reconciliation, and unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.

Have mercy on us and forgive us, O God.

We confess that we have not always been defenders of the weak and the needy as advocates of those not yet born and defenders of those in the final stages of life.

Have mercy on us and forgive us, O God.

We confess that we have not used every opportunity given us to witness to the faith that is ours, that we and have let the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh set the agendas for our lives and actions.

Have mercy on us and forgive us, O God.

We repent of all that is sinful in our lives, both those things that we know of and those things unknown to us that are against Your righteous laws.

Have mercy on us and forgive us, O God.

Upon this your confession and by the command of our Lord, I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Introit

Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain;
for the LORD our God is holy!

The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble!

He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

The LORD is great in Zion;

he is exalted over all the peoples.

Let them praise your great and awesome name!

Holy is he!

The King in his might loves justice.

You have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his footstool!

Holy is he!

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 God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading Exodus 24:8–18

⁸And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.” ⁹Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, ¹⁰and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. ¹¹And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank. ¹²The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” ¹³So Moses rose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. ¹⁴And he said to the elders, “Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you.

Whoever has a dispute, let him go to them.”¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain.¹⁶ The glory of the LORD dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud.¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel.¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle 2 Peter 1:16–21

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.¹⁷ For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,”¹⁸ we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.¹⁹ And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation.²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Alleluia. You are the most handsome of the sons of men; grace is poured upon your lips. Alleluia.

Matthew 17:1-9

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the seventeenth chapter.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹After six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. ³And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁵He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." ⁸And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. ⁹And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."

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 849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness
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

Through faith in Christ, we may approach our God with confidence, praying
for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to

their needs: God of love and peace, we bless You for revealing the mystery of the ages to us. We thank You for including each of us in the marvelous plan of salvation and for the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in us and among us. Work in us to reflect the brilliant light of Christ and show forth His love at all times and in all places. Hear us, Father, when we pray. God of power and might, we pray for our world and for all the people who share this planet with us. Grant us grace to listen to Your Word and to follow its directing, that we may share Your glory. Move us to reach out in every direction with the joyful news of the Gospel, that people everywhere may become part of the kingdom of God now and forever. Hear us, Father, when we pray.

Amen.

God of grace and glory, we pray for this gathering of the faithful. Bless this congregation, its leaders, and all the people here present that we may be light in a darkened world. Bless also those with special needs, whose earthly journeys are burdensome or challenging. Especially we remember the sick, the homebound, and those in need of our petitions, [*including . . .*]. Bless them with Your presence and enable us to be their comfort and support. Hear us, Father, when we pray.

Amen.

God of time and eternity, we thank You for the faithful witness of those no longer with us here on earth who shine in the beauty of Your light eternal. Inspire us by their faithful witness that we seek to serve You constantly all our days. Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Hear us, Father, when we pray.

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 meet and right so to do.

It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times in all places give thanks to You, our merciful God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who at His transfiguration revealed His glory to His disciples that they might be strengthened to proclaim His cross and resurrection. Grant us to share in their vision and witness and with all the faithful to look forward to the glory yet to be revealed. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we praise and honor You this day and always.

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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy are You, O God. With thanksgiving and praise, we bless You for having sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, to give Himself as a perfect sacrifice for us so that our lives may know that true peace and joy that is ours to share as we proclaim Your lordship of life. We bless You for the vision of eyewitnesses to Your glory that inspires and encourages us on our journeys of faith. Invited by Your grace, we come to Your Table with thankful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood that we may live lives of confident hope, awaiting the eternal feast with all the saints in glory everlasting.

Amen.

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 / 570 Just as I Am, Without One Plea

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.

Almighty and ever-living God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ, assuring us thereby that we are truly members of His Body, the church. By Your Holy Spirit, help us to grow in faith and fellowship and do the good works that You desire us to do as Your witnesses in our time; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, to whom, with You and the same Spirit, be all honor and glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

FAREWELL TO ALLELUIA *Ecclesiastes 3:1–4, 7, alt.*

This week, on Ash Wednesday, we begin our observance of Lent. To highlight the penitential nature of the season, it has been the custom in the

church to suspend the use of the word *alleluia*, which means “Praise the Lord.” The tradition not to use the joyful word *alleluia* in worship from the conclusion of worship on the final Sunday before Lent until the first service on Easter Sunday has been in place since the fifth century. The text of the hymn “Alleluia, Song of Gladness” (*LSB* 417) dates back to the 11th century and links us to a millennium of God’s people at worship. We will repeat words from the book of Ecclesiastes, which remind us that there are appropriate times for all things, including a time to keep silence, which we will observe regarding use of the alleluia throughout Lent.

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak.

As part of our observance of a holy Lent as it begins this week, we now say farewell to the alleluia until the time of our rejoicing anew at the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Day.

Alleluia! 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 623 O Jesus, Blessed Lord, To Thee