

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda NY
March 25th, 2026**



AS WE GATHER

The Lord heard the cries of the Israelites and provided deliverance from the Egyptians by crossing the Red Sea. But not very much later, they grumbled that the Lord was not providing for them. Like the Israelites, we, too, have been provided with divine deliverance. Our enemies are sin, death, and the power of the devil, all of which have been defeated in Christ. And yet we, too, grumble. Today we hear the good news of how God sustains us on our journey, feeding us with the bread of life and the promise of eternal life in heaven.

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.

Lenten Mid-Week 6

**TLH 390 Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou hast Blest
INVOCATION**

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

OPENING SENTENCES

The steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting.

In the morning you shall be filled with bread.

I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound.

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

My Father gives you the true bread from heaven.

I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger

Exodus 16:1–18, 35

They set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the people of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. ² And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, ³ and the people of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” ⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. ⁵ On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.” ⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, “At evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷ and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against the LORD. For what are we, that you grumble against us?” ⁸ And Moses said, “When the LORD gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because

the LORD has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD.”⁹ Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, ‘Come near before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.’”¹⁰ And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.¹¹ And the LORD said to Moses,¹² “I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”¹³ In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp.¹⁴ And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground.¹⁵ When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?”^[a] For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.”¹⁶ This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer,^[b] according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.’”¹⁷ And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less.¹⁸ But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat.

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God

Philippians 4:10–13

I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity.¹¹ Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned, in whatever situation I am, to be content.¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the

secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God

John 6:25–35

The Holy Gospel according to St John, the sixth chapter.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” ²⁶ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.” ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.” ²⁸ Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” ²⁹ Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” ³⁰ So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform?” ³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” ³² Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴ They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” ³⁵ Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ

RESPONSORY

The people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron.

I am the bread of life.

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

I am the bread of life.

Whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst.

I am the bread of life.

PASSION READING

The Passion of our Lord according to St. Mark, the fifteenth chapter. And it was the third hour when they crucified Him. And the inscription of the charge against Him read, “The King of the Jews.” And with Him they crucified two robbers, one on His right and one on His left. And those who passed by derided Him, wagging their heads and saying,

“Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself, and come down from the cross!”

So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked Him to one another, saying,

“He saved others; He cannot save Himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe.”

Those who were crucified with Him also reviled Him. And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” And some of the bystanders hearing it said, “Behold, He is calling Elijah.” And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to Him to drink, saying,

“Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take Him down.”

And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed His last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood facing Him, saw that in this way He breathed His last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!” There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. When He was in Galilee, they followed Him and ministered to Him, and there were also many other

women who came up with Him to Jerusalem.

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

Apostle's 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 457 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Sermon Offertory

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.

Prayer of the Church

Let us pray for all people who are unsure of God's hearing their prayers.

Hear their cries, O Lord, grant them courage as You accompany, and answer them speedily.

Let us ask God to strengthen the faith of those who only recently have known Him.

Reveal Yourself gently to them, Lord Jesus, through the caring of Your church.

Let us pray for those who feel trapped by circumstances beyond their control.

Assure them that You know their dilemma and that the deliverer has come: Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

Let us pray for all who fear God's punishment.

Show them mercy, O Lord, as You passed over Your Old Testament people. Grant them peace through Your presence.

Let us pray for all who know no good ways to turn, are unsure of the truth, and await only their deaths.

Tell them again, Lord Jesus, that You alone are the way, and the truth, and the life.

Finally, let us pray for all who are tired from opposition in the world around them and from their own conflicts within themselves.

Awaken in them a sense of Your accompanying them on their journey until that day when they and we join those who have gone before us at Your heavenly banquet hall.

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people

that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works,

give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness;

through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy 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.

BENEDICTION

Our heavenly Father, who revealed Himself to us as love eternal, bless you; His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who gave Himself in love for the sins of all, bless you; and the Holy Spirit, who has worked trusting faith in your hearts, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

TLH 653 Now The Light Has Gone Away