

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda, NY
March 29th, 2026**



AS WE GATHER

Today we enter the Great and Holy Week of our faith, the very heart and center of God's greatest act since the Creation itself—the salvation of mankind by the overthrow of sin, death, and the devil, and the restoration of all creation through the power of the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. As we join the crowds welcoming Jesus, the one who comes in the name of the Lord, we plan to get swept up in the drama of the story many know so well.

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.

Palm Sunday

GREETING

The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna to the Son of David.

COLLECT

Let us pray.

Lord God, as the people in Jerusalem gathered to welcome Your Son, our Lord, when He came into His holy city, so we sing of Your coming among us today with songs of praise. Keep us steadfast in our hope and confession of faith throughout our lives that we may meet Him with grateful hearts when He comes again in glory; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL *Matthew 21:1–11* (The triumphal entry)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.” ⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: ⁵ “Say to Daughter Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’” ⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road,

while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the highest heaven!” ¹⁰ When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?” ¹¹ The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Let us go forth in peace,
in the name of the Lord.

Hymn LSB 442 All Glory, Laud, and Honor

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Sovereign LORD has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed. ⁵ The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears; I have not been rebellious, I have not turned away. ⁶ I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. ⁷ Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint and I know I will not be put to shame. ⁸ He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other!

Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! ⁹ It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me. Who will condemn me? They will all wear out like a garment; the moths will eat them up.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Epistle Philippians 2:5-11

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Matthew 26:1-27

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the twenty sixth chapter

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, ² “As you know, the Passover is two days away—and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.” ³ Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, ⁴ and they schemed to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. ⁵ “But not during the festival,” they said, “or there may be a riot among the people.” ⁶ While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper, ⁷ a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table. ⁸ When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. “Why this waste?” they asked. ⁹ “This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the

poor.”¹⁰ Aware of this, Jesus said to them, “Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me.”¹¹ The poor you will always have with you,^[a] but you will not always have me.”¹² When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial.”¹³ Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”¹⁴ Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests¹⁵ and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?” So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver.¹⁶ From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.¹⁷ On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?”¹⁸ He replied, “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, ‘The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.’”¹⁹ So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.²⁰ When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve.²¹ And while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.”²² They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, “Surely you don’t mean me, Lord?”²³ Jesus replied, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me.”²⁴ The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.”²⁵ Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, “Surely you don’t mean me, Rabbi?” Jesus answered, “You have said so.”²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.”²⁷ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you.”²⁸ This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise be to Thee, O Christ

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.**

LSB 441 Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

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.*

Offering

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

O God, for all the joy with which the people in Jerusalem greeted Your Son that day when He entered the holy city for the final time and for all the joy we feel this day as we gather before You in praise and worship, we recall His goal that week and our great need for His accomplishment of Your will

of salvation. Grant that the remembrance of His innocent suffering and death draw us nearer to You in true repentance of our sin. Give us faith that the door of mercy is still open to us with the deliverance He won on the cross, bestowing forgiveness of sin and eternal life in His name. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer. Hosanna in the highest.

Grant that the Good News of Your work of salvation through Your Son for the life of the world be proclaimed throughout our world today by Your holy church through faithful pastors and witnesses in every place, that many turn to You and hear Your invitation for reconciliation with You through faith in Your great goodness. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Grant Your blessing and guidance to all servant-leaders in our country and in all nations, that righteousness and peace may prevail. End all conflicts or wars. Bless all institutions of learning and research. Grant success to farmers and producers of food for all. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer and grant Your blessing.

As we all contend with the challenges of living still in a fallen world, we pray for Your help and healing of all who are sick, injured, troubled in any way, those who are lonely or afraid, that we name in our hearts before You. [*Silent prayer.*] Be the strength of the weary and the great physician of soul, mind, and spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Remembering the saints that have gone before us, especially our loved ones nearest us who now rest from their labors and are with You, when our last hour comes, admit us with them into Your blessed and eternal peace and presence. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one

God, now and forever.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. 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.

LSB 443 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

