

St. Matthew Lutheran Church North Tonawanda NY April 5th, 2026



AS WE GATHER

The old Sabbath is past. The first day of the week has become the eighth day, the eternal day, the first day of the promised resurrection of the new heavens and earth. The angel knows why we are here. "You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen" (Mark 16:6). His body was in the tomb of death no longer. He is now glorified, body and soul. Now when He says, "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20), we know what He means. So we come here "very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen" (Mark 16:2) not looking for a closed entrance to a tomb but for the risen Lord speaking in His Word and touching us with forgiveness and peace "in the breaking of the bread" (Luke 24:35), His body and blood given and shed for us Christians to eat and to drink. We gather on Easter in excited yet sometimes silent joy.

****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 worshipping with us today.

Resurrection Sunday

TLH 199 Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Alleluia
INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

who made heaven and earth.

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

We are illumined by the brightness of His rising.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Death no more has dominion over us.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins to God, our Father. Holy and gracious God,

I confess that I have sinned against You. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of the risen Jesus Christ, I ask You to forgive me all my sins. Deliver me from my guilt and death and raise me up to forgiveness and life that my heart may finally be at peace. Amen.

By the mercy of God, we are redeemed by Jesus Christ and forgiven. As a called and ordained servant of Christ 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.

May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Introit

I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.

The LORD is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation.

Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power,
your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.

You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed;
you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain,
the place, O LORD, which you have made for your abode,
the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established.

The LORD will reign forever and ever.

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. We humbly pray that we may live before You in righteousness and purity forever; 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 Exodus 14:10—15:1

¹⁰When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD. ¹¹They said to Moses, “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? ¹²Is not this what we said to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” ¹³And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. ¹⁴The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.

¹⁵The LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. ¹⁶Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. ¹⁸And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.” ¹⁹Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, ²⁰coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night. ²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. ²²And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. ²⁴And in the morning watch the LORD in the

pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, ²⁵clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from before Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians.” ²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.” ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the LORD threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. ²⁹But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ³⁰Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses. ¹Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying, “I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.”

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

******Choir: “An Easter Flourish”******

Epistle 1 Corinthians 15:1–11

¹Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ²and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. ³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he

appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Alleluia. Christ Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Alleluia.

John 20:1–18

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the twentieth chapter

Glory be to Thee, O Lord

¹Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. ⁴Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did

not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, ⁷and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples went back to their homes. ¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹²And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her.

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.

TLH 200 I Know that My Redeemer Lives
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

Let us pray for the whole church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Almighty and eternal God, we give You thanks for all Your goodness, but especially on this day for the gift of the salvation of the whole world through the forgiveness of sin and restoration of eternal life to all believers in the life, death, and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Give us the new vision of faith that we may believe that He is with us to the end of the age. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Rule and govern Your whole church throughout the world that we may be witnesses to Your gift of new life. Guide, direct, and bless all pastors and ministers of Your Word and blessed Sacraments that they may faithfully proclaim and distribute Your gifts of grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for all in the authority of government of our country and of all the nations of the earth that they may serve the citizens under their care with justice and in righteousness that all may lead quiet and peaceable lives.

Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Comfort all who are in trouble, want, sickness, or any adversity, giving them the healing of hope in Your mercy and faith in Your promise of the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

As we remember the great crowd of witnesses that have gone before us and are with You, we pray that You acknowledge us to be in their company now by faith and admit us into their eternal fellowship, that when our last hour comes You may receive us into Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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 good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabbath; 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 \square 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 \square 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 / TLH 198 He's Risen, He's Risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Let us pray.

Gracious God, by this Holy Communion, You have given us a foretaste of Your eternal kingdom, where death will have been defeated, where there will be no more crying or pain or mourning, and where all the faithful will be resurrected in Christ. For this glimpse of what You have in store for all creation, we give You thanks and praise. We ask that by Your Holy Spirit, our lives would show forth glimpses of Your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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 341 Crown Him with Many Crowns