

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda, NY
April 12th, 2026**



AS WE GATHER

Seeking dedicated worker. Suffering not optional.” If we were to read that simple line in a job posting, it certainly would give us pause. People generally want to avoid suffering at any cost. Scripture reminds us that there may be a dynamic of discomfort to faith-filled living that follows the call of the risen Savior. In his hymn text “‘Come, Follow Me,’ the Savior Spake” from the 1600s, Johann Scheffler concludes, “Then let us follow Christ, our Lord, and take the cross appointed and, firmly clinging to His Word, in suff’ring be undaunted. For those who bear the battle’s strain the crown of heav’nly life obtain” (LSB 688:5). The challenges of the twenty-first century may differ from those of the seventeenth, but they are just as real. Our Lord promises that He is always with us on our life’s journey. With Easter joy, we travel onward together toward His glorious heavenly kingdom!

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.

Second Sunday of Easter

LSB 465 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds. The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Alleluia! We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia!

Alleluia!

I will extol You, my God and King, and bless Your name forever and ever.

On the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works, I will meditate, and I will declare Your greatness.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us come before God in true repentance, seeking forgiveness and amendment of our lives as we follow the Lord.

“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high?

Women: “Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

Men: “Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

“Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Almighty God, we confess that we are indeed sinful. By our very nature we are sinful. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins. Have mercy on us because of Jesus, our Savior. Grant that, by the working of the Holy Spirit, we may live out our lives on earth faithfully until that time when we, by His grace, join the company of heaven forever.

God has promised forgiveness to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him for grace. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and at His command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. May our gracious God, lead you to greater faith and obedience, and bring you to live with Him eternally in His glory, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Introit

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—

if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wondrous works!

Glory in his holy name;

let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

Seek the LORD and his strength;

seek his presence continually!

Remember the wondrous works that he has done,

his miracles, and the judgments he uttered.
He remembers his covenant forever,
the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

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.

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading Acts 5:29–42

²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." ³³When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. ³⁵And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. ³⁶For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too

perished, and all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; ³⁹but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!” So they took his advice, ⁴⁰and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴²And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

******Choir: “Here I am Lord”******

Epistle 1 Peter 1:3–9

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia.

John 20:19–31

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the twentieth chapter

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” ²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.” ²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.” ²⁶Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

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 490 Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won

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

In peace let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. For the whole Christian Church, that the peace of God dwell within it and that the Spirit of God work through it, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, grant our petition.

For the nations of the world and for the leaders entrusted with their designated responsibilities, that true and lasting tranquility be known around the globe, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, grant our petition.

For this present assembly of God's people, that all gathered here dwell together in peace and unity, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, grant our petition.

For those who actively keep the peace and bring about security both locally and around the world, including the armed forces of our nation and our local police, firefighters and first responders, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, grant our petition.

For those whose lives are in need of a special measure of peace and comfort—the sick and the hospitalized, [*including . . .*]; those who are experiencing changes and challenges, including the unemployed; those who are relocating to new places and situations and the elderly, as they face each new day as it comes to them; and for our youth—that they be surrounded by our support and our love, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, grant our petition.

For all the saints now in the glory of light eternal, Lord, we give You thanks. Bless us by the heritage of faith that they have left to us in our time and build on the legacy they have given us. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer and bless us with Your peace. 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 478 The Day of Resurrection

