

St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
North Tonawanda, NY  
May 10, 2026  
Sixth Sunday of Easter



**AS WE GATHER**

Jesus promises, “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.” In John 14:15–21, Jesus calls His disciples to love Him by keeping His commandments, yet He also knows our weakness and failure. We do not obey in order to earn His love; rather, His love and mercy bear fruit in us through faith. Christ goes to the cross, rises from the dead, and sends the Holy Spirit, the Helper and Spirit of truth, to dwell with His people. Because Jesus lives, we also will live. In Him, we are never abandoned.

*Welcome to all of our Members, Guests, and Visitors today, if you are a visitor, please introduce yourself to the pastor after service in the Narthex. We here at St. Matthew pray that you enjoyed your time worshiping with us today.*

Hymn of Invocation TLH 36 Now Thank We All Our God

*Stand*

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** *Amen.*

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** *who made heaven and earth.*

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** *and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.*

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** *Amen.*

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### Introit

Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.  
Forever, O LORD, your word  
is firmly fixed in the heavens.  
Your faithfulness endures to all generations;  
you have established the earth, and it stands fast.  
By your appointment they stand this day,  
for all things are your servants.  
If your law had not been my delight,  
I would have perished in my affliction.  
I will never forget your precepts,  
for by them you have given me life.  
Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.

**C** *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

**C** *Lord, have mercy upon us.*

*Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

**Gloria in Excelsis**

LSB 187

- P** Glory be to God on high:  
**C** *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.*

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** *And with thy spirit.*

- P** Let us pray.  
O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** *Amen.*

*Sit*

## First Reading

*Acts 17:16–31*

<sup>16</sup>While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup>So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup>Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. <sup>19</sup>And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? <sup>20</sup>For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” <sup>21</sup>Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

<sup>22</sup>So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup>For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. <sup>26</sup>And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, <sup>27</sup>that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, <sup>28</sup>for

“‘In him we live and move and have our being’;

as even some of your own poets have said,

“‘For we are indeed his offspring.’”

<sup>29</sup>Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. <sup>30</sup>The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*1 Peter 3:13–22*

<sup>13</sup>Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup>yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

<sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. <sup>21</sup>Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**Alleluia**

*LSB 190*

**C** *Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

**Holy Gospel**

*John 14:15–21*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

**C** *Glory be to Thee, O Lord.*

<sup>15</sup>[Jesus said:] “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.  
<sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be  
with you forever, <sup>17</sup>even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot  
receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him,  
for he dwells with you and will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup>Yet a little  
while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me.  
Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>In that day you will know that I  
am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>Whoever has my  
commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who  
loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest  
myself to him.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** *Praise be to Thee, O Christ.*

**Nicene Creed**

**C** **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.**

*Sit*

Hymn of the Day            TLH 652 | Lay My Sins On Jesus

Sermon

*Stand*

Offertory

*LSB 192*

**C** *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.*

*Sit*

Offering

*Stand*

Prayer of the Church

**P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Lord, You give us life in Christ. Grant that, having been strengthened by Your gifts, we may gladly tell others of the hope that we have in You. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Lord God, let Your Spirit be at work through Matthew, our Synod president; John, our district president; Ben, our circuit visitor; and all pastors in Christ, that as they proclaim Your

Word, He may teach us all things and bring to remembrance all  
Your Son has said to us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Lord of heaven and earth, You have given the Spirit of truth to  
dwell in us through Holy Baptism. Grant Your Spirit's steadfast  
guidance, that the feet of this congregation and its catechumens  
may not slip into sin and unbelief, but live always in praise of  
You before the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Heavenly Father, Your Son in His incarnation took on our human  
flesh and was born of the Virgin Mary. He submitted to His  
mother, honoring and obeying her, so fulfilling the  
commandment where we have not. On this Mother's Day,  
graciously accept our thanksgiving for our mothers, whom You  
have given to us. Teach us to honor them aright — loving,  
obeying and giving thanks for them, as is fitting in Your sight.  
Strengthen all women with child, and give them safe delivery.  
Comfort all women who long to have children but cannot, that  
they may find their consolation in You and Your unfailing love.  
Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Almighty God, You made from one man all the nations of the  
earth, and still You sustain us. Grant good leaders in every land  
who will seek peace and serve justice. Frustrate the causes of  
evil, violence and oppression. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Listening Lord, You always wait upon the prayers of Your  
people and attend to their cries. [*We pray especially for*  
\_\_\_\_\_./ Inspire us to pray in all seasons of life and

through all trials, giving us faith in Your promise to answer us.  
Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** O Lord, we give You thanks for the salvation and life You give us through Christ Jesus. You do not leave Your people as orphans but strengthen the penitent with the body and blood of Your Son. Help us to receive what You offer here for our good, that this Holy Communion may strengthen our faith and equip us for Your service. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** We entrust all these petitions to Your care, loving Father, confident in Your great mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who is worshiped together with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

### Preface

*LSB 194*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** *And with thy spirit.*

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** *We lift them up unto the Lord.*

**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

**C** *It is meet and right so to do.*

**P** It is truly meet, 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

LSB 195

**C** *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.*

Lord's Prayer

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C** **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.**

**The Words of Our Lord**

*LSB 197*

**P** 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 way also He took the cup after supper, 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.”

**Pax Domini**

*LSB 197*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** *Amen.*

**Agnus Dei**

*LSB 198*

**C** *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.*

*Sit*

**Distribution**

**TLH 700 Be Strong And Of A Good Courage**

*Stand*

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

- C** *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

LSB 200

- A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
**C** *and His mercy endureth forever.*

- A** Let us pray.  
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** *Amen.*

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** *And with thy spirit.*

Benedicamus

LSB 202

- A** Bless we the Lord.  
**C** *Thanks be to God.*

Benediction

LSB 202

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.

**C** *Amen, amen, amen.*

Hymn to Depart      TLH 649 Jesus Savior, Pilot Me

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