St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda, NY
June 21, 2026
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

AS WE GATHER

Following Jesus isn't always easy. Sometimes it means rejection and suffering. In Matthew 10, Jesus warns that His people will face rejection, hatred, and fear. Yet He also gives us an encouraging promise: "Fear not." The world may oppose Christ's Church, but it cannot take Christ from His people. The Father sees every sparrow fall, numbers every hair on your head, and does not forget His baptized children. Knowing that Jesus endured to the end, in the cross and resurrection of Jesus, we have the promise that the we will endure to the end and be saved.

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 LSB 814 O Bless the Lord, My Soul

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.***

Stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introit *Psalm 56:3–4, 10–11; antiphon: v. 13*

For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling,
that I may walk before God in the light of life.
When I am afraid,
I put my trust in you.
In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.
What can flesh do to me?
In God, whose word I praise,
in the LORD, whose word I praise,
in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.
What can man do to me?
For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling,
that I may walk before God in the light of life.

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 *LSB 186*

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, because Your abiding presence always goes with us, keep us aware of Your daily mercies that we may live secure and content in Your eternal love; 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

Old Testament Reading *Jeremiah 20:7–13*

[7]O LORD, you have deceived me,
and I was deceived;
you are stronger than I,
and you have prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all the day;
everyone mocks me.
[8]For whenever I speak, I cry out,
I shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the LORD has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.
[9]If I say, "I will not mention him,
or speak any more in his name,"
there is in my heart as it were a burning fire
shut up in my bones,
and I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.
[10]For I hear many whispering.
Terror is on every side!
"Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
say all my close friends,
watching for my fall.
"Perhaps he will be deceived;
then we can overcome him
and take our revenge on him."
[11]But the LORD is with me as a dread warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble;
they will not overcome me.
They will be greatly shamed,
for they will not succeed.
Their eternal dishonor
will never be forgotten.
[12]O LORD of hosts, who tests the righteous,

who sees the heart and the mind,
let me see your vengeance upon them,
for to you have I committed my cause.
[13]Sing to the LORD;
praise the LORD!
For he has delivered the life of the needy
from the hand of evildoers.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle *Romans 6:12–23*

[12]Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. [13]Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. [14]For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

[15]What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! [16]Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? [17]But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, [18]and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. [19]I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

[20]When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. [21]But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is

death. [22]But now that you have been set free from sin and have
become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its
end, eternal life. [23]For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of
God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia *LSB 190*

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

Holy Gospel *Matthew 10:5a, 21–33*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the tenth chapter.
C ***Glory be to Thee, O Lord.***

[5]These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, . . .
[21]"Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his
child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to
death, [22]and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one
who endures to the end will be saved. [23]When they persecute you in
one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have
gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.
[24]"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his
master. [25]It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the
servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house
Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.
[26]"So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be
revealed, or hidden that will not be known. [27]What I tell you in the
dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the
housetops. [28]And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill
the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.
[29]Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will

fall to the ground apart from your Father. [30]But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. [31]Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. [32]So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, [33]but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven."

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 **LSB 523 O Word of God Incarnate**

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.

Merciful God, in Christ You have removed the wages of sin and given the free gift of eternal life. Cultivate that life within us, that we may conform our lives to Your holy teaching and bear fruit that befits repentance. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P God of our salvation, Your Son warned that Your people would face opposition from the world. Give courage and fortitude to Your pastors and people, that they would boldly sing Your praises, gladly endure suffering for the name of Jesus, and continue by Your grace to the end. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, from whom all fatherhood is named, we give You thanks for earthly fathers. Give them confidence in their station and zeal for their task to care for their families faithfully. Make them examples to their children of godly life and love of Your Word. Bless their work of bringing up children in the fear and instruction of the Lord, and give them the comfort of Your absolution over all their shortcomings. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Ruler and Lord of all, guide our nation and all the nations of the world by giving us pious and faithful leaders who will provide good government. Fill the world with industrious citizens who

will work for the good of their neighbors, and bring all who are enemies to live together in peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Father, not one of the sparrows falls to the ground apart from You. Look with favor upon all who are sick, weary, grieving or lonely *[especially _____]*. Grant that they know how You value Your children and graciously care for them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord of life, grant that all who partake of the Holy Communion today would present themselves as those brought out of death into life, repent of their transgressions, and gratefully receive Your Son's body and blood for the forgiveness of their sins. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, You deliver our feet from falling and our souls from death. Receive our thanks for the saints who have gone before us. Preserve us in Your grace, that we may walk before You in the light of life forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God 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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Therefore 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

Distribution Hymn LSB 570 Just as I Am, without One Plea

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 LSB 924 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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