

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda, NY
July 5, 2026
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost



AS WE GATHER

In Matthew 11, Jesus thanks the Father for revealing His kingdom to “little children.” In Holy Baptism, that is what God has made us: His dear children, helpless in ourselves yet claimed by His grace. We do not come to Christ with strength, wisdom, or worthiness of our own.

We come weary, burdened, and empty-handed. And Jesus gives rest. Baptized into His death and resurrection, we belong to Him. His Father is our Father. His righteousness covers us. His promise stands: “Come to Me...and I will give you rest.” You are baptized. You are His child.

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 966 Before You, Lord, We Bow

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

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust.”
Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—
the Most High, who is my refuge—
no evil shall be allowed to befall you,
no plague come near your tent.
He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

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.
Gracious God, our heavenly Father, Your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and at life's end grant us Your promised rest and the full joys of Your salvation; 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

Zechariah 9:9–12

- ⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
- ¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall speak peace to the nations;
his rule shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
- ¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
- ¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 7:14–25a

- ¹⁴We know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. ¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ 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 11:25–30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

C *Glory be to Thee, O Lord.*

²⁵At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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 537 Beautiful Savior

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 In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P That we may find rest in the work of Christ alone, and be
encouraged by the knowledge of eternal life, let us pray to the
Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For pastors who faithfully proclaim the things that the Lord has hidden from the wise and understanding, that His Word would continue to grow and flourish in us, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our homes, that our heavenly Father would be the companion of those who are alone, the strength of husbands and wives, and the blessing of parents as they catechize their children; and that He would preserve our families from every plague and evil, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the United States of America as she celebrates 250 years of independence and nationhood, that God would grant her good and wise government and sustain her in peace and security, especially so that the Holy Gospel may be confessed openly and received gladly, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the celebrations of this milestone, that they may unite our country as a people and cause us to renew our commitment to the public good; and that all Christians would give respect, honor and love where each is due, as servants of Christ in this world whose eternal citizenship is in heaven, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those weary and heavy-laden with tribulations or illnesses, [*especially* _____,] that they would be blessed with the knowledge of His easy yoke and light burden and find rest in the Lord, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who receive the Sacrament, that with penitent hearts and a common confession of faith, they may be freed by the blood of His eternal covenant, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. 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 651 I Love Your Kingdom, Lord**

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 965 God Bless Our Native Land**

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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