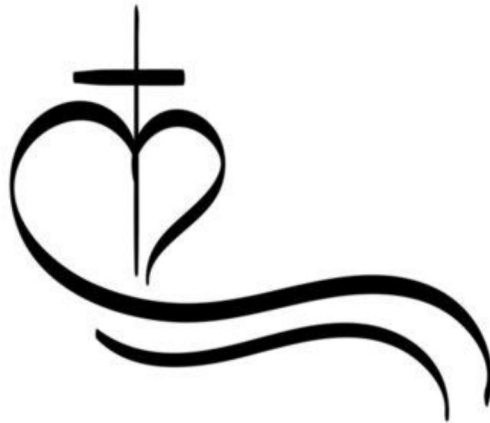


**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda, NY
August 23, 2026
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**



AS WE GATHER

In Matthew 16:13–20, Jesus asks His disciples the most important question they will ever answer: “Who do you say that I am?” Peter responds with the confession, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

That confession remains at the heart of the Christian faith. Jesus is not merely a wise teacher, an inspiring example, or one religious figure among many. He is the Christ. He is the promised Savior sent by God to rescue sinners. And Peter does not arrive at this truth by his own insight. Jesus tells him that this has been revealed by the Father in heaven.

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 851 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

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

But we will bless the LORD
from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!
As for me, I have set my King
on Zion, my holy hill.
I will tell of the decree:
The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.”
Praise the LORD, all nations!
Extol him, all peoples!
For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!
But we will bless the LORD
from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!

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.

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C *Amen.*

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 51:1–6

¹“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD:
look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.
²Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
that I might bless him and multiply him.
³For the LORD comforts Zion;
he comforts all her waste places
and makes her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.
⁴“Give attention to me, my people,
and give ear to me, my nation;
for a law will go out from me,
and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.
⁵My righteousness draws near,
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will judge the peoples;
the coastlands hope for me,
and for my arm they wait.
⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and they who dwell in it will die in like manner;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my righteousness will never be dismayed.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 11:33—12:8

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

³⁴“For who has known the mind of the Lord,
or who has been his counselor?”

³⁵“Or who has given a gift to him
that he might be repaid?”

³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be
glory forever. Amen.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to
present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God,
which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you
may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and
perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to
think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with
sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has
assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the
members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are
one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having
gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if
prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one
who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation;
the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal;
the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190

C *Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

Holy Gospel

Matthew 16:13–20

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

C *Glory be to Thee, O Lord.*

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C *Praise be to Thee, O Christ.*

Apostles’ Creed

C 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 the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

Sit

Hymn of the Day LSB 527 O Savior, Precious 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 Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Lord, bestow upon us Your riches and wisdom. Grant us increasing knowledge of You through Your Word, and help us to trust in Your grace and favor. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O God, give the Church and all her servants grace to fulfill the ministries to which You have committed them. Grant each of us the strength to confess Christ boldly before the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P God of compassion, Abraham was only one when You called him, but You blessed and multiplied him. Protect mothers with child, and equip fathers to lead and raise their households in Your fear and love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, bless and guide our president, Congress, governor and all civil leaders, that they may faithfully pursue peace and unity in the realm. Give also to all judges and magistrates wisdom and the grace to pursue justice with mercy. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, our God, You are our life and our length of days. Sustain and strengthen those who suffer sickness and affliction, especially those on our prayer list and comfort all who mourn with the promise of everlasting life in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Merciful God, You have redeemed us in Christ and declared us righteous and holy in Him. Graciously grant that we may offer You our very selves as living sacrifices, that we may glorify You in all we think, say and do. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Be merciful to us, O Lord, and hear our prayers. Grant to us the grace of Your Holy Spirit, that we may be led into all truth and be steadfast in the confession of Christ; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

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.**

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 923 Almighty Father, Bless the Word

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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