

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda NY
January 18th, 2026**



AS WE GATHER

People often speak about a person's calling in life. They are describing a unique purpose or vocation according to interests and talents. Often, trying to determine a person's "calling" or "destiny" is defined by some innate ability or giftedness found within ourselves, something we were born with or somehow born to do.

Today we hear of God calling otherwise ordinary fishermen Andrew and his brother Simon Peter. They were called by God through John the Baptist to follow the Messiah, the Christ, Jesus of Nazareth. They were called to be disciples and eventually to be sent on Christ's mission as apostles. The prophet Isaiah says even the Savior, the servant of the Lord, was called from the womb by God, "that Israel might be gathered to Him,"

****The Lord's Supper will be celebrated at this service, Communion is offered to Lutheran members in Altar & Pulpit Fellowship only, we believe based on Scripture and the "Book of Concord", (The Lutheran Confessions) that only those who share the same faith and teaching of Doctrine should Commune together.

Acts 2:42, 1 Cor. 10:17, 1 Cor. 11:26 and Rom. 16:17 is where we find this written, if this is your first time at St. Matthew, and would like to take Communion, please talk to the Pastor before the service. If you are taking Communion, please fill out the Communion Registration form. ****

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 after Epiphany

LSB 902 Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES

I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy.
You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified
in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Called by God “to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”, let us give rightful praise and honor God, who calls sinners to repentance and bestows saving faith in our hearts by His Word and Spirit. Behold, the Lamb of God!

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, mercifully hear our confession. We are sinners and have sinned against You. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors with our whole heart. We cannot free ourselves from our sin. Hear our prayer of confession and let us hear Your call and gift of forgiveness, salvation, and life.

Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to 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.

Amen.

Introit

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in
your sight,

O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

The heavens declare the glory of God,

and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words,
whose voice is not heard.

Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the
end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun
***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***

Gloria in Excelsis

Glory be to God on high:
***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.***

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on
earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace
through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives
and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading Isaiah 49:1–7

¹Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. ²He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. ³And he said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.” ⁴But I said, “I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the LORD, and my recompense with my God.” ⁵And now the LORD says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him— for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength— ⁶he says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.” ⁷Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation, the servant of rulers: “Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle 1 Corinthians 1:1–9

Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, ²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— ⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— ⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you

to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Alleluia. Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! Alleluia.

John 1:29–42a

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

²⁹The next day [John] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ ³¹I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” ³²And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.” ³⁵The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” ³⁹He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). ⁴²He brought him to Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ

Nicene Creed

**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.**

LSB 537 Beautiful Savior

Sermon

*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

Let us pray. Almighty God, we give You praise and thanks for all Your mercies to us and the whole world, especially for salvation and the call to restored holiness through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Make Your Gospel to sound forth throughout the world, causing many to turn to You in true repentance and faith for their eternal salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Bless and defend Your whole church, providing pastors and ministers according to Your will, and make it perfect in love and all good works, established in the faith delivered to the saints. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Preserve our nation in spiritual righteousness and honor. Grant health and protection to all who bear office in our land, that they may know and obey Your holy will. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Guard and defend those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on all to whom death draws near. Give consolation to those who mourn. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Remembering those who have served You in years past and who now rest from their labors, keep us in fellowship with all Your saints, and bring us at last to the joy of Your eternal kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, 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; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son.

In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. 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

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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 manner also He took the cup when He had supped, 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.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.*

PAX DOMINI

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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.

Distribution / LSB 637 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

Nunc Dimittis

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

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

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Let us pray.

Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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 924 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing