St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda, NY
November 8, 2026
Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost



AS WE GATHER

In the Parable of the Ten Virgins, Jesus warns us that the day of His return will come unexpectedly. Five were prepared to meet the bridegroom, while five were not. When the bridegroom arrived, the door was shut. This sobering warning reminds us that we cannot put off repentance or take God's grace for granted. Yet our readiness does not depend upon our own righteousness, but upon Jesus Christ, who died and rose to redeem us. Through His Word and Sacraments, He sustains us in faith. Therefore, we watch and wait with confidence, trusting in our faithful Bridegroom.

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 905 Come, Thou Almighty King

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.**

℗ 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

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.
How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts!
Behold our shield, O God;
look on the face of your anointed!
For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor.
No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.
O LORD of hosts,
blessèd is the one who trusts in you!
Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

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.
Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; 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 *Amos 5:18–24*

[18]Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why would you have the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, and not light,
[19]as if a man fled from a lion,
and a bear met him,
or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall,
and a serpent bit him.
[20]Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
[21]"I hate, I despise your feasts,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
[22]Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the peace offerings of your fattened animals,
I will not look upon them.
[23]Take away from me the noise of your songs;
to the melody of your harps I will not listen.
[24]But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

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

Choir will sing "Here I Am Lord"

Epistle *1 Thessalonians 4:13–18*

[13]But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. [14]For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

[15]For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. [16]For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. [17]Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. [18]Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

Stand

Alleluia *LSB 190*

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

Holy Gospel *Matthew 25:1–13*

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

[1][Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2]Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3]For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4]but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5]As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. [6]But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7]Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. [8]And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9]But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' [10]And while they were going to buy, the

bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. [11]Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12]But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' [13]Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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 783 Take My Life and Let It Be

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 For steadfast faith, that through the pure preaching and teaching of God's Holy Word we would be kept in constant readiness for Christ's return, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who have wandered from the faith, that God would restore them to the wisdom of repentance and faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all pastors as they preach and teach the Word, that all who hear may believe and that, believing, they may live in righteousness and godliness before the world until Christ returns, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For parents and those who teach children the Word of God, that generations to come may love God's promises, walk in His truth and dwell in His house, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For rulers and all in authority, that our God of righteousness would embolden them to enact and defend measures that preserve peace and provide justice for all, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all who cry to the Lord, including those on our prayer list, that God would answer them with strength and healing, comfort and hope, and keep them in the confidence of the resurrection of the dead, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For forgiveness, life and salvation, that the Lord would descend from heaven with a cry of command, raise up those who have fallen asleep and, until that day, prepare us by the blessed Sacrament for His coming in glory, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For comfort and hope in grief, that we may trust Christ's Word that those who have died in the faith are only sleeping, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P These and whatsoever other things You would have us ask of You, O God, grant us for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your only Son, our Lord and Savior, 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 715 Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me

Announcements

Dismissal

P Go in peace, serve the Lord!

C ***Thanks be to God!***

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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