St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda, NY
November 15, 2026
Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost



AS WE GATHER

In Matthew 25:14–30, Jesus tells of three servants entrusted with their master's wealth. Two faithfully put their gifts to work, while the third buries his out of fear. This parable reminds us that God calls us to faithful stewardship of all He has entrusted to us. Yet our salvation does not depend on what we accomplish. Christ has already accomplished everything necessary through His death and resurrection! Freed by His grace, we joyfully use our time, talents, and treasures in service to our neighbors, looking forward to hearing: "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

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 TLH 352 O Savior, Precious Savior

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

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!
In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!
Enter not into judgment with your servant,
for no one living is righteous before you.
I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done;
I ponder the work of your hands.
I stretch out my hands to you;
my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.
Teach me to do your will, for you are my God!
Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!
For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life!
In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!
Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!
In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

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 and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; 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 *Zephaniah 1:7–16*

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD!
For the day of the LORD is near;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice
and consecrated his guests.
8 And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice—
"I will punish the officials and the king's sons
and all who array themselves in foreign attire.
9 On that day I will punish
everyone who leaps over the threshold,
and those who fill their master's house
with violence and fraud.
10 "On that day," declares the LORD,
"a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate,
a wail from the Second Quarter,
a loud crash from the hills.
11 Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!
For all the traders are no more;
all who weigh out silver are cut off.
12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the men
who are complacent,
those who say in their hearts,
'The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do ill.'
13 Their goods shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them."
14 The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;

the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the mighty man cries aloud there.
15 A day of wrath is that day,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

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

Epistle *1 Thessalonians 5:1–11*

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no
need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves are fully
aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.
3 While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden
destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant
woman, and they will not escape. 4 But you are not in darkness,
brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. 5 For you are all
children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the
darkness. 6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake
and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get
drunk, are drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be
sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet
the hope of salvation. 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to
obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us so
that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.
11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as
you are doing.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia *LSB 190*

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

Holy Gospel *Matthew 25:14–30*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

C ***Glory be to Thee, O Lord.***

14 [Jesus said:] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who
called his servants and entrusted to them his property. 15 To one he
gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to
his ability. Then he went away. 16 He who had received the five talents
went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more.
17 So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. 18 But he
who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid
his master's money. 19 Now after a long time the master of those
servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 And he who had
received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more,
saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made
five talents more.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and
faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you
over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And he also who had
the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me
two talents; here I have made two talents more.' 23 His master said to
him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful
over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your
master.' 24 He also who had received the one talent came forward,
saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did
not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25 so I was afraid,

and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' [26]But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? [27]Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. [28]So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. [29]For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. [30]And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

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 TLH 476 Ten Thousand Times Ten Thousand

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.

Heavenly Father, grant all Your baptized people to live holy lives in this age, looking forward with eagerness to Your Son's joyous return and seeking only to be found in Him on that glorious day. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious Lord, though we do not know the day or hour of Your Son's appearing, grant that we would always be prepared by sending us faithful pastors and teachers who will boldly proclaim Your Word of Law and Gospel to us, that we may be constantly encouraged and built up in the faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Father in heaven, You have made us children of the light and of the day. Bless our homes, especially parents as they teach their children Your ways, that Your people may walk as those armored in faith, love and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P King of kings, preserve all in authority from violence and fraud, corruption and cowardice. Endow them with courage, integrity

and wisdom to preserve peace and govern according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, give ear to our pleas on behalf of the afflicted including those on our prayer list and those who name before You in our hearts and minds. For Your name's sake, preserve their life and grant them healing according to Your will. In Your righteousness, strengthen their faith through all trials and bring their souls out of trouble. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Loving Father, until Your Son returns in glory, He gives us His body and blood to sustain us. Grant that all who receive this gift today may receive it in faith, trusting that it is given for the forgiveness of their sins and life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Source of all life, receive our praise for those who have died trusting in Christ Jesus. Give us our portion with the saints in light, and bring us all to the day of resurrection joy. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and 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 TLH 307 Draw Nigh and Take the Body of the 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 TLH 52 Almighty Father, Bless the Word
Announcements
Dismissal

P Go in peace, serve the Lord!

C **Thanks be to God!**

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book
Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.