

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda, NY
February 22nd, 2026**



AS WE GATHER

nly weeks ago, Jesus was called out by John as the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Now Jesus reveals what He must do for us and our salvation. He must stand where Adam stood, tempted by the devil. This time, however, Jesus refuses to surrender His righteousness in the face of evil but preserves it so that He might give it to you and to me. With confidence in Christ's righteousness, which we wear by Baptism, and His forgiveness, which restores us when we fall, we know that the devil can harm us no more. We belong to Christ. In the power of Christ, we are made strong before the tempter's power, and in Him we are brought through death to life everlasting.

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.

First Sunday in Lent

**LSB 435 Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain
INVOCATION**

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

I acknowledged my sin to You.

I did not cover up my iniquity.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."

And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for meditation and reflection.

O almighty God, merciful Father,

I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. 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. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Introit

When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and honor him.
With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation.

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.
For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.
You will tread on the lion and the adder;
the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

*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

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us
pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People:

Amen.

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and
brought them to the Promised Land. Guide the people of Your church that

following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; 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 Genesis 3:1–21

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” ²And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. ⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹²The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” ¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

¹⁶To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.” ¹⁷And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” ²⁰The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING Romans 5:12–19

¹²Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— ¹³for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. ¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the result of that one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷If, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. ¹⁸Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification

and life for all men. ¹⁹For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Matthew 4:1-11

Gospel of St. Matthew the fourth chapter

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "'He will command his angels concerning you,' and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" ⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'" ¹¹Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ

Apostles' Creed

**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 life everlasting. Amen.**

**LSB 425 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
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

We give You thanks, O Lord, that You invite us to pray and have promised to hear and answer the prayers of Your people. By Your Holy Spirit enable us to plead for mercy in the name of Jesus and with confidence that whatever Your answer, it will be best for us. That we stand firm in the face of temptation and be clothed with the strength of the Lord Jesus in time of trial, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we neither be distracted nor enticed by the voice of the devil, the world, and the desires of our own flesh, but endure through the days of trouble through the Word of the Lord that endures forever, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That our nation and those who lead us be equipped with wisdom and faith, that we lead quiet and peaceable lives in Christ, that the nations learn pathways of peace, and that we not be overcome by fear or despair, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That the sick and all who suffer know the healing and strength of the Spirit in their afflictions, that the dying abide in peace, and that the grieving be granted comfort, [*especially . . .*], let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That the work of the Kingdom be prospered among us and through us, that those who have not heard rejoice to hear the Gospel, and that we be generous in supplying the poor and the homeless, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That daily we offer up prayers on behalf of the church, her ministers, and her ministries and for all according to their need, interceding on behalf of others even as Christ intercedes for us, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That the church would enjoy unity of doctrine and harmony in her work, that many be raised up for church work, and that we offer the Lord the sacrifice of praise from our lips and tithes and offerings from our hands, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That the Lord grant us all good things as are needful for this body and life and prevent all things harmful to us and our salvation, let us pray in the name of Jesus, whom with the Father and the Holy Spirit are one God and one Lord, now and forever.

Amen.

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.**

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 722 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me