

# St. Matthew Lutheran Church North Tonawanda, NY

September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Pentecost



## AS WE GATHER

Jesus' disciples did not understand the prophecy about His death and resurrection. They focused, instead, on their personal greatness. So, He inverted their viewpoint, using a child to explain that true greatness is in humble servanthood, in welcoming even children (then considered to be without status). But our inner passions rebel and war against such servanthood, as James explains in the Epistle. Fortunately, by the gracious gift of faith, in place of personal struggles, we can rely on God, as Jeremiah does in the Old Testament Reading and David in today's psalm. Our Lord is the humblest and therefore greatest Servant, and by His death and resurrection He has proclaimed that God's grace knows no bounds. Confidently, we can follow Him in humble servanthood each day.

## LSB 915 Today Your Mercy Calls Us

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

**Amen.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

In today's Epistle, James urges, "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded." Let us go to God, echoing David's words in Psalm 54, appointed for today.

O God, save me, by Your name,  
**and vindicate me by Your might.**

O God, hear my prayer;  
**give ear to the words of my mouth.**

James' words in today's Epistle guide our confession. Gracious God,  
**we confess that as we have desired friendship with the world, we forget that it would mean enmity with God. We confess that our passions are at war within us. We have had bitter jealousy and selfish ambition inside us. In all humility, we come to You, holy Lord, seeking Your peace to calm the war within us.**

God has not given up on you! He yearns jealously over the spirit that He has made to dwell in us. Indeed, He gives more grace. James writes, "A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace," and in His death and resurrection, Jesus gave us His righteousness and established peace between us and God. 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.**

### Introit

Delight yourself in the LORD,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.  
Commit your way to the LORD;  
trust in him, and he will act  
He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,  
and your justice as the noonday.

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;  
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who  
carries out evil devices!

***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.***

### **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

O God, whose strength is made perfect in weakness, grant us humility and  
childlike faith that we may please You in both will and deed; through Jesus Christ,  
Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Old Testament Reading** *Jeremiah 11:18–20*

<sup>18</sup>The LORD made it known to me and I knew; then you showed me their deeds.

<sup>19</sup>But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. I did not know it was against me they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name be remembered no more."

<sup>20</sup>But, O LORD of hosts, who judges righteously, who tests the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause. This is the Word of the Lord.

## **Thanks be to God.**

## **Epistle** *James 3:13—4:10*

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. <sup>16</sup>For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. <sup>1</sup>What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. <sup>4</sup>You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. <sup>5</sup>Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? <sup>6</sup>But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup>Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and

your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup>Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.  
This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Holy Gospel** *Mark 9:30–37*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the ninth chapter.

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

<sup>30</sup>[The disciples] went on from there and passed through Galilee. And [Jesus] did not want anyone to know, <sup>31</sup>for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.” <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him. <sup>33</sup>And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you discussing on the way?” <sup>34</sup>But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.” <sup>36</sup>And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.”  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

***Praise be to Thee, O Christ.***

**Nicene Creed**

**LSB 589 Speak O Lord, Your Servant Listens**

**Sermon**

**Offertory**

***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.***

## **Prayer of the Church**

Using the promptings of James in the Epistle, let us pray for the nations around the world, the Church wherever it is found, and for ourselves here in this place. Wherever nations quarrel and plunge toward war, O God, open the ears of their leaders to hear the wisdom from above and pursue peace.

### **Move them to find joy in humble service.**

Wherever international alliances, national leaders, and groups within society follow the lead of their selfish ambitions at the expense of the downtrodden and forgotten people across borders and in their midst, O God, give both citizens and their leaders hearts that are open to reason, full of mercy, impartial and sincere.

### **Grant that peace break out across borders and justice within them.**

Whenever the Church is fraught with boasting, falsehoods, and schisms, O God, send Your Holy Spirit to use Word and Sacrament to bring clergy and lay leaders to repentance.

### **Embolden them to announce with one voice the victory Your Son won for us all.**

Wherever people respond to illness, accident, injustice, and discrimination, O God, strengthen them to rely on You for protection in all circumstances.

### **Guide them to make decisions in wisdom and to sow righteousness in peace.**

Whenever our conduct betrays worldly jealousy and selfish ambition, O God, turn our laughter to mourning and our joy to gloom until we recognize Your unending grace.

### **Help us seek to meet the needs of the people around us in humble service.**

Wherever people call out to You in their distress, [*especially . . .*], O God, visit, relieve, heal, and console them according to Your gracious will.

### **Use us as part of Your answers to their fervent prayers.**

Whenever we pridefully seek to solve our problems by our own strength, O God, remind us of Your faithfulness, constant presence, and gracious protection for Jesus' sake.

### **Show us how to humbly serve the people around us as You have served us.**

Heavenly Father, hear us and all for whom we pray, as we rely on Your gracious plans for all we need;

**through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

## **Preface**

The Lord be with you.

***And with thy spirit.***

Lift up your hearts.

***We lift them up unto the Lord.***

Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

***It is meet and right so to do.***

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, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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.***

## **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.***

## **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 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**

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 554 O Jesus, King Most Wonderful**

## **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.***

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 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.

***Amen.***

### **Salutation and Benedicamus**

The Lord be with you.

***And with thy spirit.***

Bless we 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**