

# St. Matthew Lutheran Church North Tonawanda, NY

January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022



## **AS WE GATHER**

Have you tired of those Christmas gifts yet, or are you still enjoying them? God gave Solomon the gift of wisdom. God's wisdom was a gift Solomon displayed vividly at times, but at other times, it seemed he had regifted it. In Jesus, we see the gift of God's wisdom on full display when He is found in the temple, at age 12, asking questions and providing answers beyond His years. God continues to reveal His wisdom to us through the Bible. What is your plan for connecting with God and His wisdom this year?

## **TLH 123 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past**

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

**Amen.**

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

**For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people.**

This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

**He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.**

### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith.

**For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

**O Giver of all good gifts, we come to You today acknowledging our foolishness and shortsightedness. As we live in this world, we succumb to the thinking of this world, which does not always align with Your thoughts. Amid the strains and stresses of life, we forget about Your unfailing love for us and for all in our world. For the sake of Jesus, Your Son, our Lord, forgive our sins and renew us by Your love.**

Our God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, loves us dearly and blesses us with every spiritual blessing. We have redemption through Jesus' blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. 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.

**Thank You, Jesus! Amen.**

## **Introit**

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,  
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;  
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;  
his understanding is beyond measure.

But the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,  
in those who hope in his steadfast love.

Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!

Praise your God, O Zion!

***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 gifts of forgiveness, grace, and the heavenly inheritance that awaits us, let  
us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for wisdom for all who lead,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For God's chosen people, gathered here and scattered throughout the earth, and  
for the proclamation of God's unconditional love for all and the calling of all to  
faith, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Amen.**

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

***And with thy spirit.***

Let us pray.

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same 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 *1 Kings 3:4–15*

<sup>4</sup> The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. <sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?" <sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what right, behold is, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. <sup>13</sup>I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. <sup>14</sup>And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your

father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.” <sup>15</sup>And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Epistle Ephesians 1:3–14**

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup>he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup>which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup>so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup>who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Alleluia and Verse**

Alleluia. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. Alleluia.

## **Holy Gospel** *Luke 2:40–52*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

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

<sup>40</sup>And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. <sup>41</sup>Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. <sup>43</sup>And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, <sup>44</sup>but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, <sup>45</sup>and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." <sup>49</sup>And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. <sup>51</sup>And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **Apostles' Creed (Rear cover of maroon hymnal)**

**TLH 102 Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful  
Sermon**

**Offertory**

**TLH 672 Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ  
Offering**

## **Prayer of the Church**

Let us go to God in prayer for ourselves, for God's people around the world, and for all people in their various circumstances. Lord, we pray for this New Year that is here, that You continue to bless us, Your people chosen before the foundation of the world, so that we may be a blessing to others. Fill us with the wisdom of Your Word. Lead and guide our visioning, goal setting, and planning so that we have a positive impact in our world both now and for eternity. Lord, in Your mercy,

### **hear our prayer.**

Lord, we pray for all who lead—in government, in the public and private sectors, and in Your Church—that they lead with Your wisdom so that the decisions they make are in line with Your will for all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

### **hear our prayer.**

Lord, we pray for all who are hurting, grieving, and struggling in their heart, soul, strength, and mind, [*especially . . .*] that they experience Your dear, sweet love for them as You lead, guide, and provide for them. Lord, in Your mercy,

### **hear our prayer.**

Lord, we pray for those who are beginning this year with goals to read the Bible and learn more about You, that You connect them with Your people so that, as with Philip and the Ethiopian, there is someone to help them understand the mystery of Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

### **hear our prayer.**

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

**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.***

### **Pax Domini**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**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.***

**TLH 94 Hark the Herald Angels Sing**