



Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN:
CHAPTER THREE

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT FEBRUARY 28 & MARCH 1, 2026

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

627 S. Washington Street New Ulm, MN

Pastor Jeffrey Bovee
revbovee@gmail.com
507-217-6364 Cell

www.stjohnsnewulm.com
Email: stjohnsnewulm@gmail.com

Pastor Rob Guenther
pastorguenther@gmail.com
507-240-2433 Cell

 **YouTube**
bit.ly/SJyoutube

 facebook.com/stjohnsnewulm
507-354-6744

Today's service is televised locally

Channel 14 - Comcast: Monday at 6:00 p.m. & Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. & Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.
Channel 3 - Nuvera: Mondays at 6:00 p.m. & Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. & Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

God so loved the world, God so loved the world,
 God so loved the world, he gave his on - ly Son.

2. And everyone who believes will have eternal life.
 Lord, lifted up, we come to you with wonder, thanks, and praise.

Refrain - All

3. Thank you, Lord, for your steadfast love, let all who seek you rejoice.
 Deliver us from distress and lead us forth in joy.

4. Do not live in fear. Called to life — arise!
 Turn away from sin. O come, Lord, enter in.

Refrain - sung twice by all

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 12:1-8

¹ The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

² “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. ⁵ He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

⁶ Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ The LORD

appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

⁸ From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY *I Lift Up My Eyes to the Mountains* Psalm 121

PSALM OF THE DAY 6:30pm *I Lift Up Mine Eyes* arr. Michael Larkin

Choir: I lift up mine eyes to the hills; where shall we find our help? Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth, who made heaven and earth.

Congregation:

I lift up mine eyes to the hills; where shall we find our help? —
— Our help comes from the Lord, who made
heav - en and earth, who made heav - en and earth. —

Choir: God will not let our feet be moved. God keeps us and will not slumber, neither slumber nor sleep. For God is our keeper and shade on our right hands.

Congregation: REFRAIN

Choir: The sun shall not strike us by day, nor the moon by night, nor the moon by night. God shall watch over us, both now and evermore!

Congregation: REFRAIN

Choir: Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth, who made heaven and earth.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 4:1-5,13-17

¹ What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? ² If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. ³ What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

⁴ Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. ⁵ However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

¹³ It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. ¹⁴ For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵ because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶ Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷ As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 3:16



Refrain

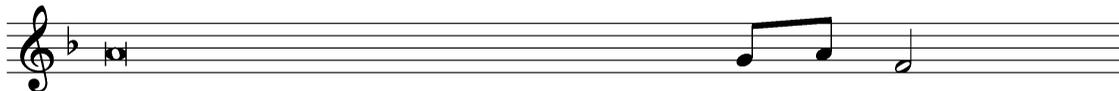


Glo - ry and praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ.

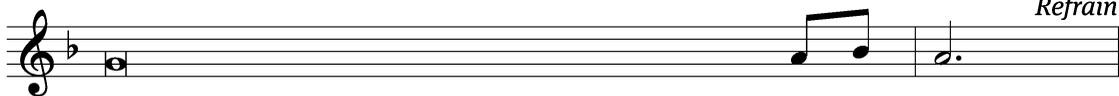


Glo - ry and praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ.

Tone



For God so loved the world that he gave his one and on - ly Son,



that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have e - ter - nal life.

Refrain

GOSPEL

John 3:1-17

¹ Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

³ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

⁴ “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh,

but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

⁹ “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰ “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? ¹¹ Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY *God Loved the World So That He Gave* CW 570

SERMON

You *Must* Be Born Again

John 3:1-17

Stand

NICENE CREED

pg. 196

Be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

pg. 198

OFFERING

THE SACRAMENT

pg. 199

Please see announcements for our communion practice.

Stand

LORD'S PRAYER

pg. 201

Be seated

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

CW 823

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

O Lord, We Praise You

CW 673

Stand

PRAYER AND BLESSING

pg. 203

PREACHER

Pastor Jeff Bovee

PRESIDING MINISTER

Pastor Rob Guenther

ORGANIST

Jacob Behnken

SR. CHOIR 6:30pm

Adrian Smith

SOLOIST

Ben Strackbein

FLUTE

Micaiah Wagner

PIANO

Laura Balza

Acknowledgments

Setting Three from Christian Worship

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.

God So Loved the World – choral #99190 Words and Music - ©2009 Augsburg Fortress Publishers Contributors: Thomas Keesecker

Copyright © 2011 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission

Givelify Scan the QR code to use the Givelify app and donate your offering.



THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 pm	Sunday School & Bible Class – One by One
Monday	6:30 pm	Elders' Meeting
Tuesday	7 pm	Women of St. John's
Wednesday	11 am	Lenten Worship Service
	4 & 6:30 pm	Lenten Worship Service
	5 pm	Midweek Lenten Meal
	5:15 pm	Handbells
	6:30 pm	Public and Homeschool Catechism
Thursday	10 am	Bible Class – Simple Way to Pray
	7 pm	Bible Class – The Life of David
Saturday	1:30 pm	John and Paul Ministries – Easter Canvas
	6:30 pm	Worship

NEXT WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, Mar. 8 th	Spring	Foward
	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 pm	Sunday School & Bible Class – One by One
Monday, Mar. 9 th	11:30 am	OWLS Meeting
	6 pm	Board of Evangelism
	7 pm	Board of Youth and Ed.
Tuesday, Mar. 10 th	6 pm	Sunday School Meeting
Wednesday, Mar. 11 th	11 am	Lenten Worship Service
	4 & 6:30 pm	Lenten Worship Service
	5 pm	Midweek Lenten Meal
	5:15 pm	Handbells
	6:30 pm	Public and Homeschool Catechism
Thursday, Mar. 12 th	10 am	Bible Class – Simple Way to Pray
	7 pm	Bible Class – The Life of David
Saturday, Mar. 14 th	6:30 pm	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance last weekend was 672.

Fruits of Faith:

\$11,915 Home Operations ~ Needed: \$137,835/ YTD: \$135,843
\$1,066 WELS Missions ~ YTD: \$12,839 (2026 Goal: \$100,701)
\$1,386 MVL ~ YTD: \$8,865 (2026 Goal: \$62,278)
\$75 Wish List: Piano ~ YTD: \$18,190 (\$21,400)
\$1,001 Building Fund
\$3 Food + Fellowship
\$135 K-12 Education Assistance
\$20 LWMS
\$100 St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$19 Women of St. John's
\$100 St. Paul's School
\$69 Miscellaneous Income

Close Communion ~ At St. John's we practice "close communion." That is, we invite only those who are in fellowship with us as members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Church (or of a synod that is in fellowship with us) to commune with us. We are in no way judging your personal faith. But we recognize that in the Lord's supper we enjoy not only a close communion, or fellowship, with God, but we also enjoy a close communion with one another as we publicly express our agreement in every teaching of God's Word. And we wouldn't presume to ask you to publicly confess your agreement with all that we teach and believe without first being instructed in what it is that we teach and believe. But if you do desire to commune with us, please speak to one of the pastors after the service.

Women of St. John's ~ Please join us this Tuesday evening, March 3 at 7 p.m., in the church basement for the reviews on our blind date books that were selected last month. Even if you were unable to attend last month, please join us and share a review for a book you have enjoyed. Friends are always welcome!

Easter for Kids 2026! ~ Join us on Saturday, March 28th, 2026, from 8:30 am - 11:00 am here at St. John's for our annual Easter for Kids! A bible study, crafts, music, and more will be offered for Kindergarten through 4th grade. Sign up your children using the following link or by scanning the QR code. We hope to see many of you there! If you have any questions, please contact Ella Hunter at: ehunter02@icloud.com or 507-766-3658.



Cards of Caring ~ Members of St. John's are invited to help make cards we give to congregation members — homebound, elderly, and others. We use donated, recycled, and create our own cards. Cards to be made include Valentine, Warm Winter Wishes, Easter, Confirmation, and Birthday. Help is needed with writing messages, stamping, and assembling cards. Please join us at 403 N. Minnesota St. between 9:00am and noon on Saturday, March 21st. Come and go as your schedule allows. Thank you for helping to serve our members. Contact: Lois Willems (507-676-1230).

Grand Piano on the Wish List ~ St. John's Worship Committee would like to replace the piano in the front of the church. The existing piano was not designed for a large space seating 350 people, but for a house or small music studio. The council has approved that a new 5-foot Yamaha grand piano (to be placed in the front of the sanctuary near the lectern) be added to the wish list. This piano would enrich our worship as it fills the church with sound. It's known for its stability of tuning and action and delivers a clear sound that would accompany the congregation and choirs well. The cost is approximately \$21,400 for the piano, delivery and installation, and all needed accessories. If you are interested in contributing to this worship enhancement, please note "Piano" on your offering envelope or electronic gift. To God be the glory!

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

OWLS Meeting ~ Our local MN Valley Chapter 13 OWLS (Organization of Wels Lutheran Seniors) will be meeting at St. John's Lutheran Church, New Ulm on Monday, March 9. Fellowship begins at 11:30 AM with a Subway meal at noon, the cost covered by Thrivent Action Team moneys. Following a devotion, Sid and Jan DeLeo will present "The Orphan Train." If you have not already signed up, contact Myron Fluegge at 507-359-2424 or flueggemtj@hotmail.com by Wednesday noon, March 4, for a meal count. Hope you can make it.

Join John & Paul Ministries ~ for a Daylight Savings canvass in our community on Saturday, March 7th! Don't like the idea of talking to strangers? You can just hang the packets on house doors if you like! Meet us in the St. Paul's Church fellowship hall for a complimentary pizza lunch at noon. Then head out into the community around 1:00 pm to hand out invitations to our Good Friday and Easter services along with a packet of coffee to help them with the time change. Please register using <https://bit.ly/40jvqG8> for an accurate pizza count. Questions? Contact Laura Martens (event coordinator) at lmartens@splnewulm.org.

MVL Concert ~ The Spring Sacred Concert, featuring A Cappella Choir, Chargaliers, the Freshman Choir, and the Concert band, will be on Wednesday, April 1, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center. Thank you for supporting these young musicians with your attendance!

Raider Choir Musical: St. Paul's Lutheran School Raider Choir invites you to come to their performance of the musical, *Jitterbug Juliet*, on March 13 & 14 at 7:00PM. Enter the world of post-war 1940s where the jitterbug meets Shakespeare! Set in Venice Beach, the feud between the Montague and Capulet families reaches a head when it is discovered that these enemy clans have double booked the same venue for a jitterbug contest and a performance of the play *Romeo and Juliet*. To make matters worse, a suspicious lawyer with his convict sidekick threaten the success of both family businesses. It's up to Ron (Romeo) and Juliet to settle the feud before all is lost. The musical will be performed in the St. Paul's School gym. Come early! Seats fill quickly.

Gala Committee Seeks Cars for Car Show ~ The St. Paul's School Dig In Gala Committee is seeking owners of 1970s cars to display at our Car Show during the Retro-70's themed Gala on May 8. If you or anyone you know has a car and would be interested, please contact Amy Rich at stampinnut@me.com.

About the Cover ~ Jesus said that we must be born again through water and the Word. Contrary to what many say, he was making a reference to Holy Baptism. Baptism is pure gospel. In other words, Jesus was saying that it is only through the power of the Holy Spirit working through the Means of Grace -- The gospel in the Word and the Sacraments -- that we receive faith in him as our Savior and are thereby raised from spiritual death to spiritual life.