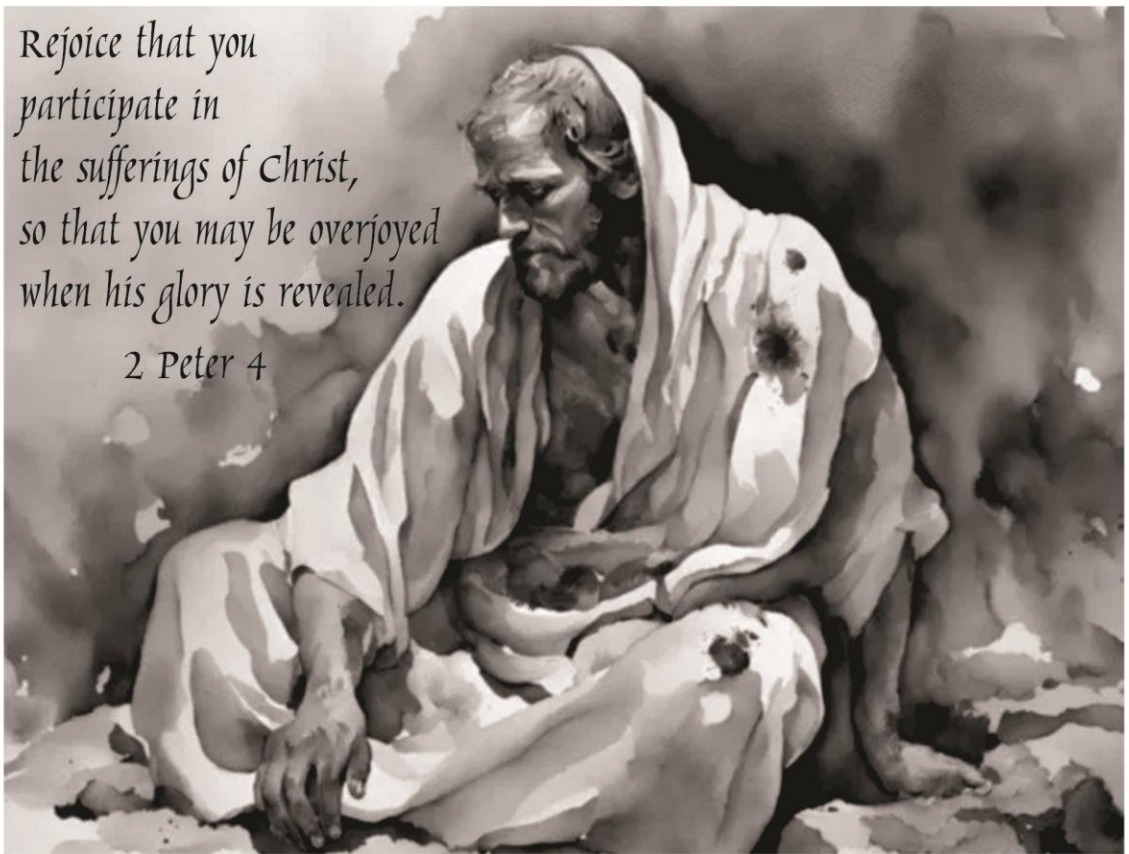


*Rejoice that you
participate in
the sufferings of Christ,
so that you may be overjoyed
when his glory is revealed.*

2 Peter 4



SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MAY 16 & 17, 2026

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

627 S. Washington Street New Ulm, MN

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 **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.

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 16/17, 2026



*Welcome, Visitors! Please scan the QR code to sign our guest register.
Visitors and members alike, use the same QR code for prayer requests.*

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: God, you know all things, and in your wisdom, you alone know how to solve the problems we have, and even use them for the eternal good of your kingdom. We pray that you come to the aid of those who are suffering and grant justice and vindication to those who are persecuted in innocence. But please give us the wisdom better to understand your purpose in all these things, and to place our trust fully in your merciful and all-powerful hands, that your will may be done. We ask these things in Jesus' name who suffered and died for us. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Service Setting 4

OPENING HYMN

With the Lord Begin Your Task

CW 776

- 1 With the Lord begin your task; Jesus will direct it.
For his aid and counsel ask; Jesus will perfect it.
Ev'ry morn with Jesus rise, and, when day is ended,
in his name then close your eyes; be to him commended.
- 2 Let each day begin with prayer, praise and adoration.
On the Lord cast ev'ry care; he is your salvation.
Morning, evening, and at night Jesus will be near you,
save you from the tempter's might, with his presence cheer you.
- 3 With your Savior at your side foes need not alarm you;
in his promises confide and no ill can harm you.
All your trust and hope repose in the mighty Master,
who in wisdom truly knows how to stem disaster.

- 4 If your task is thus begun with the Savior's blessing,
safely then your course will run, naught your soul distressing.
Good will follow ev'rywhere while you here must wander;
you at last the joy will share in the mansions yonder.

OPENING HYMN *11am* ***All Who Believe and Are Baptized*** CW 692

- 1 All who believe and are baptized shall see the Lord's salvation;
baptized into the death of Christ, they are a new creation;
through Christ's redemption they shall stand
among the glorious, heav'nly band of ev'ry tribe and nation.
- 2 With one accord, O God, we pray: grant us your Holy Spirit;
help us in our infirmity through Jesus' blood and merit;
grant us to grow in grace each day that by this sacrament we may
eternal life inherit.

HOLY BAPTISM *11am*

pg. 151

Stand

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

CONFESSION OF SINS

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our
sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

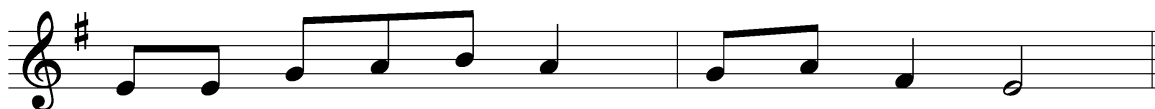
LORD HAVE MERCY



In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace from a - bove and for our sal - va - tion,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - be - ing



of the Church of God, and for the un - i - ty of all,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this ho - ly house and for all who of - fer here their



wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

GLORY TO GOD



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might - y God and Fa-ther. We



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his



peo - ple on earth.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you



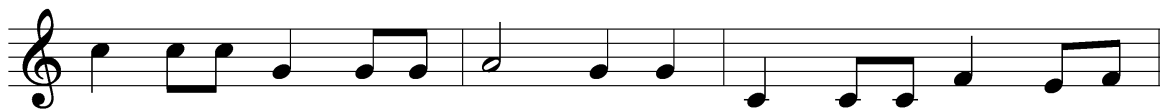
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on



us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the



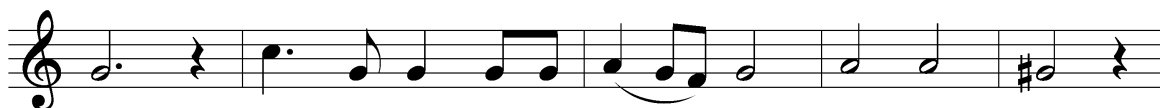
Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on



earth. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the



Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,



with the Ho - ly Spir-it in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son our Savior was taken up in glory and intercedes for us at your right hand. Through your living and abiding Word, give us hearts to know him and faith to follow where he has gone; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

FIRST LESSON

Acts 1:12-26

¹² Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. ¹³ When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) ¹⁶ and said, "Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ He was one of our number and shared in our ministry."

¹⁸ (With the payment he received for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. ¹⁹ Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

²⁰ "For," said Peter, "it is written in the Book of Psalms:

“ ‘May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,’ and,

“ ‘May another take his place of leadership.’

²¹ Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, ²² beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection."

²³ So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they prayed, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.” ²⁶ Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY *If God Had Not Been on Our Side* Psalm 124C



1 If God had not been on our side and had not
 2 Their fu - rious wrath, did God per - mit, would sure - ly
 3 Blest be the LORD, who foiled their threat that they could



come to aid us, our foes with all their pow'r and
 have con - sumed us and as a deep and yawn - ing
 not de - vour us. Our souls, like birds, es - caped their



pride would sure - ly have dis - mayed us, for we, his
 pit with life and limb en - tombed us. A hell - ish
 net; they could not o - ver - pow'r us. The snare is



flock, would have to fear the dev - il's wolves, both far and
 storm would o'er us roll from Sa - tan, who de - sires our
 bro - ken— we are free! Our help - er and our strength is



near, who rise in might a - gainst us.
 soul and seeks to o - ver - whelm us.
 he who made the earth and heav - ens.

SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 4:12–17; 5:6-11

¹² Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵ If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶ However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

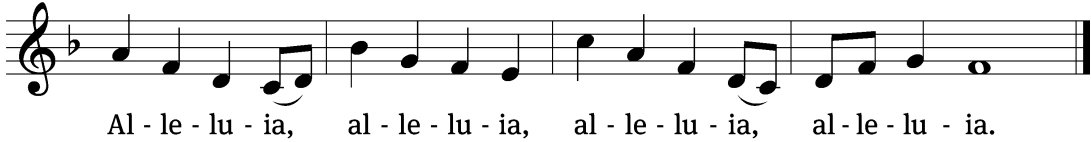
Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

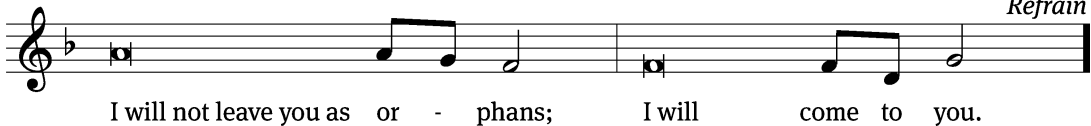
John 14:18



Refrain



Tone



GOSPEL

John 17:1-11a

¹ After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³ Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

⁶ “I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹ I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense

CW 446

- 1 Jesus Christ, my sure defense and my Savior, now is living!
Knowing this, my confidence rests upon the hope he's giving,
though the night of death be fraught still with many' —an anxious thought.
- 2 Jesus, my Redeemer, lives; I, too, unto life shall waken.
Endless joy my Savior gives; shall my courage then be shaken?
Shall I fear, or could the head rise and leave his members dead?
- 3 No, too closely am I bound unto him by hope forever;
faith's strong hand the rock has found, grasped it, and will leave it never.
Even death now cannot part from its Lord the trusting heart.
- 4 I am flesh and must return unto dust, whence I am taken;
but by faith I now discern that from death I shall awaken
with my Savior to abide in his glory, at his side.
- 5 Glorified, I shall anew with this flesh then be enshrouded;
in this body I shall view God, my Lord, with eyes unclouded;
in this flesh I then shall see Jesus Christ eternally.

SERMON God Offers Hope for the Sorely Tried 1 Peter 4:12-17; 5:6-11

Stand

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.
Amen.

OFFERING

THE SACRAMENT

Stand



The Lord be with you.



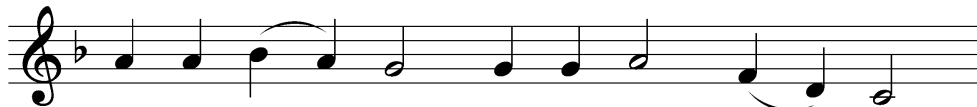
And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

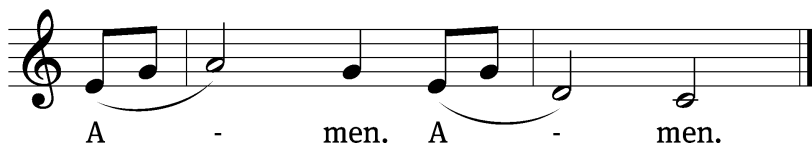
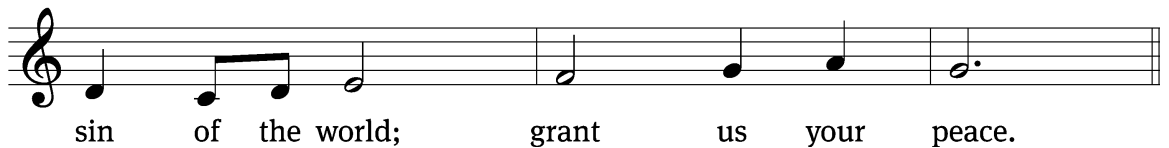
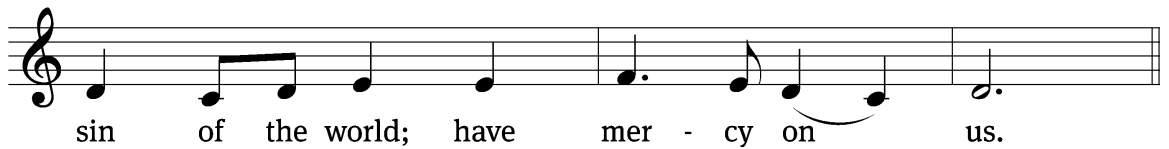
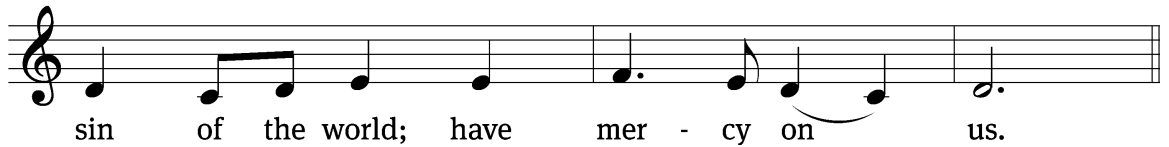
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my \dagger body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my \dagger blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD



DISTRIBUTION HYMN

CW 831

Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me

- 1 Why should cross and trial grieve me? Christ is near
with his cheer; never will he leave me.
Who can rob me of the heaven that God's Son
for me won when his life was given?
- 2 When life's troubles rise to meet me, though their weight
may be great, they will not defeat me.
God, my loving Savior, sees them; he who knows
all my woes knows how best to end them.
- 3 God gives me my days of gladness, and I will
trust him still when he sends me sadness.
God is good; his love attends me day by day,
come what may, guides me and defends me.
- 4 From God's joy can nothing sever, for I am
his dear lamb, he, my Shepherd ever.
I am his because he gave me his own blood
for my good, by his death to save me.
- 5 Since I know God never fails me, in his voice
I'll rejoice when grim death assails me.
Trusting in my Savior's merit, safe at last,
troubles past, I shall heav'n inherit.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness* CW 663

- 1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness; leave behind all gloom and sadness.
Come into the daylight's splendor; there with joy your praises render
unto him whose grace unbounded has this wondrous supper founded.
He, though reigning high and holy, deigns to dwell with you most lowly.

- 2 Hasten as a bride to meet him, and with loving rev'ence greet him,
for with words of life immortal he is knocking at your portal.
Open wide the gates before him, saying, as you there adore him:
Grant, Lord, that I now receive you, that I nevermore will leave you.
- 3 He who craves a precious treasure neither cost nor pain will measure,
but the priceless gifts of heaven God to us has freely given.
Though the wealth of earth were proffered, naught would buy the gifts
here offered:
Christ's true body, for you riven, and his blood, for you once given.
- 4 Now I kneel before you lowly, filled with joy most deep and holy,
as with trembling awe and wonder on your mighty work I ponder,
by such mystery surrounded, depths that no one ever sounded.
None may dare to pierce unbidden secrets that with you are hidden.
- 5 Human reason, though it ponders, cannot fathom these great wonders,
that Christ's body must be boundless since the souls it feeds are countless,
and that he his blood is giving with the wine we are receiving.
These great mysteries unsounded are by God alone expounded.
- 6 Lord, by love and mercy driven, you have left your throne in heaven
on the cross for me to languish and to die in bitter anguish,
to forgo all joy and gladness and to shed your blood in sadness.
By this blood redeemed and living, Lord, I praise you with thanksgiving.
- 7 Jesus, sun of life, my splendor, Jesus, friend of friends most tender,
Jesus, joy of my desiring, fount of life, my soul inspiring:
at your feet I cry, my maker, let me be a fit partaker
of this blessed food from heaven for our good, your glory, given.
- 8 Jesus, Lord of life in heaven, help me when this meal is given
to receive it for my blessing as I come, my sins confessing.
In this supper let me measure, Lord, how deep is your love's treasure,
that, as I on earth have eaten, I may be your guest in heaven.

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

PREACHER
PRESIDING MINISTER
ORGANIST

Pastor Jeff Bovee
Pastor Rob Guenther
Jacob Behnken

Acknowledgments

Setting Four from Christian Worship

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THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
Tuesday	7 pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday	6:30 pm	St. Paul's Closing Service/Graduation
Saturday	6:30 pm	Worship

NEXT WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, May 24 th	8 & 9:30 am	Worship
	2 pm	MVL Graduation
Monday, May 25 th	Office	Closed
Saturday, May 30 th	6:30 pm	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance last weekend was 678.

Fruits of Faith:

\$19,854 Home Operations ~ Needed: \$310,127 / YTD: \$308,708
\$1,594 WELS Missions ~ YTD: \$30,520 (2026 Goal: \$100,701)
\$1,297 MVL ~ YTD: \$21,296 (2026 Goal: \$62,278)
\$460 Building Fund
\$25 K-12 Education Assistance
\$25 St. Paul's School
\$305 Food and Fellowship
\$12 Miscellaneous Receipts
\$100 Technology Fund
\$100 Benevolence Fund
\$35 Christian Family Solutions
\$50 Facility Usage Fees
\$50 MLC/WLS Ministerial Student

LWMS Voting ~ Are you a confirmed woman of our congregation? If your answer is yes, then please take a moment to fill out the LWMS ballot in the narthex. LWMS (Lutheran Women's Missionary Society) is a WELS organization for women who support WELS mission work around the world! If you are interested in more details about how you can support their work please contact St. John's member, Carrie Schaefer (carriehieb@yahoo.com). This year's ballot includes a vote for 4 board members as well as the mission offering projects for one Home mission and one World mission. Please complete the ballot and leave it in the gift box labeled LWMS. Ballot totals will be mailed in on May 25. Thank you.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

LWMS International Convention ~ Join us for the 63rd Annual LWMS Convention in Madison, WI from June 25th through June 28th. Registration is now open online, but is due to close June 1st (earlier if capacity is reached). The table in the new narthex has mail-in registration forms as well as detailed information sheets. We hope to see you there!

Preschool Cleaning Party ~ Ages 6th grade – 96 are invited Thursday, May 28th to help clean the preschool classroom from 9am-11:30am! There will be indoor and outdoor cleaning. Lunch will also be provided at 11:30am. To RSVP or ask questions, contact Director Heidi Meyer – hmeyer@splnewulm.org.

Job Openings at MLC ~ Full-time Executive Director of Mission Advancement. This role helps connect donor support to the preparation of future pastors, teachers, and staff ministers. **Part-time Assistant Volleyball Coach.** In this role, you can help promote excellence in competition while supporting the formation of student-athletes for lives of Christian service. Interested individuals should apply online at mlc-wels.edu/hr/.

About the Cover ~ The artwork on our bulletin cover is a watercolor painting by an unknown artist which depicts Job, the man of great sorrow and suffering. Even though a righteous man, God allowed Job to suffer and endure severe trials. Job questioned God's goodness because of the false accusations his "friends" leveled at him. However, Job finally came to understand that even in the midst of the greatest distress God is not only there, but he is compassionate and merciful, and uses every event in our lives, even those that are painful, for our eternal good. In our sermon text, Peter also assures us that this is so for every Christian.