

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

627 South Washington, New Ulm, Minnesota



Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 13/14, 2025

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

www.stjohnsnewulm.com
office@stjohnsnewulm.com
facebook.com/stjohnsnewulm
507-354-6744
bit.ly/SJyoutube

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

Today's service is televised locally

Channel 14 - Comcast: Monday at 6 pm, Tuesday at 1 pm & Thursday at 10 am
Channel 3 - Nuvera: Monday at 6 pm, Tuesday at 1 pm & Thursday at 10 am

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 13/14, 2025

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: God, too often we sin against you like an unfaithful wife cheating on her husband. But in your grace, and for Jesus' sake, you take us back and call us your own, time and time again. Now help us to be faithful to you, committed to you, and live for you alone. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Service Setting 4

OPENING HYMN *Praise the Almighty; My Soul, Adore Him* CW 619

- 1 Praise the Almighty; my soul, adore him!
 Yes, I will laud him until death.
 With songs and anthems I'll come before him
 as long as he allows me breath.
 From him my life and all things came;
 bless, O my soul, his holy name. Alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 Penitent sinners, for mercy crying,
 pardon and peace from him obtain;
 ever the wants of the poor supplying,
 their faithful God he will remain.
 He helps his children in distress,
 the widows and the fatherless. Alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 Trust not in princes, they are but mortal;
 earthborn they are and soon decay.
 Vain are their counsels at life's last portal
 when the dark grave will claim its prey.
 Since, then, no one can help afford,
 trust only Christ, our God and Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

4 Praise, all you people, the name so holy
of him who does such wondrous things!
All that has being, to praise him solely,
with happy heart its amen sings!
Children of God, with angel host
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Alleluia, alleluia!

Stand

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

CONFESSION OF SINS

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.
Amen.

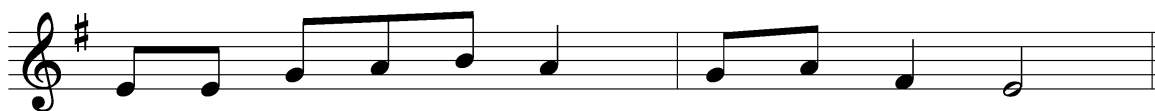
LORD HAVE MERCY



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



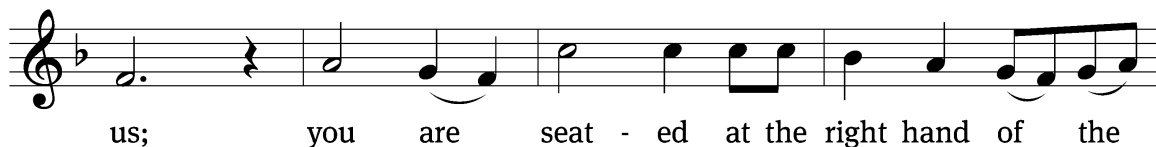
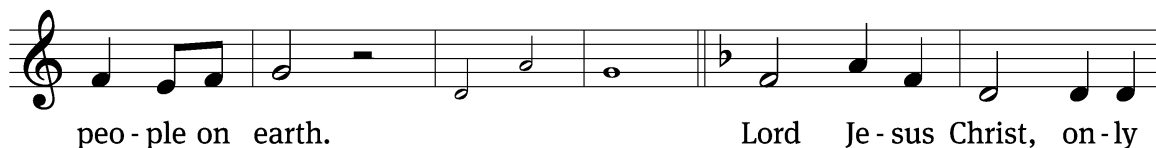
Glo-ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

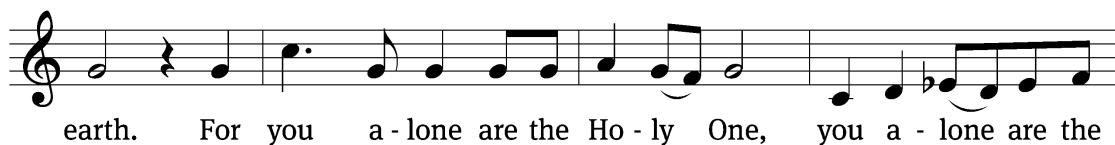


Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa-ther. We



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





The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

*What love could remember, no wrongs we have done?
Omniscient, all knowing, he counts not their sum; thrown
into a sea without bottom or shore; our sins they are
many, his mercy is more.*

*Refrain: Praise the Lord! His mercy is more! Stronger
than darkness, new ev'ry morn; our sins they are many,
His mercy is more!*

*What patience would wait as we constantly roam? What
Father, so tender, is calling us home! He welcomes the
weakest, the vilest, the poor; our sins they are many, his
mercy is more.*

Refrain

*What riches of kindness He lavished on us; his blood was
the payment, his life was the cost. We stood 'neath a debt
we could never afford; our sins they are many, his mercy
is more.*

Refrain

Our sins they are many, his mercy is more!

*As rebels, Lord, who foolishly have wandered
far from your love unfed, unclean, unclothed
Dare we recall your wealth so rashly squandered,
dare hope to glean that bounty which we loathed?*

*Still we return, our contrite words rehearsing,
Speech, that within your warm embrace soon dies;
All of our guilt, our shame, our pain reversing
As tears of joy, and welcome fill your eyes.*

*A feast of love for us you are preparing;
We who were lost, you give an honored place!
“Come, eat; come, drink, and be no more despairing
Here taste again the treasures of my grace.”*

Welcome home

FIRST LESSON

Hosea 3:1-5

¹ The LORD said to me, “Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes.”

² So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a lethek of barley. ³ Then I told her, “You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will behave the same way toward you.”

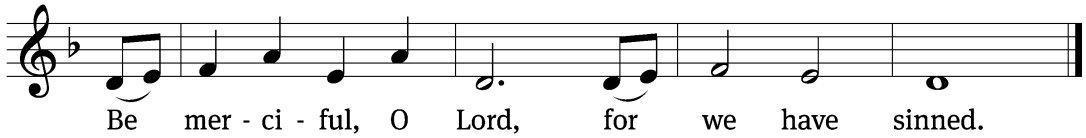
⁴ For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or household gods. ⁵ Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY 6:30pm & 8am *Be Merciful, O Lord* Psalm 51

Refrain



Tone



Have mercy on / me, O God,
according to your un- / failing love;
according to your great com- / passion
blot out my trans- / gressions.

Wash away all my in- / iquity
and cleanse me / from my sin.
For I know my trans- / gressions,
and my sin is always be- / fore me. *Refrain*

Against you, you only, / have I sinned
and done what is evil / in your sight.
Surely I was sin- / ful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother con- / ceived me.

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I / will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whit- / er than snow.
Hide your face / from my sins
and blot out all my in- / iquity.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

PSALM OF THE DAY *Have Mercy in Your Goodness, Lord* Psalm 51
9:30 & 11am

REFRAIN: All



Lord, have mer - cy, _____ Christ, have mer - cy, _____ Lord, have mer - cy.



Choir: 1. Have mer - cy in your good - ness, Lord, And in your

Choir: 2. All my trans - gres - sions, Lord, I know; I see my

Congregation: 3. So when you speak, Lord, it is just; Your judg - ments

Choir: 4. For deep with - in you look for truth; In se - cret

Congregation: 5. Tell me of joy and glad - ness, Lord, And give my

Choir: 6. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, Lord, Re - new a

Choir: 7. Let me, O God, know once a - gain The joy your



grace for - give my sin; Wash me from e - vil through and through,

sin both day and night; A - gainst you on - ly have I sinned,

all re - veal the truth; I have been wick - ed from my birth,

make me un - der - stand; Purge out my sin and I shall be

bro - ken bod - y ease; Lord, hide your face from all my sin;

spir - it that is right; Take not your Spir - it from my life,

sav - ing help can give; With all the boun - ty of your grace



Cleanse me, O Lord, with - out, with - in. _____ to verse 2

Done what is e - vil in your sight. _____ to verse 3

A sin - ner e - ven from my youth. _____ to Refrain

Pure as your ho - ly law de - mands. _____ to verse 5

Blot out all my in - iq - ui - ties. _____ to verse 6

Nor cast me out, Lord from your sight. _____ to Refrain

Sus - tain my heart that I may live. _____

SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 2:5–11

⁵ If anyone has caused grief, he has not so much grieved me as he has grieved all of you to some extent—not to put it too severely. ⁶ The punishment inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient. ⁷ Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. ⁸ I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him. ⁹ Another reason I wrote you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in everything. ¹⁰ Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, ¹¹ in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

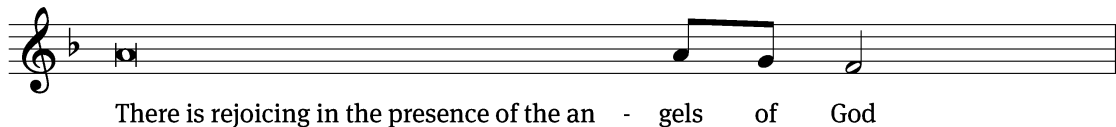
Luke 15:10



Refrain



Tone



¹ Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

⁸ “Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ ¹⁰ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus Sinners Does Receive

CW 654

- 1 Jesus sinners does receive; oh, may all this saying ponder
who in sin’s delusions live and from God and heaven wander.
Here is hope for all who grieve: Jesus sinners does receive.
- 2 We deserve but grief and shame, yet his words, rich grace revealing,
pardon, peace, and life proclaim; here their ills have perfect healing
who with humble hearts believe: Jesus sinners does receive.

- 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray are not by the Lord forsaken;
weary souls who lost their way are by Christ, the Shepherd, taken
in his arms that they may live: Jesus sinners does receive.
- 4 I, a sinner, come to you with a penitent confession.
Savior, show me mercy, too; grant for all my sins remission.
Let these words my soul relieve: Jesus sinners does receive.
- 5 Oh, how blest it is to know, were as scarlet my transgression,
it shall be as white as snow by your blood and bitter passion,
for these words I do believe: Jesus sinners does receive.
- 6 Now my conscience is at peace, from the law I stand acquitted.
Christ has purchased my release and my ev'ry sin remitted.
Naught remains my soul to grieve: Jesus sinners does receive.
- 7 Jesus sinners does receive, even I have been forgiven.
And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to him I cleave: Jesus sinners does receive.

SERMON

Rejoice When the Lost Are Returned

Hosea 3

Stand

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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 the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

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. 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

HYMN

Just as I Am, without One Plea

CW 814

- 1 Just as I am, without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 2 Just as I am and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot,
to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 3 Just as I am, though tossed about with many'—a conflict, many'—a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 4 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need, in thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 5 Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; thy love unknown has broken ev'ry barrier down;
now to be thine, yea thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Stand

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

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.

1 When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
when the tempter would prevail, he will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold thro' life's fearful path,
for my love is often cold—he must hold me fast. (Refrain)

Refrain He will hold me fast; he will hold me fast;
for my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

2 Those he saves are his delight; Christ will hold me fast;
precious in his holy sight, he will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost; his promises shall last;
bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast. (Refrain)

3 For my life he bled and died; Christ will hold me fast;
justice has been satisfied; he will hold me fast.
Raised with him to endless life, he will hold me fast
till our faith is turned to sight when he comes at last! (Refrain)

Acknowledgments

Setting Four from Christian Worship

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His Mercy is More arr. Jay Rouse CW 579

PREACHER
PRESIDING MINISTER
ORGANIST
SR. CHOIR
3-4 GRADE
PIANO

Pastor Rob Guenther
Pastor Jeff Bovee
Jacob Behnken
Adrian Smith
Emily Stoering
Laura Balza

Welcome, Visitors! Please scan the QR code to sign our guest register.



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 am	Bible Class and Sunday School
Monday	6:30 pm	Worship Committee
	7:30 pm	Board of Youth and Ed.
Tuesday	7 pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday	6 pm	Handbells
	6:30 pm	Public and Homeschool Catechism
	7 pm	Choir
Thursday	10 am	Adult Bible Class
	7 pm	Adult Bible Class
Saturday, Sep 20	6:30 pm	Worship
Sunday, Sep 21	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class and Sunday School
Wednesday, Sep 24	6 pm	Handbells
	6:30 pm	Public and Homeschool Catechism
	7 pm	Choir
Thursday, Sep 25	10 am	Adult Bible Class
	7 pm	Adult Bible Class

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for this past weekend was 494 with 426 receiving the Lord's Supper.

Fruits of Faith:

\$11,390 Home Operations ~ Needed: \$640,725/ YTD: \$605,729 \$1,560 WELS Missions ~ YTD: \$71,411 (2025 Goal: \$87,000) \$1,150 MVL ~ YTD: \$44,791 (2025 Goal: \$57,000) \$5 Building Fund \$25 St. Paul's School Building Fund \$200 MLC Ladies Auxiliary \$360 Ministerial Student Scholarship Fund \$100 Ministerial Education Endowment Fund \$24 Women of St. John's \$21 Food and Fellowship \$84 Miscellaneous Income

St. John's Job Opening ~ Due to an upcoming retirement, St. John's is seeking applicants to fill the position of bookkeeper. This is a part-time position (10-15 hrs/week) that will begin on January 5, 2026. We are looking for a person who has previous experience in accounting or bookkeeping. If you know of someone who may be interested, please pick up a job description from the church office.

Cards of Caring ~ Members of St. John's are invited to help make the cards our congregation sends to homebound members and others during the year. We used donated, recycled, and created cards. You can help by making cards, writing messages, using stamps and seals to assemble the cards. We make cards for birthdays, anniversaries, get-well, sympathy, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentines, Easter and Confirmation. Please join us at 403 N. Minnesota St. between 9:00 a.m. and noon on Saturdays: September 20, October 18, and November 15, 2025. Come and go as your schedule allows. About 80 cards are needed for each occasion. Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve our members. For further information contact Lois Willems at 507-676-1230.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

MLC Job Opening ~ Martin Luther College is accepting applications for a full-time Director of Marketing & Communications and a part-time Men's Assistant Basketball Coach. Interested individuals should apply online at mlc-wels.edu/hr/.

Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) ~ Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 4th! St John's in Redwood Falls, MN is hosting the MN Valley Circuit's Fall Rally. Our speaker will be Pastor Abram Degner about the mission work being done in Latin America and beyond through Academia Cristo. Watch for more details in the coming weeks.

Missionary Presentation ~ Pastor Abram Degner will be giving a presentation about the mission work being done in Latin America during our Bible Class hour on Sunday, October 5th. Missionary Degner currently resides and serves in South America.

Travel with WELS Groups ~ Interested in traveling with a group of like-minded believers? The OWLS (WELS Seniors) is partnering with Father's World Tours to offer a New Year's (Dec 31-Jan 13) trip to sunny Southern California (Rose Parade, Reagan Library, San Diego, Palm Springs, Joshua Tree NP) that also includes a 7-night Princess cruise to the Mexican Riviera. All tours involve daily devotions and WELS weekend worship. The tour is open to W/ELS members of all ages. Registration closes on October 1 (earlier if all spots are sold). Visit www.fathersworldtours.com or contact us (steve@fathersworldtours.com, 507-217-1731) to learn more.

Attention Military Service Members and Spouses! ~ Are you looking to connect with fellow Christian Warriors who have served in the military and who share your faith? Grab your spouse or “battle buddy” and join us for Growing Together: Shoulder to Shoulder, our Spiritual Retreat held at Camp Shiloh, Texas, October 16-19. Topics at this year's retreat include sharing your faith with other service members, suicide prevention, resilience as a spouse, and others. Join other Christian Warriors from around the country for four encouraging days together. Information about speakers, sessions, schedule, and registration details can be found on our website. Registration closes September 20, 2025. Visit www.lutheranmilitary.org today!



About the Cover ~ Hosea married a promiscuous woman named Gomer who had three children. Whether those children were by Hosea or by another man is uncertain because she was so unfaithful. But God commanded him to take Gomer back, even at expense to himself. And this was all to illustrate God's amazing love for his people who are so often unfaithful toward him. What incredible grace that sought the lost and brought us back to him!