



Forget the former things, do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:18 & 19

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT: APRIL 5 / 6, 2025

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

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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.

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

April 5/6, 2025

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Almighty God, in your hand you hold the outcome of today and the hope of what shall be tomorrow. We commit all things to you: Our bodies, souls, lives, time, minds, emotions, passions, problems, friends, enemies, talents, treasures, jobs, past, present, and future; asking that you would take our lives, everything we think, say, or do, and bring it all under your subjection. Make us your true and faithful servants. Teach us not to dwell on the past, but instead to look forward by faith to your promises, knowing that you will work all things for our eternal good, so that your name may be glorified and we will be blessed as a result. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Service Setting 4

SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM 11am

pg.151

OPENING HYMN

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

CW 920

8 & 9:30: Congregation sings st. 1,2 & 4 and choir will sing st. 3

- 1 Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ, our head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the Church in one;
holy Zion's help forever and our confidence alone.
- 2 To this temple, where we call you, come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
come with all your lovingkindness, hear your people as they pray;
and your fullest benediction speak within these walls today.
- 3 Grant, we pray, to all your faithful all the gifts they ask to gain;
what they gain from you forever with the blessed to retain;
and hereafter in your glory evermore with you to reign.
- 4 Praise and honor to the Father, praise and honor to the Son,
praise and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one:
one in might and one in glory while unending ages run!

Stand

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

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.**

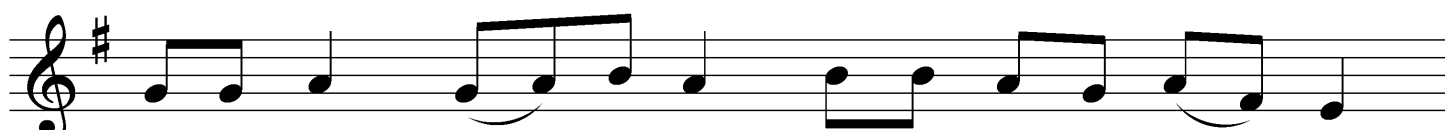
Silence for meditation and reflection

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.

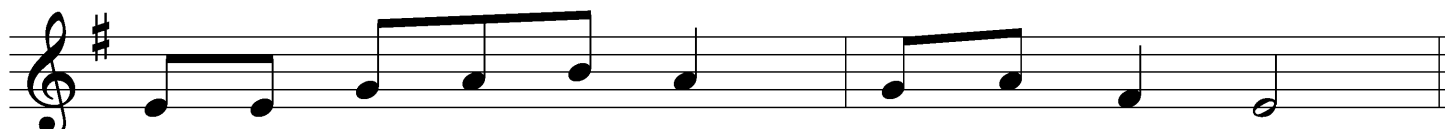
LORD, HAVE MERCY



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



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



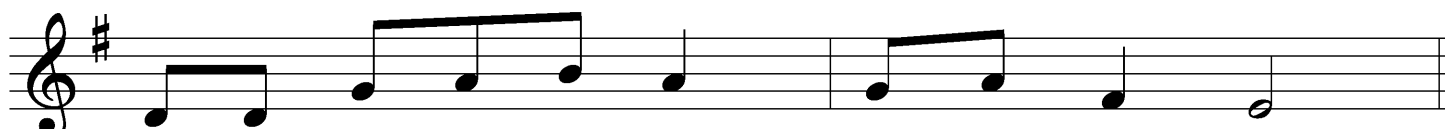
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



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



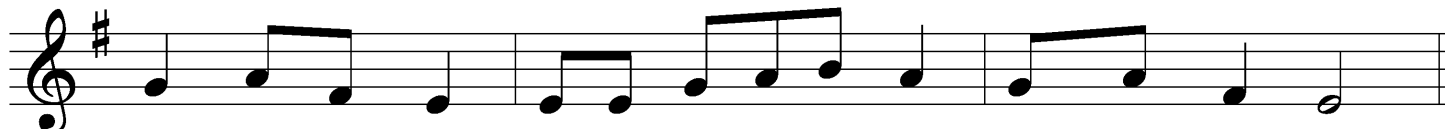
of the Church of God, and for the un - i - ty of all,



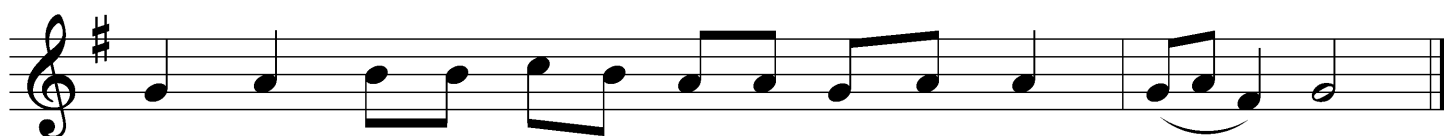
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



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

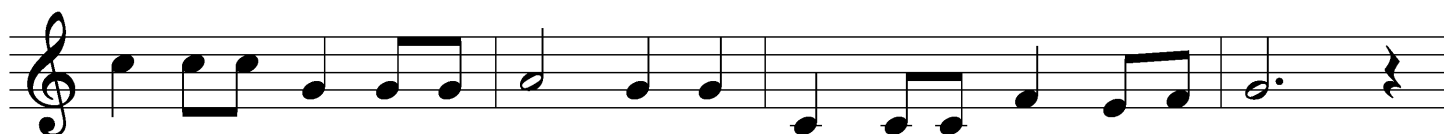


wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

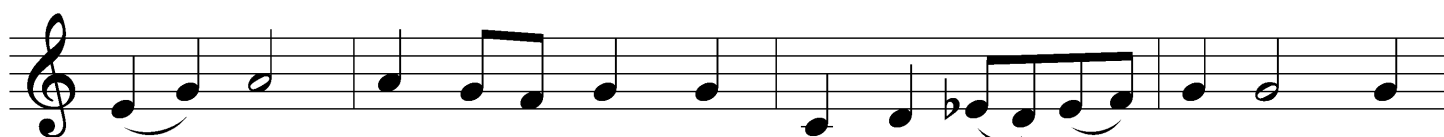


Help, save, com-fort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

GLORY TO GOD



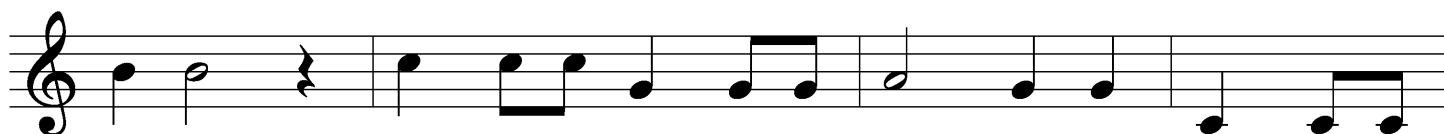
Glo-ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



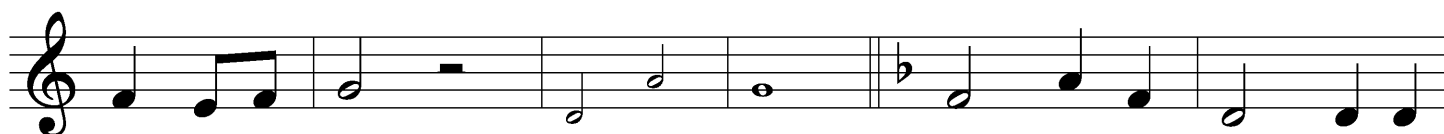
Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa-ther. We



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

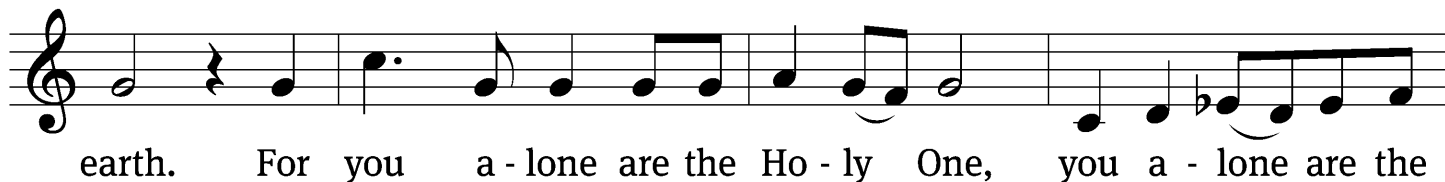
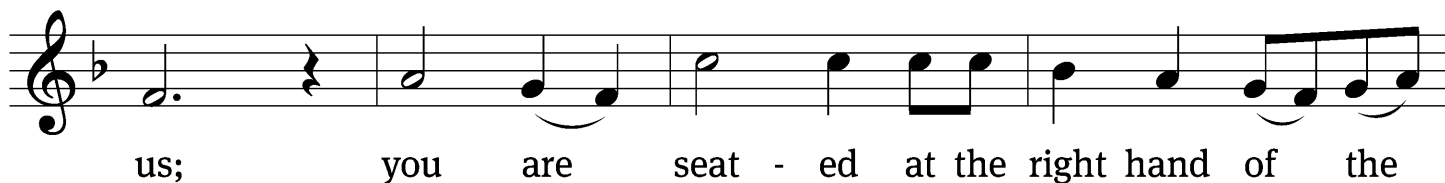
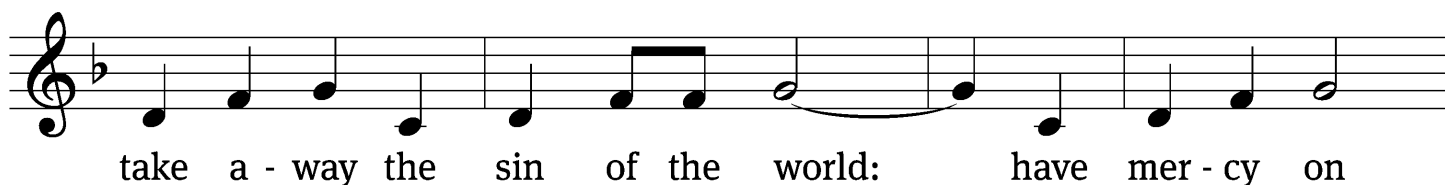


peo - ple on earth.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



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





The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, by your great goodness, mercifully look upon your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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

ANTHEM 8 & 9:30am ***Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus*** arr. Dan Forrest

*Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure,
Flee the world which would deceive us, where to sin our hearts are lured.
Ever in his footsteps treading, living here, yet home above,
Full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Father's bidding,
Faithful Lord, abide with me; Savior lead, I follow thee.*

*Let us also die with Jesus, by his cross he conquer'd death,
Freed us from our souls' destruction, quickened us with life's new breath.
Let us mortify, while living, flesh and blood and die to sin,
And the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate to heaven,
Jesus, here I die to thee, there to live eternally.*

*Let us gladly live with Jesus, he is risen from the dead.
Death is swallowed up in vict'ry, Jesus thou art now our Head.
Living members of thy body, where thou livest, we shall be,
Thou wilt keep us constantly, even so, dear Lord, come quickly,
Jesus, here I live to Thee, there to dwell eternally.
Let us ever walk with Jesus.*

FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:16–21

¹⁶ This is what the LORD says— he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters,

¹⁷ who drew out the chariots and horses, the army and reinforcements together, and they lay there, never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:

¹⁸ “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.

¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

²⁰ The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen,
²¹ the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

God Is the Strength of My Heart

Psalm 73

Choir will sing the first refrain and odd stanzas; Congregation will sing the refrain, even verses and the Gloria Patri

Refrain



God is the strength of my heart and my por-tion for-ev - er.

As for me, my feet had / almost slipped;

I had nearly lost my / foothold.

For I envied the / arrogant

when I saw the prosperity of the / wicked.

It troubled me deeply till I entered the sanctuary / of God;

then I understood their final / destiny. *Refrain*

**You guide me with your / counsel,
and afterward you will take me into / glory.**

Whom have I in / heav'n but you?

And earth has nothing I desire be- / sides you.

**My flesh and my / heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion for- / ever.**

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

SECOND READING

Philippians 3:4b–14

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

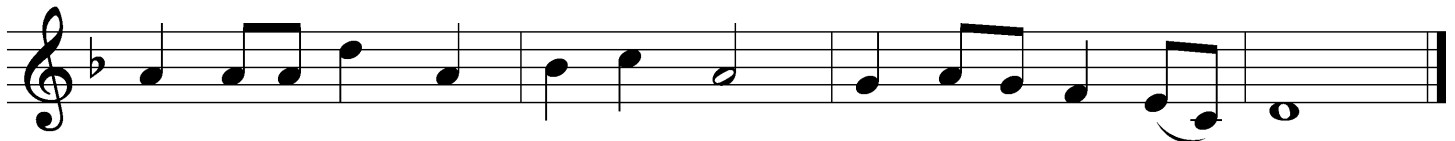
Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 118:22



Refrain



Glo - ry to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, Son of the liv - ing God.

Tone



The stone the builders re - ject - ed has become the cor - ner - stone.

GOSPEL

Luke 20:9–19

⁹ He went on to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard, rented it to some farmers and went away for a long time. ¹⁰ At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants so they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. ¹¹ He sent another servant, but that one also they beat and treated shamefully and sent away empty-handed. ¹² He sent still a third, and they wounded him and threw him out.

¹³ “Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my son, whom I love; perhaps they will respect him.’

¹⁴ “But when the tenants saw him, they talked the matter over. ‘This is the heir,’ they said. ‘Let’s kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ ¹⁵ So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

“What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? ¹⁶ He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others.”

When the people heard this, they said, “God forbid!”

¹⁷ Jesus looked directly at them and asked, “Then what is the meaning of that which is written:

“ ‘The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone’?”

¹⁸ Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.”

¹⁹ The teachers of the law and the chief priests looked for a way to arrest him immediately, because they knew he had spoken this parable against them. But they were afraid of the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness* CW 517

- 1 Praise the one who breaks the darkness with a liberating light;
 praise the one who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight.
 Praise the one who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease,
 calming storms and feeding thousands with the Father's word of peace.
- 2 Praise the one who blessed the children with a strong, yet gentle, word;
 praise the one who drove out demons with the piercing, two-edged sword.
 Praise the one who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand;
 from this well comes living water, quenching thirst in ev'ry land.
- 3 Let us praise the Word incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place;
 Jesus died and rose victorious that we may know God by grace.
 Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done;
 let us praise the true Redeemer, praise the one who makes us one.

SERMON What Have I Given to the LORD Isaiah 43:16-21

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

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, [especially . . . here name the person and the cause of the petition]. 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

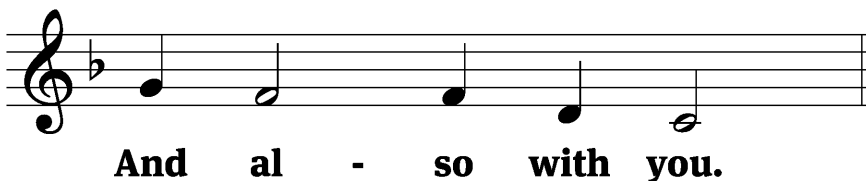
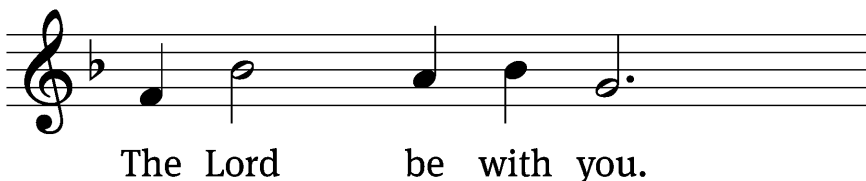
We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors, [especially . . . here name the person]. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

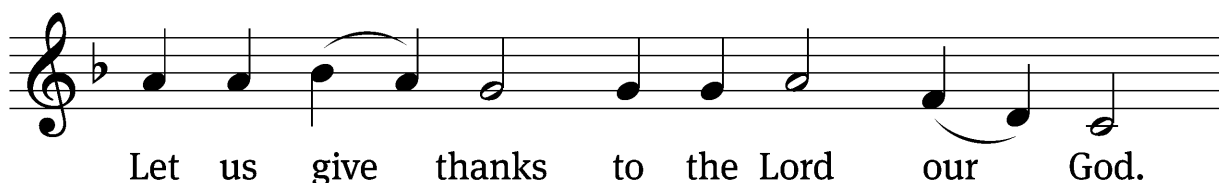
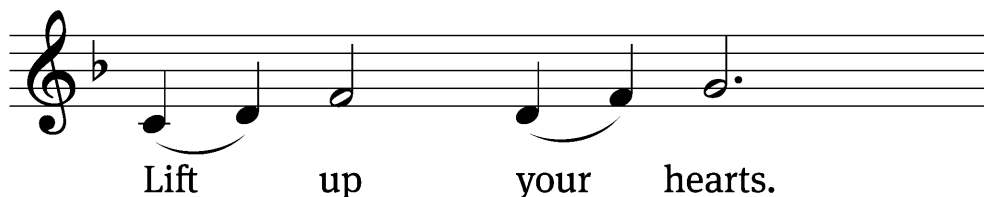
Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

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

OFFERING

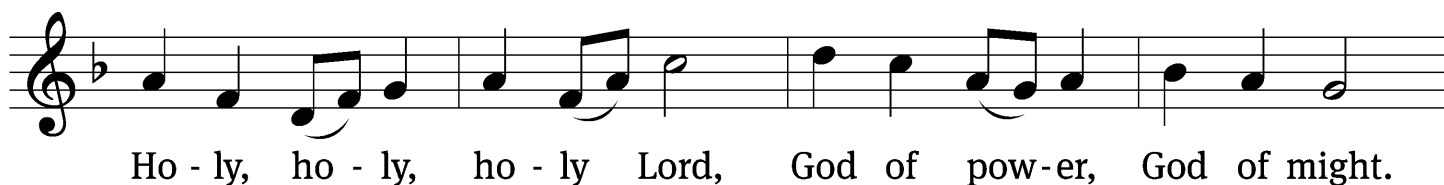
Stand





It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -

na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -

na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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

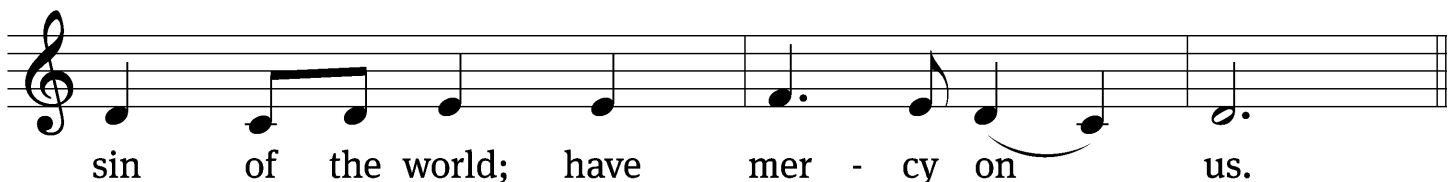
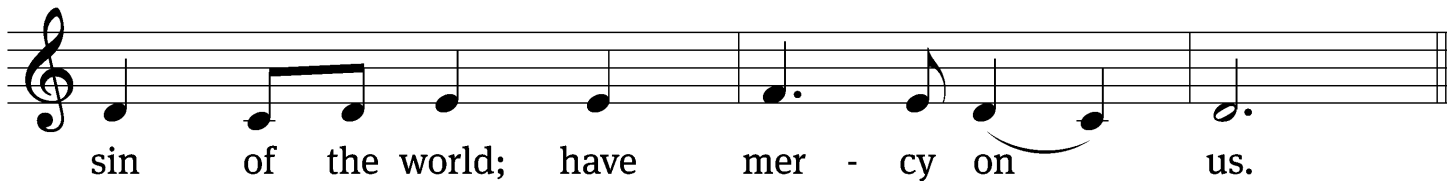
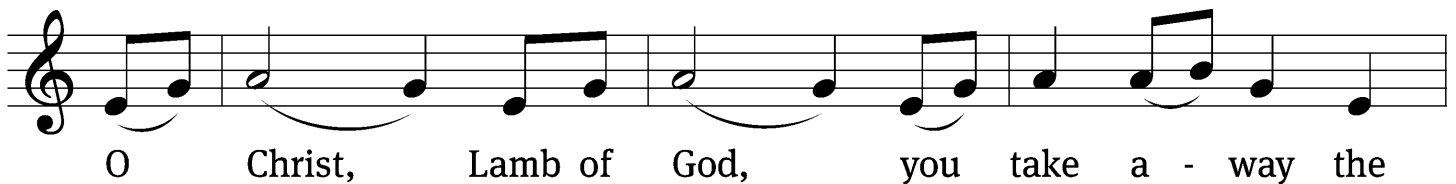
sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

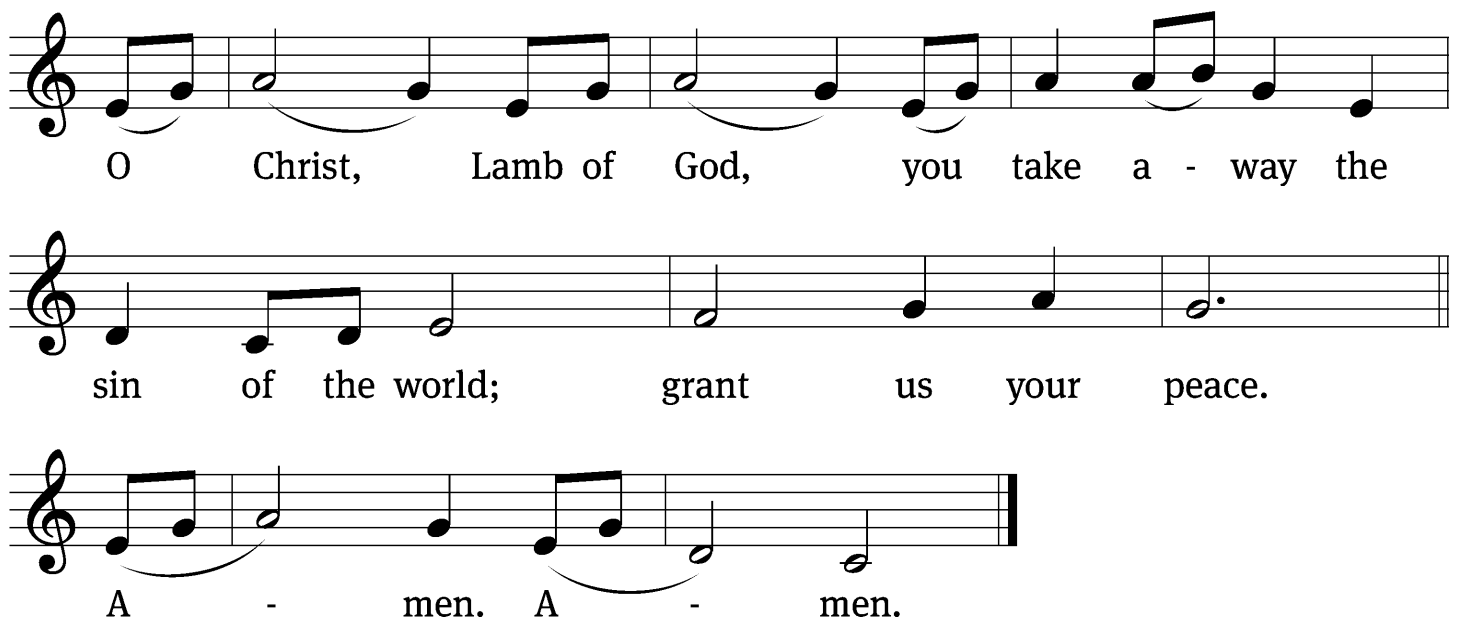
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my + 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.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD





Be seated

DISTRBUTION HYMN *Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face* CW 660

- 1 Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face;
here would I touch and handle things unseen,
here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace,
and all my weariness upon you lean.
- 2 This is the hour of banquet and of song;
this is the heav'nly table spread anew.
Here let me feast and, feasting, still prolong
the brief bright hour of fellowship with you.
- 3 I have no help but yours nor do I need
another arm but yours to lean upon.
It is enough, O Lord, enough indeed;
my strength is in your might, your might alone.
- 4 Mine is the sin but yours the righteousness;
mine is the guilt but yours the cleansing blood.
Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace:
your blood, your righteousness, O Lord, my God.

- 5 Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear;
the feast, though not the love, is past and gone.
The bread and wine remove, but you are here,
nearer than ever, still my shield and sun.
- 6 Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
the Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

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

ORGAN

CHOIR

TRUMPET

TIMPANI

Pastor Jeff Bovee
Pastor Rob Guenther
Jon Roux
Adrian Smith
Dan Borgwardt
Josiah Smith
Paige Berg

Acknowledgments

Setting Four from Christian Worship

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Welcome, Visitors!

Please scan the QR code to sign our guest register.



THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday	8, 9:30, 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class: Psalms
Monday	6:30	Elders Meeting
Tuesday	7 pm	Sunday School Meeting
Wednesday	11 am	Midweek Lenten Service
	3:30 pm	Public & Homeschool Catechism
	4, 6:30 pm	Midweek Lenten Service
	5 pm	Handbells
	6:30 pm	Bible Information Class
	7:15 pm	Choir
Thursday	10 am	Bible Class: Proverbs
	7 pm	Ask the Pastors Night
Friday	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: Vices and Virtues
Saturday	6:30 pm	Worship
Sunday, Apr. 13	8, 9:30, 11 am	Palm Sunday
	9:30 am	Bible Class
Monday, Apr. 14	6:30 pm	Evangelism Meeting
	7 pm	Education Meeting
Tuesday, Apr. 15	7 pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday, Apr. 16	6:30 pm	Confirmation Exam Practice
Thursday, Apr. 17	11 am	Maundy Thursday Service
	4 & 6:30 pm	Maundy Thursday Services
Friday, Apr. 18	12 pm	Tre Ore @ St. Paul's
	7 pm	Tenebrae

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for this past weekend was 553

Fruits of Faith:

\$12,461 Home Operations ~ Needed: \$231,373 / YTD: \$240,441
\$753 WELS Missions ~ YTD: \$24,464 (2025 Goal: \$87,000)
\$644 MVL ~ YTD: \$14,952 (2025 Goal: \$57,000)
\$105 K-12 Education Assistance
\$125 Undesignated Memorials
\$215 Food and Fellowship
\$18 Altar and Flowers
\$155 St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$15 Meditations
\$50 Technology Equipment

Ask the Pastors Evening ~ on April 10, 7–8 pm Come to the next “Ask the Pastor” evening and bring a friend! This is our third “Ask the Pastor” event which has turned out to be a fun and learning-filled evening. Bring your questions that evening or place your questions in the box on the table in the narthex area.

Easter Breakfast ~ Easter breakfast is quickly approaching! Signup sheets for food donations and volunteering on Easter morning can be found in the narthex. This year we will make the egg bakes in-house rather than catering them in. Be sure to join us for this wonderful fellowship opportunity!

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



Iris Boxes ~ The Iris Box Project is a continuing ministry at St. John's. Almost 100 boxes have been distributed since the ministry began. We need to replenish the supply and could use your help, whether it's with your time, talents, or treasures. If you would like to support the Iris Box Project, you may donate the amount for a box (approx. \$40/box) or any amount. You may include it in your offering envelope with “Iris Box Project” on the envelope. If you knit or crochet and would like to help by making small blankets, please contact Kelly by phone/text or email listed below. Yarn and specifications will be provided to you. If you are willing to donate your time by assembling boxes or other tasks, also please contact Kelly. The Iris

Box is designed to be given to families who lost their baby through miscarriage or stillbirth. The items included in the box are intended as a source of comfort and a symbol of our love and care. Members are welcomed and encouraged to pick up a box from the church office for any family member, friend, neighbor, co-worker, etc. who experiences a miscarriage or stillbirth. Please contact Kelly Diersen (507-766-9085), Catherine St. John (248-346-0402) or Sarah Strackbein (612-361-0425) email irisboxproject@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Church Softball League in New Ulm ~ Our St. John's slow pitch softball team needs players!! The season runs from early June through late July. Anyone age 13 and up are welcome to join the team! For more information please fill out the interest survey: bit.ly/SJChurchSoftball or scan the QR code:



2025 March Food Drive ~ Thanks to everyone who donated to the New Ulm Food Shelf during March. Our congregation donated 56 pounds of food and paper products and \$370 in cash donations. Your generosity will help many people in our community.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

OWL Meeting ~ Our local MN Valley Chapter 13 OWLS (Organization of Wels Lutheran Seniors) will be meeting on Monday, April 14, for a 10:30 AM gathering at St. John's Lutheran Church, New Ulm. Prof. Mark Paustian from MLC will talk about his book, "Sharing the Gospel Through Stories." After the presentation we will have a catered meal of beef and pork meats from Joni's Restaurant. The costs will be covered with Thrivent Action Team moneys. If you have not signed up and plan to attend, contact Myron Fluegge at flueggemtj@hotmail.com or phone 507-359-2424 by Wednesday noon, April 9, 2025, for a meal count. Hope you can make it.

St. Paul's Band Concert ~ The St. Paul School Raider Band will present its Spring Concert on May 1 at 7:00 in the school gymnasium. We are *Band, Raider Band 007* and *Band, Junior Band 008*, presenting a concert of spy music and other pieces including the James Bond Theme and Mission Impossible Theme. Join us for an evening of spy fun!

MLC Job Opening ~ Martin Luther College is accepting applications for a part-time Men's Assistant Soccer Coach. Interested individuals should apply online at mlc-wels.edu/hr/.

Easter Egg Hunt ~ will be held at 9 am on April 12 at St. Paul's Church. Families with children in grade 2 or younger are invited to join.

Mission Trip ~ If you are interested in participating in a Mission Trip this summer, please fill out the form at tinyurl.com/spmt25. Please contact Staff Minister Kuschel with any questions.

Open Positions at LMSG ~ Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG) is seeking a part-time paid bookkeeper to manage financial transactions, contributions, and reports for the organization. Additionally, there is a volunteer opening for an LMSG Their Stories Told interviewer/writer to share the stories of WELS/ELS Military Service Members. LMSG provides Christ-centered support to WELS and ELS Military Service Members, Veterans, and their Families. Learn more at www.lutheranmilitary.org.

Choral Concert ~ *Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See* Join the Southwest Area Lutheran Chorale for an inspiring choral concert featuring a mix of new music and beloved classics. Under the theme *Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See*, the choir will perform works by renowned composers including Pepper Choplin, Keith and Kristyn Getty, and Rosenphanye Powell. Don't miss this uplifting experience! Concerts will take place April 6th at 2:00 PM – Trinity Lutheran Church, Nicollet, MN and April 6th at 7:00 PM – Zion Lutheran Church, Sanborn, MN. We look forward to sharing this beautiful music with you! If you are unable to attend you can also go to <https://trinitynicollet.org/church/worship/livestream/> to watch.

MLC Recital ~ Martin Luther College senior Benjamin Foster presents his senior organ recital, *Bach Bossa Nova and the Boys* on April 12, 2025 at 3:00pm in the Chapel of the Christ. Foster is the second place winner of the Ottumwa National Organ competition and will be joined by Soprano Saxophonist Joseph Panning to present a wide array of music spanning centuries and various genres of organ literature. All are invited to join in this afternoon of invigorating organ music.

MLC Service ~ You are cordially invited to attend Martin Luther College's annual Lent Vespers service on Tuesday, April 15 at 7:30pm. The Women's Choir, Männerchor, and Chorale will be presenting Michael John Trotta's beautiful *Seven Last Words*. We hope you can make this annual service a meaningful part of your Holy Week.

St. Paul's School Dig in Gala ~ We are looking forward to celebrating the blessings of our school with the 6th Annual St. Paul's School Dig In Gala! The Gala will be held on Friday, May 9, at Turner Hall in New Ulm, with doors opening at 6:00pm. Individual and full-table tickets for the event are on sale NOW at <https://buytickets.at/digingala2025/1638380> or in the school office. Ticket proceeds, as well as donations made during the silent and live auctions - and other fun activities - will go to Phase 4 of the School Mortgage Campaign, It's Time. Encouraged dress for the event is business casual or dress with our Wild West theme for this year, if you wish. If you own a business that would like to be an event sponsor, please contact Amy Rich at stampinnut@me.com.



About the Cover ~ The Bible teaches us not to dwell on the glory days or reminisce about the past. Instead he tells us to "look forward in Christ." The glory days are now as we look to God and the promise of his blessings in the future. Through the forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ our Savior, we have God's blessings even here and now. And even though life sometimes is difficult, God promises to those who trust in him that ultimately it will be as if the dead, dried up desert becomes a verdant garden, and we will find true refreshment and contentment in the grace and mercy of God. It is ours, even here and now in Jesus our Lord.