

**St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church**  
**627 South Washington, New Ulm, Minnesota**



FOR YOU DID NOT RECEIVE THE SPIRIT  
OF SLAVERY TO FALL BACK INTO FEAR,

**BUT YOU HAVE  
RECEIVED THE SPIRIT  
OF ADOPTION AS SONS,**

BY WHOM WE CRY, "ABBA! FATHER!"

ROMANS 8:15

***Fifth Sunday in Lent***  
**March 21/22, 2026**

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**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

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**March 21/22, 2026**

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



**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:** God, we know that by nature we are slaves; slaves to sin, slaves to death, slaves to hell. But by your grace you sent your Son to shatter the chains that held us. Not only that, but you then adopted us as your own dearly loved sons and daughters. What grace! Help us to rejoice in the eternal inheritance that awaits us. And help us to live for you in thanks now. In Jesus' name we ask it. Amen.

<b>ORDER OF SERVICE</b>	<i>Service Setting 2</i>	pg. 172
<b>OPENING HYMN</b>	<i>God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It</i>	CW 679

*Stand*

<b>CONFESSION OF SINS</b>		pg. 173
<b>LORD HAVE MERCY</b>		pg. 174
<b>PRAYER OF THE DAY</b>		pg. 178

*Be seated*

<b>FIRST LESSON</b>	2 Kings 4:17-37
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<sup>17</sup> But the woman became pregnant, and the next year about that same time she gave birth to a son, just as Elisha had told her.

<sup>18</sup> The child grew, and one day he went out to his father, who was with the reapers. <sup>19</sup> He said to his father, "My head! My head!"

His father told a servant, "Carry him to his mother."<sup>20</sup> After the servant had lifted him up and carried him to his mother, the boy sat on her lap until noon, and then he died. <sup>21</sup> She went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, then shut the door and went out.

<sup>22</sup> She called her husband and said, "Please send me one of the servants and a donkey so I can go to the man of God quickly and return."

<sup>23</sup> “Why go to him today?” he asked. “It’s not the New Moon or the Sabbath.”  
“That’s all right,” she said.

<sup>24</sup> She saddled the donkey and said to her servant, “Lead on; don’t slow down for me unless I tell you.” <sup>25</sup> So she set out and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel.

When he saw her in the distance, the man of God said to his servant Gehazi, “Look! There’s the Shunammite! <sup>26</sup> Run to meet her and ask her, ‘Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is your child all right?’ ”

“Everything is all right,” she said.

<sup>27</sup> When she reached the man of God at the mountain, she took hold of his feet. Gehazi came over to push her away, but the man of God said, “Leave her alone! She is in bitter distress, but the LORD has hidden it from me and has not told me why.”

<sup>28</sup> “Did I ask you for a son, my lord?” she said. “Didn’t I tell you, ‘Don’t raise my hopes’?”

<sup>29</sup> Elisha said to Gehazi, “Tuck your cloak into your belt, take my staff in your hand and run. Don’t greet anyone you meet, and if anyone greets you, do not answer. Lay my staff on the boy’s face.”

<sup>30</sup> But the child’s mother said, “As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So he got up and followed her.

<sup>31</sup> Gehazi went on ahead and laid the staff on the boy’s face, but there was no sound or response. So Gehazi went back to meet Elisha and told him, “The boy has not awakened.”

<sup>32</sup> When Elisha reached the house, there was the boy lying dead on his couch. <sup>33</sup> He went in, shut the door on the two of them and prayed to the LORD. <sup>34</sup> Then he got on the bed and lay on the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hands. As he stretched himself out on him, the boy’s body grew warm. <sup>35</sup> Elisha turned away and walked back and forth in the room and then got on the bed and stretched out on him once more. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes.

<sup>36</sup> Elisha summoned Gehazi and said, “Call the Shunammite.” And he did. When she came, he said, “Take your son.” <sup>37</sup> She came in, fell at his feet and bowed to the ground. Then she took her son and went out.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM OF THE DAY** *Remember Your Mercy, O LORD*

Psalm 130B

*Refrain*

Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O LORD;  
re - mem - ber your mer - cy and love.

*Tone*

Out of the depths I cry to / you, LORD;  
Lord, / hear my voice.  
Let your ears be at- / tentive  
to my cry for / mercy.  
If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, / who could stand?  
But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, / serve you.

Out of the depths I cry to / you, LORD;

Lord, / hear my voice.

Let your ears be at- / tentive

to my cry for / mercy.

If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, / who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, / serve you.

*Refrain*

I wait for the LORD, my whole / being waits,  
and in his word I / put my hope.

I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the / morning,  
more than watchmen wait for the / morning.

Israel, put your hope / in the LORD,

for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full re- / demption.

He himself will redeem / Israel

from / all their sins.

**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 LESSON

Romans 8:11-19

<sup>11</sup> And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. <sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

<sup>14</sup> For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. <sup>15</sup> The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. <sup>17</sup> Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

<sup>18</sup> I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

# GOPSEL ACCLAMATION

John 11:25



## Refrain

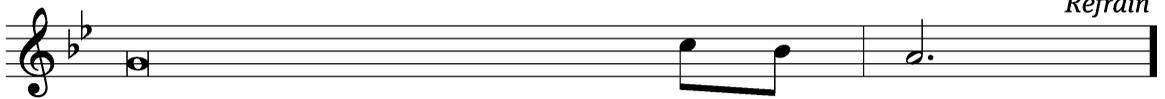


Praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, king of end - less glo - ry.

## Tone



I am the resurrection and the life.



Those who believe in me will live, even though they die.

## Refrain

# GOSPEL

John 11:17-27,38-45

<sup>17</sup> On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, <sup>19</sup> and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

<sup>21</sup> “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

<sup>24</sup> Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; <sup>26</sup> and whoever lives by

believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

<sup>27</sup> "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

<sup>38</sup> Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. <sup>39</sup> "Take away the stone," he said.

"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."

<sup>40</sup> Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

<sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

<sup>43</sup> When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

<sup>45</sup> Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Our Father, by Whose Name*

CW 761

**SERMON**

Welcome to the Family

Romans 8:11-19

I. You're Children of God

II. You're Heirs of God

*Stand*

**APOSTLES' CREED** pg. 181

*Be seated*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** pg. 182

**OFFERING**

**HYMN** *Christ Be My Leader* CW 518

*Stand*

**PRAYER AND BLESSING** pg. 171

**CLOSING HYMN** *Children of the Heavenly Father* CW 502

**PREACHER** Pastor Rob Guenther  
**ORGANIST** Craig Hirschmann

**MLC LECTORS** ~ Throughout the year, St. John's asks men who are studying for the pastoral ministry to read for a service. We are in a privileged position to see our Lord's answer to our prayers for future called workers.

6:30 pm	Michael Griffith	Mount Calvary Lutheran, Redding, CA
8 am	Titus Doletzky	Salem Lutheran, Escanaba, MI
9:30 am	Juan Carrasquero	Huntersville Lutheran, Huntersville, NC

**Acknowledgments**

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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### **THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S**

Sunday	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Sunday School & Bible Class
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
	7:15 pm	Choir
Thursday	10 am	Bible Class – Simple Way to Pray
	7 pm	Bible Class – The Life of David
Saturday	8:30 am	Easter for Kids
	6:30 pm	Worship

### **NEXT WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S**

Sunday, Mar. 29 <sup>th</sup>	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 pm	Sunday School & Bible Class
Thursday, Apr. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	11 am	Maundy Thursday Service
	4 & 6:30 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
	7:30 pm	Choir
Friday, Apr. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	12 pm	Tre Ore Service @ St. Paul's
	7 pm	Tenebrae Service
Saturday, Apr. 5 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	No Worship

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance last weekend was 137 with 121 receiving the Lord's Supper.

### **Fruits of Faith:**

\$10,629 Home Operations ~ Needed: \$189,523 / YTD: \$193,150
\$2,014 WELS Missions ~ YTD: \$19,731 (2026 Goal: \$100,701)
\$1,377 MVL ~ YTD: \$12,591 (2026 Goal: \$62,278)
\$0 Wish List: Piano ~ YTD: \$19,315 (\$21,400)
\$145 Building Fund
\$307 Food + Fellowship
\$85 St. Paul's School Building Fund

**Host Families Needed!** ~ On April 11-12, Martin Luther College will host the WELS National Handbell Festival. St. John's has the privilege of hosting the bell choir from Luther Preparatory School and Wisconsin Lutheran High School. There are 12 students in the choir from LPS and we already have hosts for 6 of them. We need host families for six girls. There are 10 students from Wisco. There's a group of 3 boys, a group of 3 girls and 2 pairs of girls. The host family would need to pick up the students on Friday, April 10, in the evening when they arrive. On Saturday morning the host would take them to MLC. All three meals for Saturday are provided by MLC for the students. Hosts would then pick up the students Saturday evening. On Sunday, the host would provide breakfast and take the students to church and worship with them. The students would also need a sack lunch for Sunday. Finally, the host would drop the students off at MLC later Sunday morning. Please contact Laura Balza by March 23 if you are able to host. Thank you!

**Easter Breakfast** ~ Easter is just a few weeks away which means the signup sheets for Easter breakfast are out in the narthex. Please consider signing up to bring one of the listed items and enjoy the celebration of Easter with us from 8:00-9:00 AM on Easter Sunday morning! If you have any questions you are welcome to contact Carrie Schaefer at [carriehieb@yahoo.com](mailto:carriehieb@yahoo.com).

**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 Preschool 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](mailto:ehunter02@icloud.com) or 507-766-3658.



**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!

**Church Cleaning** ~ An indoor/outdoor work day is scheduled for Saturday, April 18th from 9-11 a.m. It is a come and go event. Men, women, and children are needed. For the outdoor work garden rakes, wheelbarrows, and shovels will be needed; please bring what you can. Many hands make light work! All cleaning supplies will be provided. Questions? Contact Sarah Logston (507-766-6455) or Mikal Schwark (507-304-3121).

## AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

**New Ulm Food Shelf** ~ St. John's is sponsoring a food drive for the New Ulm Emergency Food Shelf during March. The New Ulm Food Shelf serves people in New Ulm, Lafayette, Hanska, Searles, Essig, and Courtland. We are collecting monetary donations and non-perishable food items (See the poster in the Narthex for ideas of what to donate). Place food items in the boxes in the narthex and monetary donations in a clearly marked envelope in the offering plate (if you write a check, please make it payable to the New Ulm Emergency Food Shelf) by Sunday, March 29. For questions, contact Deb Beatty (507-276-2722) or Carla Melendy (507-217-9750).

**MVL Concert** ~ The MVL Music Department invites you to its annual Spring Sacred Concert on Wednesday, April 1, at 7:00 p.m. in the MVL Fine Arts Center. This year's program, themed What Wondrous Love, will celebrate the Lent and Easter seasons with performances by the A Cappella Choir, Freshmen Choir, MVL Chargaliers, and the Symphonic Band. A freewill offering will be collected.

**MVL to Recognize Service in the Ministry** ~ In conjunction with the Spring Sacred Concert on Wednesday, April 1, Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School will give thanks to God for Mrs. Rebecca Berg and her forty years of service in the ministry. In addition, MVL will also recognize with appreciation the ministry of Mr. Rollin Timm and Mr. Craig Morgan as they retire from their service at the close of this current school year. The concert will begin at 7:00 in the Fine Arts Center at MVL, and this recognition will take place during the concert. Following the concert, there will be a reception in the Activities Commons. All are invited to attend.

**About the Cover** ~ Think of what changes would take place in the life of an orphan at his or her adoption! From homeless to having a loving home. From no parents or family to a loving mom or dad or both! From having practically nothing to expectation of an inheritance received that parents pass along when they die. What far more drastic changes have taken place for us who have been adopted into God's family. We are forgiven of our sins. But we're also God's dearly loved children, whom he promises to take care of always! We inherit not just cash, a car, or a home; we inherit a room in the mansion of God's house in heaven! What grace upon grace!