



GOD IS LOVE.



Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 4 / 5, 2024



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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.

Prayer before worship: O great God of love, who sent your only begotten Son to live and die for us: Motivate us this day by your love to love and serve you. Compel us by the love of Jesus to give you our all and best, whether in our expressions of worship, our offerings, our deeds done through faith, our words, or our thoughts. Lead us by your grace so that empowered by the gospel we love others as you, Lord, have loved us. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Order of Service: *Christian Worship The Service: Setting Three* page 188

OPENING HYMN *How Deep the Father's Love for Us* **CW 523**

CONFESSION p. 188

FIRST LESSON **Acts 9:36–42**

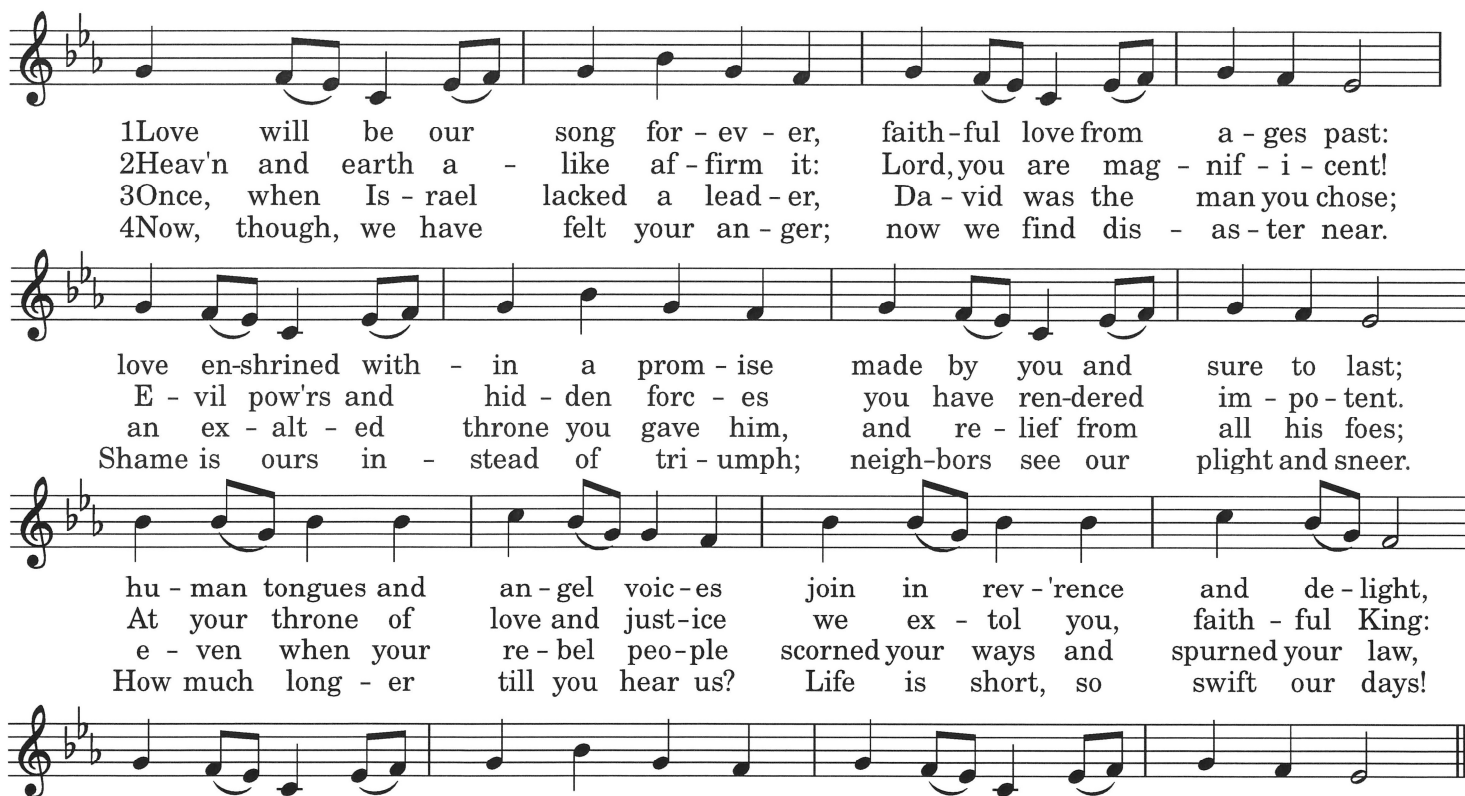
³⁶In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. ³⁷About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. ³⁸Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!"

³⁹Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

⁴⁰Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. ⁴¹He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. ⁴²This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM of the DAY***Love Enduring Evermore*****Psalm 89C**

1 Love will be our song for - ev - er, faith - ful love from a - ges past:
2 Heav'n and earth a - like af - firm it: Lord, you are mag - nif - i - cent!
3 Once, when Is - rael lacked a lead - er, Da - vid was the man you chose;
4 Now, though, we have felt your an - ger; now we find dis - as - ter near.

love en - shrined with - in a prom - ise made by you and sure to last;
E - vil pow'rs and hid - den forc - es you have ren - dered im - po - tent.
an ex - alt - ed throne you gave him, and re - lief from all his foes;
Shame is ours in - stead of tri - umph; neigh - bors see our plight and sneer.

hu - man tongues and an - gel voic - es join in rev - 'rence and de - light,
At your throne of love and just - ice we ex - tol you, faith - ful King:
e - ven when your re - bel peo - ple scorned your ways and spurned your law,
How much long - er till you hear us? Life is short, so swift our days!

prais - ing your un - ri - valed splen - dor, lov - ing Lord, the God of might.
blest are those who learn to trust you - they have am - ple cause to sing.
still your prom - ise shaped the fu - ture: love en - dur - ing ev - er - more.
Lord, re - new the love you prom - ised - fill your peo - ple's hearts with praise.

SECOND LESSON**1 John 4:7–11,19–21**

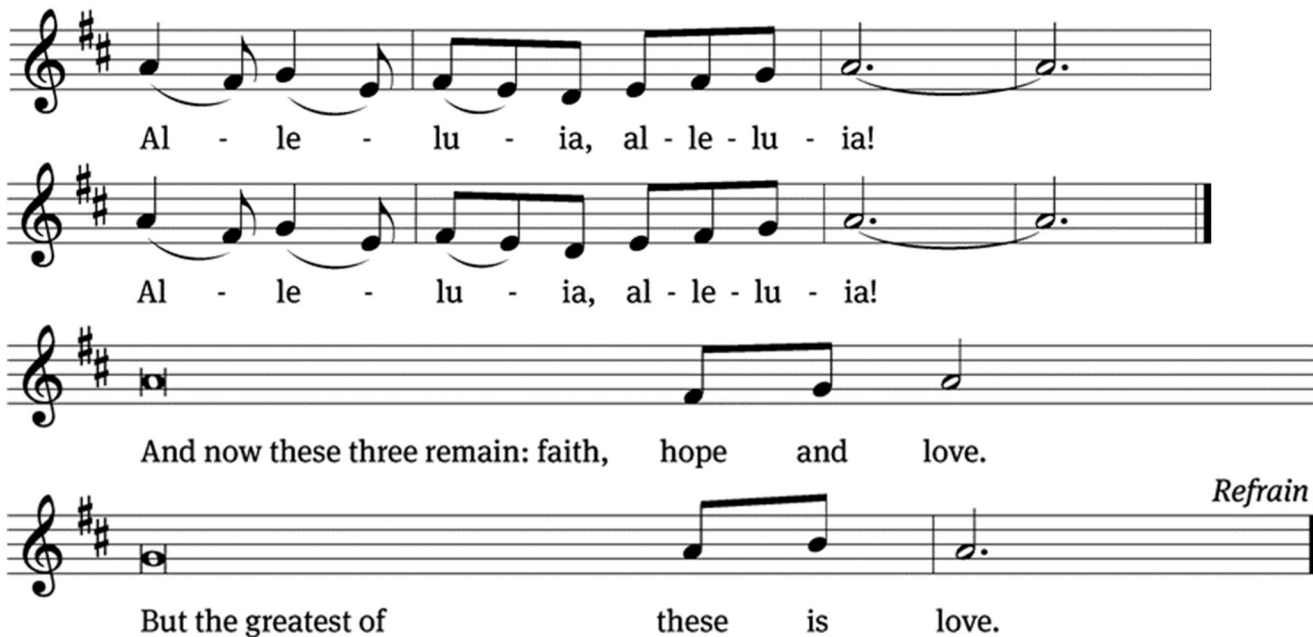
⁷Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.

But the greatest of these is love. *Refrain*

GOSPEL

John 15:9–17

⁹“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN of the DAY

This Is My Will

CW728

SERMON

1 John 4:7-11, 19-21

GOD IS LOVE

- 1. GOD DEMONSTRATED HIS LOVE THROUGH CHRIST**
- 2. WE LOVE BECAUSE GOD LOVED US FIRST**

NICENE CREED

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OFFERING / COMMUNION

If you are not a member of a WELS/ELS congregation, please see the explanation.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord* **CW 677**

PRAYERS and BLESSING

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† † †

PREACHER
PRESIDING MINISTER
ORGAN

Pastor Jeff Bovee
Pastor Rob Guenther
Adrian Smith



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

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sun	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Sunday School and Bible Class: Worship
Mon	6:30 pm	Elders Meeting
Tue	7 pm	Women of St. John's Meeting
Thu	4 & 6:30 pm	Ascension Services
Fri	7 am	Early Bird Bible Class: Paul's Letters to the Thessalonians
	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: Mary: Mother of God
	6 pm	St. Paul's School Dig-In Gala
Sat	3:30 pm	Basement Reserved
	6:30 pm	Worship

† Upcoming Services †

Saturday: 6:30 pm
Sunday: 8, 9:30 & 11 am

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 12	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Sunday School and Bible Class: Worship
	2 pm	Church reserved
May 13	6 pm	Evangelism Meeting
	7 pm	Education Meeting
May 14	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
May 16	10:30 am	Bible Class: The I AM Statements of Jesus
	11:45 am	Stewardship Meeting at MLC
	7 pm	Bible Class: Jude and 2 Peter
May 17	7 am	Early Bird Bible Class: Paul's Letters to the Thessalonians
	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: Mary: Mother of God
	7 pm	MLC Commencement Concert
May 18	9 am	Greeter / Usher Training
	10 am	MLC Commencement Service
	2:30 pm	MLC Call Service
	6:30 pm	Worship
May 19	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
May 21	5:30 pm	Joint Council Meeting
	7 pm	Council Meeting
May 22	6:30 pm	St. Paul's School Closing Service at MLC
May 23	10:30 am	Bible Class: The I AM Statements of Jesus
	7 pm	Bible Class: Jude and 2 Peter
May 24	10 am	Sunset Apt. Service
	11 am	Highland Regency Service
May 25	6:30 pm	Worship

Go to www.stjohnsnewulm.com/calendar for more events

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 691.

Fruits of faith given:

\$10,311	Home Operations ~ <i>Needed to Date: \$299,644 / Received to Date: \$329,515</i>	
\$1,072	MVL ~ <i>Received to Date: \$20,540</i>	\$200 K-12 Education Assistance
\$862	Missions ~ <i>Received to Date: \$29,137</i>	\$130 St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$732	Building Fund	\$103 Food & Fellowship
\$160	Ministerial Student Scholarship Fund	\$100 Technology Equipment
\$15	Sanctuary Renovation	

In Your Church Mailbox ~ is the 2024 Women of St. John's Handbook. If you would like a box, please contact the church office at office@stjohnsnewulm.com or 354-6744.

Stump the Pastor ~ Do you have any questions that you wish you could ask a pastor? Perhaps a question came to you in a Bible study and you thought it would take too long to answer, or seemed too off-track, or perhaps it's a question that you have wondered about from time to time and never asked. Tuesday, May 7, at 7 pm, the Women of St. John's are hosting a Stump the Pastors night, open to everyone. A box is available in the narthex to place your questions. A sign-up sheet is located next to the box for you to sign up to help us plan for refreshments.

Volunteers Needed ~ Many hands help make an outreach event go smoothly, and with 100-150 kids participating in Summer Soccer Camp, please consider joining the Soccer Camp team! There are a variety of ways you can help, from first aid tent to snacks to coaching! Sign up now at johnandpaulministries.com! Questions? Reach out to Beth Scharf (JPM event coordinator) at scharfbm@mlc-wels.edu.

Summer Soccer Camp 2024 Registration NOW OPEN! ~ Join John and Paul Ministries June 3-6, 2024, from 9-11:30 am at the MLC Soccer Fields as experienced leaders and coaches help children ages 4-10 improve their soccer skills through skill practice and scrimmages and learn the love of Jesus through daily devotions! \$30/child (\$20 additional children of the same family.) Register now at johnandpaulministries.com! Registration deadline is May 12. Questions? Reach out to camp coordinator Nick Schmoller at nick.schmoller@gmail.com.

Renovation Prep Volunteers Needed ~ In preparation for the renovation, the vestry and sacristy closets need to be emptied in order for flooring to be installed in early June. A date has been set for Monday, May 20, at 6:30 pm. With enough volunteers it should only take about an hour. Pastors and Staff Minister will be there to help sort the items. "Many hands make light work" - hope to see you there.

St. John's Cancer Group ~ will meet on Sunday, June 2 at 3 pm in the church basement fellowship area. Our purpose is encouragement from God's Word and each other. Consider coming if you have experienced a cancer diagnosis of any kind, either recently or at any time in the past. Our gatherings are not just for the person diagnosed with cancer. Spouses, adult family members, or other support persons are also very welcome to attend. For more information contact Wayne Wagner at wwagner50@outlook.com.

Ministerial Student Scholarship Fund ~ We are pleased to report that for the 2024-25 school year there are 11 students from St. John's who are planning to attend Martin Luther College or Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary to prepare for serving in the public ministry. To encourage these students and assist in meeting the rising cost of their education, we plan to send MLC and WLS financial assistance to be applied to each student's account. As of April 14, \$4,760 has been contributed. Please consider making a special offering for this purpose. MLC's Congregational Partner Grant Program will match the support that a congregation provides up to \$1,450 per student. If you make a contribution for this purpose, please indicate whether you want your offering to go to the regular Ministerial Student Assistance Fund or to the Ministerial Student Assistance Endowment Fund. Offerings to the endowment fund are invested, and only the investment earnings are distributed each year. Offerings to the regular student assistance fund are distributed in the current school year.

Summer Church Softball ~ Our St John's slow-pitch softball team season runs from early June to early August. All St John's members age 12 and older are welcome to join! If you are interested in playing please fill out the survey at bit.ly/SJNUSB.



Church Campout 2024 ~ We are excited to announce that after taking a year off, the church campout is back on the calendar for June 21-23! It will be held again at the Sportsmen's Park in Sleepy Eye. Like in previous years, there will be a church service held at the campground over the weekend, and there will be several other fellowship opportunities as well. Reserve your spot at: bit.ly/ChurchCampout24. We hope to see many of you there!

You Are Invited to Usher/Greeter Training ~ Are you interested in serving at church in a different way? Consider joining an usher crew or greeter team. We will meet on Saturday, May 18th, from 9 - 10:30 am to review basic usher and greeter duties, such as greeting worshippers, lighting candles, and collecting the offering. Currently, the usher program serves as an entry point for male leadership at St. John's. With this in mind, the usher program is open to males in confirmation class in 7th grade and higher. Greeter teams are open to students in confirmation class, 7th grade and higher. Contact Deacon Brad Price at deacon@stjohnsnewulm.com if you are interested or if you have any questions.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

MLC Children's Theater ~ Join us on May 4 for Martin Luther College children's theatre production of *Alice in Wonderland*! In this endearing version of Lewis Carroll's memorable story, Alice's quest to find the Queen's missing tarts leads her through a maze of incredible and suspenseful adventures, along with familiar characters and events from the classic story. Tickets are \$3 for all attendees and will be sold at the door only, beginning 30 minutes before each show time. Visit mlc-wels.edu/forum for more information.

Teacher Appreciation Week at St. Paul's School ~ Howdy! This year, National Teacher Appreciation Week is May 6th -10th and we are celebrating our teachers with a whole rootin' tootin' western-themed Teacher Appreciation Week hootenanny! We're fixin' to show our

gratitude bigger than a Texas two-step!

So, mosey on over to <https://signup.com/go/ekLOduS> and sign up to lend a hand, or donate what you can. Together, we'll make it a week the teachers won't soon forget!

OWLS Meeting ~ Our local MN Valley Chapter 13 OWLS (Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors) will be traveling to Madelia for a noon meal at the La Plaza Fiesta Mexican Restaurant on Wednesday, May 15. Each person will order their own meal, with part of it covered by Thrivent Action Team moneys. Following the meal, we will walk/drive to The Greenhouse at Total Landscape for a tour. Those who are willing to drive or want a ride should meet at 11:15 am at the St. Paul's Church, New Ulm, parking lot. Contact Myron Fluegge at flueggemtj@hotmail.com or call 507-359-2424 by Monday noon, May 13 if you plan to attend. Hope you are interested.

Preschool Cleaning Party ~ Don't miss this fun fellowship event on Thursday, May 30 from 9 am - noon (at the latest). A sloppy joe lunch will be provided to all volunteers. There will be indoor and outdoor cleaning options. To RSVP or ask questions contact Heidi Meyer at hmeyer@splnewulm.org.

"Camp Shetek" MN Valley Lutheran Camp ~ "Camp Shetek" will be held at the Group Center at Sibley State Park from June 16 - June 22. More information can be found in the narthex and online. Online registration is open at www.campshetek.org.

About the Cover ~ Using a bit of clever lighting, the undisclosed photographer used a small model of the crown of thorns to cast a shadow on the pages of a Bible to form a heart. What beautiful symbolism. Here we are reminded that God's love for us was made known, not merely in words, but also in action. We know God loves us because he did not spare his only begotten Son, but sent Jesus to wear the crown of thorns, to endure shame and mockery, to be beaten and mistreated, and finally, to die on the cross bearing our sin to pay the debt we owed to God. It is God's love for us that motivates us to love him and to love one another, for God is love.