

But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it-- he will be blessed in what he does.



*James 1:25
Free to serve Christ.*

SERVICE OF MORNING PRAISE

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday, September 12, 2021



St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

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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.

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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Prayer before worship: Almighty God, by whose grace we have been set free from Satan's power so that we have now become the servants of Christ our King: Grant us strength and comfort through your precious Word. Give us the confidence of knowing that all we ask in Jesus' name, according to your will, is ours. By your Holy Spirit, direct us so that we not only hear your Word, but also do what it says. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

Order of Service: Morning Praise page 45

OPENING HYMN *Praise the Almighty; My Soul, Adore Him* **CW235**

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!

Please stand

M: O Lord, open my lips.

♪: **And my mouth shall declare your praise.**

M: Hasten to save me, O God.

♪: **O Lord, come quickly to help me.**

M: Praise be to God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: let us worship him.

♪: Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving, let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise. For the Lord is a great God and a great king above all gods. The deep places of the earth are in his hand; the heights of the hills are also his. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hand formed the dry land. Oh, come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our maker. For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Be seated

LESSON

Isaiah 35:4-7a

<p>Say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save</p>	<p>you." Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.</p>	<p>Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs.</p>
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PSALM

Psalm 146

p. 7

Please stand

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 7:31-37

<p>Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged him to place his hand on the man. After he took him aside, away from the</p>	<p>crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means, "Be opened!"). At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. Jesus</p>	<p>commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."</p>
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SEASONAL RESPONSE

Give thanks to the Lord; call on his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.

Be seated

1. Lord of glory, you have bought us With your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice,
And with that have freely given Blessings countless as the sand
To th' unthankful and the evil With your own unsparing hand.
2. Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you Gladly, freely, of your own.
With the sunshine of your goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by you, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.
3. Wondrous honor you have given To our humblest charity
In your own mysterious sentence, "You have done it unto me."
Can it be, O gracious Master, That you need what we can do,
Saying by your poor and needy, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?
4. Yes, the sorrow and the suff'rings Which on ev'ry hand we view
Channels are for gifts and off'rings Due by solemn right to you,
Right of which we may not rob you, Debt we may not choose but pay
Lest that face of love and pity Turn from us another day.
5. Lord of glory, you have bought us With your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust you boldly, Hope, to stay our souls on you;
But, oh, best of all your graces, With your love our love renew.

SERMON**James 1:16-27**

Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that

God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and

continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it-- he will be blessed in what he does. If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

SET FREE FROM SIN TO SERVE THE LORD

1. OUR SALVATION IS THE WORK OF CHRIST
2. OUR GOOD WORKS ARE THE FRUIT OF OUR SALVATION

Please stand

WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD

♪: We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the pow'rs of heav'n, cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of heav'nly hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.

The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you: Father of majesty unbounded, your glorious, true, and only Son, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. You, Christ, are the King of glory, the eternal Son of the Father.

When you became man to set us free, you humbled yourself to be born of a virgin. You overcame the sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father. We believe that you will come to be our judge.

Come then, Lord, and help your people, bought with the price of your own blood, and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting.

OFFERING

see announcement

LORD, HAVE MERCY

M: In the morning, O Lord, I call to you; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.

♪: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

M: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

M: Let us praise the Lord.

♪: Thanks be to God.

M: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

♪: Amen.

Be seated

CLOSING HYMN

Blest Be the God of Israel

CW275

1. Blest be the God of Israel, Who comes to set us free;
He visits and redeems us; He grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, Of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill his promise And bring his people peace.
2. He from the house of David A child of grace has giv'n;
A Savior comes among us To raise us up to heav'n.
Before him goes his herald, Forerunner in the way,
The prophet of salvation, The harbinger of day.
3. On prisoners of darkness The sun begins to rise,
The dawning of forgiveness Upon the sinner's eyes.
He guides the feet of pilgrims Along the paths of peace.
Oh, bless our God and Savior With songs that never cease!

† † †

PREACHER
PRESIDING MINISTER
ORGANIST

Pastor Jeffrey Bovee
Pastor Rob Guenther
Rachel Feld

Welcome, Visitors!

Please scan the code
to sign our
Guest Register.





I will praise your name for - ev-er, my King and my God.



Praise the LORD, O my soul.*

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Do not put your trust in princes,*
in mortal men, who cannot save.

Blessed is he whose hope is in the LORD his God,*
the maker of heaven and earth.

Refrain

The LORD gives food to the hungry,*
the LORD sets prisoners free.

The LORD gives sight to the blind,*
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down.

The LORD watches over the outcast*
and sustains the fatherless and the widow.

The LORD remains faithful forever.*
He upholds the cause of the oppressed.

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

Refrain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 466 with 392 attending Communion.

Fruits of faith given:

\$22,139	Home Operations ~ \$17,191 is our weekly need		
\$1,943	MVL ~ \$1,154 is our weekly need	\$2,900	Wish List: Door Inscriptions
\$1,565	Missions ~ \$1,731 is our weekly need	\$140	K-12 Education Assistance
\$1,015	Building Fund	\$20	St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$315	Ministerial Student Scholarship Fund		

Altar Flowers ~ have been given in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Wayne and Karen Wels.

Congregational Open Forum and Potluck ~ On Sunday, October 17th a congregational open forum will take the place of the 11 am service. We will have a short presentation by an architect that specializes in church renovations and remodels. Then, at the open forum we will discuss with him our sanctuary and possible renovations, what we need, what we'd like, and how we can best move forward with updates to our worship space. A potluck meal in the basement will follow the open forum. If you're able, please plan on attending, as your input is very valuable to our future plans!

There's An App for That! ~ St. John's now has her own app! Watch services streamed live on Sunday mornings at 8 am or watch previously recorded services. Get full access to the calendar, including registration for events. Listen to our choir's music. Even give securely online! You can do all this and more at the St. John's app! Search the iTunes or Google App app stores for "St Johns New Ulm" and download it today!

Music at St. John's ~ Choir rehearsals are in the balcony on Wednesdays at 7 pm. Contact Bethel Boeder at bethelj@b@gmail.com or 507-217-0182 with questions. Handbell rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 15, at 6 pm. Contact Becky Berg at rberg@mvlhs.org or 989-280-7674 with questions. What a privilege and joy to praise our Savior and proclaim the gospel message through music!

Prayer Calendar ~ In 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Paul told the Thessalonians to "pray continually." How are you doing with that? To help you with that endeavor the Evangelism board has put together a monthly prayer calendar. We hope it helps you as a daily reminder to pray continually! The Prayer calendars can be found in the narthex.

Cards of Caring ~ Our purpose is to remember our homebound members, our Befriend a Mission LWMS families, and others on our Thinking of You list with cards. Plans are to resume meeting on Saturday, September 18, at 403 N. Minnesota St. Come as your schedule allows between 9 am and 12 pm. We welcome members in grades 7 and older. MLC students are encouraged to join us. This is an opportunity for fellowship and service to the Lord. Contact Lois Willems at 507-676-1230 with questions.

Upcoming Bible Classes ~ will be in the basement and online at bit.ly/StJohnsBibleClass.

Sundays beginning September 12th at 9:30 am: Share Your Faith!

Thursdays beginning September 16th at 10:30 am: Book of Galatians

Thursdays beginning September 16th at 7 pm: *Adult Instruction Class

Fridays beginning September 10th at 9:30 am: Women's Class: Mama Bear Apologetics

***Adult Instruction Class:** Do you know of anyone who has expressed interest in St. John's and wants to know more about what we teach, or is interested in possibly joining and wants to know how? Here is a great opportunity. On Thursday nights from 7 - 8 pm this fall, Pastor Bovee will be offering an Adult Instruction Class (sometimes known as BIC -- "Bible Instruction Class") which will take students through an overview of Christian doctrine. The course is designed to offer participants the opportunity to understand what we teach, to ask questions, and to be built up in the Christian faith. Upon completion of the course, if the participants are in agreement with what is taught, they may also apply for membership at St. John's. We also encourage members of St. John's to take the course as well since it is a good overview of basic Christian doctrine. So whether you are seeker or someone new to the Christian faith or a life-long member, you are welcome and encouraged to come.

Add Pictures to Online Church Directory ~ Please Add or Update your Picture online.

Sign into our new updated Online Church Directory for St. John's at

www.instantchurchdirectory.com using your email. People can take pictures with their phones and update the Directory quite easily. 1) Use the Menu on the phone app. 2) Select Edit My Family; 3) Choose a Photo; and select the picture you want. 4) Hit Save and you're done. If you are having trouble taking a picture, just ask a fellow member or usher to take your picture around the church or in the Narthex after church. You can also email a picture to Jim

at sm.dretske@stjohnsnewulm.com. Please feel free to reach out to Jim or Jesse Zahrt at thezahrts@gmail.com with questions.

New Email Addresses ~ All members with emails should be receiving emails from office@stjohnsnewulm.com and from Jim, Staff Minister, at sm.dretske@stjohnsnewulm.com. Please let the church office know if you are having trouble receiving emails. Please check your Junk Mail or SPAM folders for emails from the church or our church leaders. Add these new emails from our new domain to your contacts.

Offering Announcement ~ Visitors, there is no obligation or expectation that you should give to support our ministry at St. John's. This is our members' way of expressing their thanks to God and supporting the work that we do to share the Gospel in New Ulm and around the world.

Members, due to COVID restrictions we will not be passing the offering plates today. Instead you are invited to give your gifts of gratitude and thanks to God for all he's done for you in Christ by leaving your offerings in the drop box in the narthex. Or you can bring your offerings to the church office during regular office hours: Mondays through Fridays, 8am to 1pm. You might also consider taking advantage of your bank's online bill pay service and have your offering automatically sent to the church on a one time or recurring basis.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

OWLS ~ We have been advised to cancel the Monday, September 13 OWLS meeting at our churches because of the coronavirus peeking locally. But remember the October National Convention taking place right here in New Ulm. See you there.

MVL News ~ Palmer Bus Service provides safe and reliable transportation for MVL students. We are now hiring *school bus drivers* for the Mankato MVL route, as well as "activities" drivers for sporting competitions and events. These part-time positions include paid training! Contact Site Manager Ray Vulcan today at rayv@palmerbusservice.com or call 507-995-5387 to learn more about employment opportunities with Palmer Bus Service.

Staff Minister Jim Dretske
Teacher Christine Baganz
Teacher Laura Balza
Teacher Karen Grunwald
Teacher Emily Stoering
St. John's Church Office

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About the Cover ~ God's Word has set us free in Christ. But our freedom does not mean we do whatever we want. Instead, it means that we are free from Satan, sin, and death so that we are at liberty to serve God in all that we say and do.