

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

627 South Washington, New Ulm, Minnesota

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 2/3, 2020



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Today's service is televised locally

Channel 14 - Comcast: Mondays at 6 pm, Tuesdays at 1 pm & Thursdays at 10 am

Channel 3 - Nuvera: Mondays at 6 pm, Tuesdays at 1 pm & Thursdays at 10 am

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Prayer before worship: Dear Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who willingly laid down his life for us, his sheep, even though we so love to wander. And in your sacrifice you have become the Gate to eternal life. Now, death is but a sleep from which we will awake. May your grace lead us to boldly share your grace, even if it means persecution or death. For we know that in you we have eternal life. Amen.

Order of Service: ***Morning Praise page 45***

OPENING HYMN

Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep

CW 436

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| 1. Jesus, shepherd of the sheep,
Who your Father's flock does keep,
Safe we wake and safe we sleep,
Guarded still by you. | 4. Father, draw us to your Son;
We with joy will follow on
Till the work of grace is done,
There to live with you. |
| 2. In your promise firm we stand;
None can take us from your hand.
Speak—we hear—at your command,
We will follow you. | 5. We, in robes of glory dressed,
Join th' assembly of the blest,
Gathered to eternal rest
In the fold with you. |
| 3. By your blood our souls were bought;
By your life salvation wrought;
By your light our feet are taught,
Lord, to follow you. | |

M: O Lord, open my lips.

C: And my mouth shall declare your praise.

M: Hasten to save me, O God.

C: O Lord, come quickly to help me.

M: The Lord is risen: let us worship him.

C: 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.

Sung by choir: The Lord Is My Shepherd by Joshua Severeid

1. *The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.
He makes me down to lie in pastures green; he leadeth me The quiet waters by.*
2. *The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want
My soul he restores again He guides me in paths of righteousness Even for his own name's sake.*
3. *Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill; For thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me comfort still.*
4. *The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want
My table thou hast furnished My head thou dost with oil anoint, And my cup overflows.*
5. *Goodness and mercy, all my life Shall surely follow me, And in God's house forevermore
My dwelling place shall be. The Lord is my shepherd. Amen.*

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LESSON**Revelation 7:9-17**

After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on

their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!" Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes-- who are they, and where did they come from?" I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, they are

before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

GOSPEL**John 10:1-10**

"I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on

ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them. Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. All

who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

SEASONAL RESPONSE

The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!
Death has been swallowed up in victory. Alleluia!

HYMN of the DAY

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

CW 375

Congregation sings stanzas 1, 2, 4 and 6; Choir sings stanzas 3 and 5

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|---|--|
| 1. The King of love my shepherd is,
Whose goodness fails me never;
I nothing lack if I am his,
And he is mine forever. | 4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With you, dear Lord, beside me;
Your rod and staff my comfort still,
Your cross before to guide me. |
| 2. Where streams of living water flow,
My Savior gently leads me;
And where the verdant pastures grow,
With food celestial feeds me. | 5. <i>You spread a table in my sight,
A banquet here bestowing;
Your oil of welcome, my delight;
My cup is overflowing!</i> |
| 3. <i>Confused and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love he sought me
And on his shoulder gently laid
And home, rejoicing, brought me.</i> | 6. And so through all the length of days
Your goodness fails me never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise
Within your house forever! |

SERMON

Acts 7:51-60

"You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit! Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him-- you who have received the law that was put into effect through angels but have not

obeyed it." When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at

him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

Put to Sleep by the Truth...

- 1. Even Death for Speaking the Truth**
- 2. Only Sleep for Believing the Truth**

C: 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

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

C: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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 of intercession

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.

C: 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.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN***Have No Fear, Little Flock*****CW 442**

1. Have no fear, little flock;
Have no fear, little flock,
For the Father has chosen
 To give you the kingdom
Have no fear, little flock!
2. Have good cheer, little flock;
Have good cheer, little flock,
For the Father will keep you
 In his love forever;
Have good cheer, little flock!
3. Praise the Lord high above;
Praise the Lord high above,
For he stoops down to heal you,
 Uplift and restore you;
Praise the Lord high above!
4. Thankful hearts raise to God;
Thankful hearts raise to God,
For he stays close beside you,
 In all things works with you;
Thankful hearts raise to God!

† † †

PREACHER
ORGANIST
MIXED CHOIR

Pastor Rob Guenther
Darrell Berg
Bethel Boeder

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fruits of faith given::

\$17,972	Home Operations ~ \$15,346 is our weekly need		
\$689	MVL ~ \$1,163 is our weekly need	\$100	K-12 Education Assistance
\$2,331	Missions ~ \$1,714 is our weekly need	\$50	Undesignated Memorials
\$1,686	Building Fund ~ \$1,397 is our weekly need	\$20	Endowment Fund
\$570	St. Paul's School Building Fund		

Calls Extended ~ At the voters' meeting this past week, two one-year calls were extended:

- 1) to Mr. James Dretske, currently serving as our administrative teacher, to be our full time staff minister; and
- 2) to Mrs. Emily Stoering, currently serving as a long-term substitute teacher, to be our 5-6th grade teacher at St. Paul's School.

Both calls are for the period of July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021. Please keep Mr. Dretske and Mrs. Stoering in your prayers as they consider these new opportunities for service to the congregation.

Bible Classes ~ will continue online. Join us Thursday mornings at 10:30 am for a study on the book of Colossians, on Thursday evenings at 7 pm for a study on the book of 2 Kings, and Sunday mornings at 9:30 am for a study of the book of Isaiah. All three classes will be held at Meet.Google.com (or with the Google Meet app on your smartphone or tablet) with "meeting code" tjx-anhj-gvx. Or use this shortcut which automatically enters the code for you: <https://bit.ly/STJLCNUMeet> (Note: the link is case sensitive). You can also call in over the phone at (209) 457-0523 using PIN: 100 259 597# (Note: This will be a long distance call.) The meeting room can hold up to 250 participants, so feel free to tell your friends!

Sending Offerings through Bill Pay ~ Several members of St. John's have asked if there is a way for them to make their weekly offerings automatically either online or by an automatic bank transaction. St. John's is investigating our online giving options, but are not yet ready to receive online gifts. For the time being, we suggest that our members consider using your bank's online Bill Pay service to make weekly or monthly gifts to St. John's. If you have questions about using Bill Pay to make donations, please contact Financial Secretary Mike Thom at 507-217-7671.

Community Food Shelf ~ During the month of May St. John members have an opportunity to help serve our NU community by volunteering at the NU Emergency Food Shelf. If you are able please take a few hours to lend a helping hand. The need is greater now than ever before. Both college and high school students are encouraged to help out. Please contact Rita Walters via phone or text at 507-351-8603 or email rmwalters@hotmail.com.

Job Openings at Martin Luther College ~ Do you have college students home for the summer? Are they looking for employment? The **MLC Early Childhood Learning Center** is in urgent need of workers for the summer - and depending on when restrictions are lifted possibly earlier. The position would be for 129 hours per month. The shifts run anywhere from 6:45 am-5:30 pm Monday-Friday and we are willing to schedule around other employment they may have. Child care experience is a plus but we are willing to train as needed. If interested please fill out an application on line <https://mlc-wels.edu/student-employment/>. There is also a link to Summer employment on the MLC Portal. If you would like more information please feel free to call us at 233-9105. Ask for Michelle or Liz. We are here from 7am - 4:30 pm Monday-Friday. Thank you and blessings as we all work to navigate these unusual circumstances.

Administrative Teacher Jim Dretske
Teacher Laura Balza
Teacher Karen Grunwald
Teacher Jean Schroeder
St. John's Church Office

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About the Cover ~ Stephen held to Christ no matter what the consequences! But how true were Jesus' words about false shepherds: they come only to kill and destroy. With their words and teeth and rocks they testified to whom they belonged. Stephen was a martyr until the end, a witness of the Savior who waited to bring him to eternal pasture. Psalm 23 graces many funerals. How fitting that on this day when we hear of the Church's first martyr, we sing Psalm 23 and remember Stephen, a true shepherd who now dwells in the house of the Lord forever.