

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



**Third Sunday of Easter**  
**April 17/18, 2021**

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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

## *Third Sunday of Easter*

April 17/18, 2021

**Prayer before worship:** Dear Jesus, forgive us for the times that we doubt you and doubt your Word. Forgive us for our cowardice that would keep us behind locked doors instead of boldly proclaim the message you've given us to share. Thank you for your death that paid for our sin. Thank you for your resurrection that gives us the proof that you accomplished what you came to do: win our forgiveness and eternal salvation. By your work you have given us peace with God. Now fill us with a zeal that is eager to share your message of grace with others. Amen.

### OPENING HYMN

*This Joyful Eastertide*

CW160

1. This joyful Eastertide Away with sin and sorrow!  
My love, the Crucified, Has sprung to life this morrow.

#### ***Refrain:***

Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst his three-day prison,  
Our faith had been in vain: But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;  
But now is Christ arisen.

2. Death's flood has lost its chill Since Jesus crossed the river;  
Lover of souls, from ill My passing soul deliver. *Refrain*
3. My flesh in hope shall rest And for a season slumber  
Till trump from east to west Shall wake the dead in number. *Refrain*

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

♪: **Amen.**

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

♪: **Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

♪: **Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.**

**We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,**

**we glorify you, we give thanks to you, for your great glory,**

**O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father almighty.**

**O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;**

**O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,**

**you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer.**

**You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.**

**For you only are holy; you only are the Lord.**

**You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

M: The Lord be with you.

♪: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

O God, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

♪: Amen.

## ANTHEM

## *Jesus Loves Me*

Yohan Anderson

1. Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but He is strong.

*Refrain:* Alleluia allelu alleluia alleluia.  
Alleluia allelu alleluia allelu alleluia.

2. Jesus loves me, he who died. Heaven's gates to open wide.  
He will wash away my sin. Let His little child come in. *Refrain*
3. Jesus loves me He will stay close beside me all the way.  
And I know that when I die, He will take me home on high. *Refrain*

# FIRST LESSON

Acts 4:8-12

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. He is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.' Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

## PSALM of the DAY

## Psalm 118

CW p. 108

This is the day the Lord has made, let us re - joice and be glad!

This is the day the Lord has made, let us re - joice and be glad!

The LORD is my strength and my song;\*  
he has become my salvation.

The LORD'S right hand is lifted high;\*  
the LORD'S right hand has done mighty things!

I will not die but live,\*  
and will proclaim what the LORD has done.

### **Refrain**

I will give you thanks, for you answered me;\*  
you have become my salvation.

The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;\*  
the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day the LORD has made;\*  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**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**

## SECOND LESSON

1 John 1:1-2:2

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched-- this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus

Christ. We write this to make our joy complete. This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is

faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense-- Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

## VERSE of the DAY

♪: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Luke 24:36-49

M: The Holy Gospel is written in the Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 24, beginning at verse 36.

♪: Glory be to you, O Lord!

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and

feet. And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence. He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the

Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

♪: Praise be to you, O Christ!

## 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 fully 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.

## **HYMN of the DAY**      *I Am Content! My Jesus Lives Again*

**CW158**

1. I am content! My Jesus lives again, In whom my heart is pleased.  
He has fulfilled the law of God for me; God's wrath he has appeased.  
Since he in death could perish never, I also shall not die forever.  
I am content! I am content!
2. I am content! My Jesus is my head; His member I will be.  
He bowed his head when on the cross he died With cries of agony.  
Now death is brought into subjection For me, too, by his resurrection.  
I am content! I am content!

3. I am content! My Jesus is my light, My radiant sun of grace.  
His cheering rays beam blessings forth for all: Sweet comfort, hope, and peace.  
This Easter sun has brought salvation And everlasting exultation.  
I am content! I am content!
  
4. I am content! Lord, set me ever free And wake me from the dead  
That I may rise forevermore to be With you, my living head.  
The chains that hold my body, sever; Then shall my soul rejoice forever.  
I am content! I am content!

## SERMON

Luke 24:36-49

### Shalom?! Prove It!

♪: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit. Amen.

## OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

### PRAYER of the CHURCH

#### 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.

M: The Lord be with you.

♪: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

♪: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

♪: **It is good and right so to do.**

M: 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, and we praise you especially for the glorious resurrection of your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by his resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

♪: **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts: heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he, blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

M: 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, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.**

**Amen.**

## **DISTRIBUTION HYMN**     *This Is the Feast of Victory*

p. 9

♪: **Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.**

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

♪: **And his mercy endures forever.**

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. 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.**



M: 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. Amen. Amen.

† † †

**PREACHER**  
**PRESIDING MINISTER**  
**ORGANIST**  
**CHILDREN'S CHOIR (Gr. PreK-K)**

Pastor Rob Guenther  
 Pastor Jeffrey Bovee  
 Steve Thiesfeldt

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN**    *This Is the Feast of Victory*    **CW265**

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God,

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

1	Wor - thy	is	Christ, the	Lamb who	was slain,	Whose
2	Pow -	er, rich -	es, wis -	dom, and	strength,	And
3	Sing	with all	the peo -	ple of	God,	And
4	Bless -	ing, hon -	or, glo -	ry, and	might	Be to
5	For	the Lamb	who	was slain	Has be -	

blood	set	us	free	to	be	peo -	ple	of	God.
hon -	or,	bles -	ing,	and	glo -	ry	are	his.	
join	in	the	hymn	of	all	cre -	a -	tion.	
God	and	the	Lamb	for -	ev -	er.	A -	men.	
gun	his	reign.	Al -	le -	lu	-	ia!		

*Final Refrain*

This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God,

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Attendance** for the past weekend was 338.

Fruits of faith given:

\$13,296	Home Operations ~ \$17,191 is our weekly need		
\$1,000	MVL ~ \$1,154 is our weekly need	\$45	St. Paul's School Building Fund
\$1,770	Missions ~ \$1,731 is our weekly need	\$40	Benevolence Fund
\$915	Building Fund	\$20	LWMS

**First Quarter Contribution Statements** ~ have been distributed by email for those whose addresses are on file. Please contact the church office if you would also like a hard copy of your statement.

**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. Cf. this week's bulletin insert for April's. We hope it helps you as a daily reminder to pray continually! The Prayer Calendars can be found in the narthex.

**St. John's Church Campout** ~ We are so excited to announce the first ever St. John's Church Campout at the Sleepy Eye Sportsmen's Park the nights of June 25-26. Both one or two night reservations are possible. The link to reserve your campsite is: [bit.ly/SJcamping21](http://bit.ly/SJcamping21). Once a reservation has been made, please make your payment within a week to hold your spot. There will be a church service at the campsite at some point during the weekend, and other fellowship activities will be included as well. We can't wait to see you there!

**In-Person Bible Classes** ~ Thursday Bible classes will be the topic of Civil Government at 10:30 am given by Pastor Bovee. Pastor Guenther will lead a study of the book of Revelation at 7 pm.

Sunday morning Bible class starts at 9:30 am. There are 25 tables available in the church basement with one family per table. Please sign up for a table at [bit.ly/SundayBibleClass](http://bit.ly/SundayBibleClass). Prof. Dave Scharf will lead a class entitled “Lies About God.”

All of the in-person classes will be held in the church basement or join online at [bit.ly/StJohnsBibleClass](http://bit.ly/StJohnsBibleClass).

**St. John's Cancer Group** ~ will begin to meet again on Sunday, May 16, at 2 pm. Members of St. John's who were diagnosed with cancer or who have a close family member who was diagnosed with cancer are encouraged to join us. Come whether the cancer was diagnosed recently or long ago, is being treated, is post treatment, or is in remission. Spouses or a person with whom you are sharing your journey are also welcome to attend. We will gather upstairs in the church sanctuary, where maximum social distancing can be done. Masks or face coverings are required by state order. In deciding whether to attend, please follow other state and CDC guidelines that apply to you. No food or drink will be served. Pastor Guenther will lead us in a devotion, followed by time to share and encourage each other. If you have questions, contact Wayne Wagner (359-7371) or Pastor Guenther.

## AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Save the Date** ~ BE A SUPERHERO by supporting the School Building Project! Join in the fun with the St. Paul's School Virtual Superhero Dig In Gala. Here's how:

- √ **Bang!** Purchase your tickets at <https://buytickets.at/stpaulsschoolnewulm> and plan to gather in small groups to amp up the fun! If you'd rather, you can also purchase your ticket to watch on the big screen in the St. Paul's Church Fellowship Hall. Your ticket enters you into a drawing for local gift cards!
- √ **Kapow!** Purchase your party box on the ticket website to help enhance your fun from home!
- √ **Zap!** Get ready to bid on some amazing auction items, including a Disney vacation!
- √ **Splat!** Follow the "2021 St. Paul's Super Hero Dig In Gala" page on Facebook for pre-Gala fun and announcements.
- √ **Raiders Assemble!** Gather together at home with your fellow Superheroes to view the action online on May 7 at 7 pm.

Find these details and more on the ticket website! <https://buytickets.at/stpaulsschoolnewulm>

**MVL News** ~ Have you seen Harvey? Some say they have seen him now and then at MVL, and even out and about a bit! If you'd like to see Harvey, too, come on out to MVL's theater production of the play *Harvey*! This year's production will be held at State Street Theater Company in New Ulm. Performances are Friday, April 30 and Saturday, May 1 at 7 pm, and Sunday, May 2 at 2 pm. Advanced tickets are required and may be purchased online at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) beginning April 16. If you have questions or issues with ordering, call Mrs. Jennifer Uher at 262-893-9457. We'd love to share the joy and wonder of *Harvey* with you! The *2021 MVL Classic* is coming July 12 at the New Ulm Country Club. This annual outing supports our Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) for a Christ-centered education at MVL. Each year - through sponsorships, golf fees, and outright donations - thousands of dollars are raised for MVL families in the coming school year. Sponsorship opportunities are currently open for both businesses and individuals; contact Kristin Matzke at [kmatzke@mvlhs.org](mailto:kmatzke@mvlhs.org) for more information. Let's tap-in for tuition assistance! Palmer Bus Service provides safe and reliable transportation for students. We are now hiring *school bus drivers* for MVL routes. Full-time and part-time positions available with paid training! Contact Site Manager Ray Vulcan at [rayv@palmerbusservice.com](mailto:rayv@palmerbusservice.com) to learn more.

**Haiti School and Orphanage** ~ Your Support is Urgently Needed at our WELS Branch Lutheran Schools of Haiti, Inc. Director Yvette in Smyrne operates the largest school and orphanage with 470 students currently able to attend. For four months, she and the children have suffered a lack of electricity resulting from the extreme economic hardship affecting people all across Haiti. Yvette hopes to purchase solar panels at a cost of \$2,745 and install them at her school. These desperately needed panels can eliminate the reliance on electric companies and bring light back into the orphanage and classrooms for the hundreds of children who are struggling in this darkness. With your help, our WELS Branch Schools can both continue to share the saving light of God's grace and bring back the physical light to fill the darkness once again. Go to [branchlutheranschoolshaiti.org](http://branchlutheranschoolshaiti.org) to learn more and to donate.

**Job Opening** ~ Martin Luther College is now accepting applications for one full-time Early Childhood Learning Center Assistant Teacher. A comprehensive description for this position can be found at [mlc-wels.edu/hr](http://mlc-wels.edu/hr). Interested individuals should apply online. Applications will be accepted through 12 pm on Tuesday, April 20, 2021. Additional information and details can be obtained by contacting the Martin Luther College Human Resources Office at 507-354-8221.

**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** ~ It wasn't just Thomas that had trouble believing that Jesus really rose from the dead. All of Jesus' disciples initially refused to believe the reports that Jesus had risen from the dead. (cf. Mark 13:16) Even after they saw our risen Savior, they still did not believe it was the bodily resurrected Jesus, thinking it was just his ghost. (Cf. Luke 24:41) It wasn't until he gave them the proof—showing his hands and his feet, eating a piece of fish before their eyes, and showing them the prophecies that said it had to happen this way—that they finally believed in Jesus and found the peace they sought. By his grace, Jesus has led us to believe his message of repentance and forgiveness. He has brought us peace with God too. Now he calls us, as he called his first disciples, to be his witnesses and share this message with all nations!