

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



Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 23/24, 2020

Pastor Jeffrey Bovee
revbovee@gmail.com
507-217-6364

www.stjohnsnewulm.com
stjohnsnewulm@gmail.com
 facebook.com/stjohnsnewulm
354-6744

Pastor Rob Guenther
pastorguenther@gmail.com
507-240-2433

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

Seventh Sunday of Easter

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Prayer before worship: Dear Jesus, by your grace you have sent others to proclaim your message of grace to us. Now, in your wisdom, you have chosen to send us as your witnesses to proclaim the message of your forgiveness to the ends of the earth. Move us by the gospel to gladly give of our money, our time, our gifts, our energy, and our wisdom in service to your mission: the advancement of your Kingdom. May your kingdom come. May it come to us as you rule in our hearts and lives more and more. And may it come through us we continue to reach others with your saving truth. In your name we pray. Amen.

Order of Service: *Service of Word and Sacrament* page 26

OPENING HYMN

Welcome, Happy Morning

CW 163

1. "Welcome, happy morning!" Age to age shall say;
"Hell today is vanquished; Heav'n is won today!"
Lo, the Dead is living, God forevermore!
Him, their true Creator, All his works adore.
Refrain:
"Welcome, happy morning!" Age to age shall say;
"Hell today is vanquished; Heav'n is won today!"
2. Maker and Redeemer, Life and Health of all,
God from heav'n beholding Human nature's fall,
Of the Father's Godhead You, the only Son,
Mankind to deliver Manhood did put on.
Refrain
3. He, of life the author, Death did undergo,
Trode the path of darkness,
Saving strength to show.
Come, then, True and Faithful,
Now fulfill your word;
This is your third morning—Rise, O buried Lord!
Refrain
4. Free the souls long prisoned,
Bound with Satan's chain;
All that now is fallen Raise to life again.
Show your face in brightness; Shine in ev'ry land
As in Eden's garden When the world began.
Refrain

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

C: **And also with you.**

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

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.**

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.

C: **Amen.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY *Kyrie*

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: **Christ, have mercy.**

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C: Amen.

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

O LORD, OUR LORD

**C: O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.
Almighty God, merciful Father, you crown our life with your love.
You take away our sin; you comfort our spirit;
you make us pure and holy in your sight.
You did not spare your only Son, but gave him up for us all.
O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.
O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father, you came to live with us;
you made your Father known;
you washed us from our sins in your own blood.
You are the King of glory; you are the Lord!
O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Acts 16:6-10

Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but

the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After

Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

PSALM of the DAY

Psalm 14

see p. 7

SECOND LESSON

Romans 15:14-20

I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another. I have written you quite boldly on some points, as if to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of

proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God. I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and

done-- by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ. It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation.

VERSE of the DAY

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

John 17:20-26

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN of the DAY

Jesus, My Great High Priest

CW 359

1. Jesus, my great High Priest,
Offered his blood and died;
My guilty conscience seeks No sacrifice beside.
His pow'rful blood did once atone,
And now it pleads before the throne.
2. To Christ, my substitute, Will I commit my cause;
He answers and fulfills His Father's broken laws.
Behold my soul at freedom set—
My Jesus paid the dreadful debt!
3. My advocate appears For my defense on high;
A gracious Father hears And lays his thunder by.
Not all that hell or sin can say
Shall turn his heart, his love, away.
4. Should all the hosts of death
And pow'rs of hell unknown
Put their most dreadful forms
Of rage and mischief on,
I shall be safe, for Christ displays
Superior pow'r and guardian grace.

SERMON

Acts 1:1-11

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave

Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in

Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

The Kingdom is Restored

- 1. By Jesus' Ascension**
- 2. By Jesus' Witnesses**

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.

OFFERING

PRAYER of the CHURCH

M: Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

C: Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.

M: Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

C: Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

THANK the LORD

**C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev'ryone what he has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He renews his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.

C: Amen. Amen. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Lamb of God

CWS 748

1. Your only Son, no sin to hide, But you have sent him from your side
To walk upon this guilty sod And to become the Lamb of God.

Refrain:

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God!

Oh, wash me in his precious blood, My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

2. Your gift of love they crucified. They laughed and scorned him as he died:
The humble King they named a fraud And sacrificed the Lamb of God.

Refrain

3. I was so lost; I should have died, But you have brought me to your side
To be led by your staff and rod And to be called a lamb of God.

Refrain

† † †

**PREACHER
ORGANIST**

Pastor Rob Guenther
Wayne Wagner



The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.

The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men

to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.

All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt;

there is no one who does good, not even one.

Refrain

Will evildoers never learn—

those who devour my people and do not call on the LORD?

You evildoers frustrate the plans of the poor,

but the LORD is their refuge.

Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!

When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, let Israel rejoice and be glad!

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

Fruits of faith given:

\$7,964	Home Operations ~ \$15,346 is our weekly need		
\$232	MVL ~ \$1,163 is our weekly need		
\$1,205	Missions ~ \$1,714 is our weekly need	\$375	Christian Family Solutions
\$356	Building Fund ~ \$1,397 is our weekly need	\$50	Undesignated Memorials
\$1,075	St. Paul's School Building Fund	\$40	Wish List: Handbells

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 *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. 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.

MVL Announcements ~ A *virtual graduation service* is being prepared for MVL's Class of 2020. The service will be available for viewing at (and after) 2 pm on Sunday, May 24. Visit mvl.org or facebook.com/mvlhs to tune in. God's blessings to our seniors and their families! Changes have been made to the dates of MVL's *summer camps*. A full list can be found at mvl.org/athletics/summer-camps. If you have already registered and wish to cancel, please contact the MVL office at 507-354-6851 or sallee@mvlhs.org.

Food Kit Available ~ The New Ulm Area Food Shelf and the Lions Club of New Ulm are offering a 14-day food kit for seniors 65+ who are homebound because of COVID-19. Homebound is defined as those who only leave home for medical reasons. If you are in need of food and would like this delivered to you, please call the food shelf at 354-7668. If no one answers, please leave a message with your name, address and phone number. Speak slowly and clearly. Someone will contact you to ask about any special diet needs and let you know when the delivery will be made.

Job Opening ~ Needed in St. Paul's Preschool: part time assistant teacher (with possible office responsibilities) for Fall 2020. Please request the job description and application form from St. Paul's School Secretary Kristal Miller. She may be reached at the school office or school@splnewulm.org. Applications will be received until 3 pm on Friday, May 29.

About the Cover ~ Before he ascended into heaven, Jesus gave his disciples their marching orders: to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. That's the Great Commission that Jesus has left to us too. Having everything necessary to accomplish our salvation he ascended into heaven. Having sent his Holy Spirit to us in Baptism and by the Word, he has equipped us to be his witnesses. And so in thanks to God for what he's done for us in Christ, we will gladly share our faith and do all we can to bring the gospel to others.