

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



**THE DAY OF
THE LORD
WILL COME
LIKE A
THIEF IN
THE NIGHT**

1 Thessalonians 5:2

Last Judgment
Sunday, November 8, 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

Last Judgment

Sunday, November 8, 2020

Prayer before worship: Heavenly Father, we know that Judgment Day could come at any time and so we should always be prepared. Forgive us for those times we've lived like you aren't near. Thank you for sending shining the light of the gospel into our hearts and giving us salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Now help us to stay ready for Judgment Day by clinging to our faith, being self-controlled, and encouraging one another. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Oh, Worship the King

CW 243

1. Oh, worship the King, all-glorious above; Oh, gratefully sing his pow'r and his love,
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days, Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.
2. Oh, tell of his might; oh, sing of his grace, Whose robe is the light, whose canopy, space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form, And dark is his path on the wings of the storm.
3. This earth, with its store of wonders untold, Almighty, your pow'r has founded of old,
Established it fast by a changeless decree, And round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.
4. Your bountiful care what tongue can recite? It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain, And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.
5. Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, In you do we trust nor find you to fail.
Your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end, Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

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.

Please be seated

FIRST LESSON

Daniel 7:9-10

As I looked, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His

throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him;

ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.



Lord, you have been our dwelling place*
throughout all generations.

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world,*
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by,*
or like a watch in the night.

Refrain

You have set our iniquities before you,*
our secret sins in the light of your presence.

You turn mortals back to dust.*
You sweep them away in the sleep of death.

The length of our days is seventy years— or eighty, if we have the strength,*
yet their span is but trouble and sorrow.

Teach us to number our days aright,*
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Refrain

Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,*
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

**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

Please stand

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 25:31-46

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you

invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' 'The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire

prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.

SEASONAL RESPONSE

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

Please be seated

HYMN of the DAY

Day of Wrath, Oh, Day of Mourning

CW 209

1. Day of wrath, oh, day of mourning! See fulfilled the prophets' warning:
Heav'n and earth in ashes burning.
2. Death is struck and nature quaking; All creation is awaking,
To its judge an answer making.
3. See, the book, exactly worded, Wherein all has been recorded—
Thus shall judgment be awarded.
4. What shall I in awe be pleading, Who for me be interceding
When your mercy I am needing?
5. King of majesty tremendous, Who does free salvation send us,
Fount of pity, then befriend us.
6. Think, good Jesus—my salvation Caused your wondrous incarnation,
Made you suffer my damnation!
7. On the cross your dying spared me; Just and righteous you declared me;
I await the joy prepared me.

SERMON

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you

like a thief. You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a

breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Get Ready for God's D-Day

1. A Day of Destruction
2. A Day of Deliverance

Please stand

HYMN of the LITURGY

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

CW 278

1. Holy God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we bow before you.
All on earth your scepter claim; All in heav'n above adore you.
Infinite your vast domain, Everlasting is your reign.
2. Hark! The glad celestial song Angel choirs above are raising;
Prophets, martyrs join the throng, In unceasing chorus praising
With the Church in one accord: Holy, holy, holy Lord!
3. Blest Redeemer, virgin's Son, Over death his vict'ry claiming,
Now ascended to his throne, Judge and king, his grace proclaiming,
Opens heav'n to all his own. Praise and thanks to God alone!
4. Holy Father, holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we name you;
Though in essence only one, Undivided God we claim you,
Then, adoring, bend the knee And confess the mystery.

OFFERING 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.

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.**

CLOSING HYMN

The King Shall Come

CW 25

1. The King shall come when morning dawns And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills And life to joy awakes—
2. Not as of old a little child To bear and fight and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun That lights the morning sky.
3. Oh, brighter than the rising morn When Christ, victorious, rose
And left the lonesome place of death Despite the rage of foes.
4. Oh, brighter than that glorious morn Shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes And we shall see his face.
5. The King shall come when morning dawns And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray: Come quickly, King of kings!

† † †

**PREACHER
PRESIDING MINISTER
ORGANIST**

Pastor Rob Guenther
Pastor Jeffrey Bovee
Jeneane Thiesfeldt

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 291 with 218 attending Communion.

Made a Child of God Through Holy Baptism ~ during the 6:30 pm service, is Loretta Jean Lang, daughter of Abbott and Rachel Lang. May God keep Loretta in the baptismal promise of God's grace in Christ until she is with him in glory.

Benevolence Fund ~ Dear saints, as you may know, St. John's has a benevolence fund to help those of our fellow members who encounter a special financial need, to be disbursed by the elders. Two such cases have come to the elders' attention right now, and the need is ongoing. If you have a desire to help defray some of the costs of these fellow members in need (in any amount), please leave your offering in an envelope marked "Benevolence Fund" in the drop box at church or mail it to St. John's Lutheran Church, New Ulm, 56073 with "Benevolence Fund" indicated on the check or envelope. Thank you, saints, for your care for one another!

Bookkeeper Position ~ After years of faithful service to St. John's, Wendy Lambrecht, our bookkeeper, has decided to seek other employment. Much of what Wendy has done for St. John's has not been visible to our members, but she has made a significant contribution to the smooth operation of our finances. We thank Wendy and wish her God's blessings in the years to come. With Wendy's resignation, St. John's is now accepting applications for the bookkeeper position, which is a part-time position (20-25 hours/week). Interested individuals are encouraged to pick up a job description and an application at the church office. Applications will be accepted through November 15th. For more information, please contact Pastor Guenther, our administrative pastor.

In-Person Bible Classes ~ Given the limitations of our St. John's campus facilities, pandemic guidelines prevents adult Bible class from being held on Sunday mornings, but expanded Thursday options will be offered. Pastor Guenther will lead a study of the book of Revelation at 10:30 am and Pastor Bovee will have the topic of Civil Government at 7 pm. They will present the same topics in the opposite time slots when they switch in 2021. The in-person class will be held in the basement or join the class online at bit.ly/StJohnsBibleClass.

Church Calendar ~ the up-to-date church calendar can be found on our website: stjohnsnewulm.com/calendar.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

MLC Ladies' Auxiliary ~ Take home copies of the MLC Ladies Auxiliary List of New Projects for 2020-2021 are available in the narthex.

Holiday Canvass ~ Join us for a walking canvass! On November 14th from 10 am - 12 pm. We will walk through New Ulm neighborhoods, going door-to-door to hang our Thanksgiving/Christmas information on as many doorknobs as possible. No ringing any bells. No knocking. The goal is simply to reach as many homes as possible. Meet at St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 10 am. Grab hot chocolate/cider and a snack at the end!

Volunteers Needed ~ Treasure Haus is looking for a few new volunteers. If you have any spare time please consider helping us out. If interested, please call the store and speak with a manager.

MVL Announcements ~ The *Spirit of MVL Recognition Reception and Gala* are combining and going virtual with the fitting theme Together in Spirit. Please join us online on Saturday, November 21, 7 - 8 pm! We'll be honoring the 2020 Spirit of MVL award recipients, John Apitz, Lynn & Dan Hacker, and Fred & Joy Struck; auctioning awesome items; and raising funds for our livestream technology project and the Partnership Fund. Virtual door prizes and the Appeal to the Heart open Thursday, November 19. Register today at spiritofmvl.givesmart.com! Contact Kristin Matzke for questions at kmatzke@mvlhs.org or 507-233-8662. The *annual Christmas wreath and greenery sales* are going digital this year. Visit mvlwreaths.givesmart.com to place your order, or call the MVL office at 507-354-6851. Orders must be placed by Sunday, November 15 in order to pick-up at your church before Thanksgiving. Not only will you get to enjoy the scents of Christmas, but you'll also be helping fund the purchase of new hymnals for students to use in chapel! MVL will not be hosting our annual *Veterans Recognition Program* this November. We certainly thank God for our veterans and active-duty military and the service that they have given for our country. We pray that God would bless and keep you, and we look forward to reconnecting with you next year. Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School seeks a WELS or ELS male to serve as *Director of Mission Advancement*. Interested individuals should contact MVL Principal, Dr. Tim Plath, for more information at 507-354-6851 or tplath@mvlhs.org.

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About the Cover ~ If you knew a thief were coming to your house tonight, you would prepare to defend your property and your family. We know that God's Judgment is coming. We just don't know when. God tells us it will happen at an unknown time like a thief in the night. But we definitely want to be ready and prepared for when it comes. Thank God that he gives us our salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ! Now we stay ready by clinging to his promises so that day will be for us a day of deliverance rather than a day of destruction.