

"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me."

Ezekiel 33:7

Ezekiel: The Watchman of Israel



Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 19 / 20, 2020

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, you have made us your watchmen who proclaim your Word to warn and to comfort. May our hearts be filled with the same love you have for the souls of all people, so that with joy we speak your Word, and those who are wayward may turn back to you, and that those who need comfort and encouragement through your grace and mercy may find it. Deliver us from our sins which lead to death, but instead grant us life and peace through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. We pray it in Jesus' name. Amen.

Saturday: The cantors will sing all hymns and musical notations (♪).
8 am: Begins on page 9

OPENING HYMN

Delay Not! Delay Not

CW 337

Saturday, 9:30 and 11 am

1. Delay not! Delay not! O sinner, draw near!
The waters of life are now flowing for you.
No price is demanded; the Savior is here.
Redemption is purchased; God's promise is true.

2. Delay not! Delay not, O sinner, to come,
For mercy still lingers and calls you today.
Its voice is not heard in the vale of the tomb;
Its message, unheeded, will soon pass away.

3. Delay not! Delay not! The Spirit of grace,
Long grieved and resisted, may take his sad flight
And leave you in darkness to finish your race,
To sink in the gloom of eternity's night.

4. Delay not! Delay not! The hour is at hand;
The earth will dissolve, and the heavens will fade.
The dead, small and great, in the Judgment must stand—
What pow'r, then, O sinner, can lend you its aid?

5. Delay not! Delay not! Why longer abuse
The love and compassion of Jesus, your God?
A fountain is opened—how can you refuse?
Come, wash and be cleansed in his pardoning blood.

Please stand

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **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. Amen.

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.

PRAYER and PRAISE

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

¶: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory!

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer, receive our prayer.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Glory to God, glory to God!

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST LESSON

"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you will surely die,' and you do not speak out to dissuade him from his ways, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you

accountable for his blood. But if you do warn the wicked man to turn from his ways and he does not do so, he will die for his sin, but you will have saved yourself. "Son of man, say to the house of Israel, 'This is what you are saying: "Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them.

Ezekiel 33:7-11

How then can we live?" Say to them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel?'

Saturday: cantors sing the refrain; congregation will speak the verses



Be mer - ci - ful, O Lord, for we have sinned.



Have mercy on me, O God,*
according to your unfailing love.

Wash away all my iniquity,*
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions,*
and my sin is always before me.

Refrain

Against you, you only, have I sinned*
and done what is evil in your sight.

Surely I was sinful at birth,*
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Hide your face from my sins,*
and blot out all my iniquity.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,*
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

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

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For

he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then

Romans 13:1-10

revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

VERSE of the DAY

Alleluia. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Alleluia.
- Philippians 4:4

Please stand

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:15-20

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:
♪: Glory be to you, O Lord! Glory be to you, O Lord!

"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony

of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector. I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and

whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:

♪: Praise be to you, O Christ! 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.

Please be seated

HYMN of the DAY

Awake, O Spirit, Who Inspired

CW 567

1. Awake, O Spirit, who inspired The watchmen of the Church's youth,
Who faced the foe's envenomed ire, Who witnessed day and night your truth,
Whose voices loud are ringing still And bringing hosts to know your will.
2. Lord, let our earnest prayer be heard, The prayer your Son taught us to pray;
For lo, your children's hearts are stirred In ev'ry land in this our day,
To you with fervent soul to plead, "Lord, help us in our time of need."
3. Oh, haste to help or we are lost! Send preachers forth in spirit strong,
Armed with your Word, a dauntless host, Bold to attack the rule of wrong.
Let them the earth for you reclaim, Your heritage, to know your name.
4. And let your Word have speedy course, Through ev'ry land be glorified,
Till all the heathen know its force And fill your churches far and wide.
Oh, spread the conquest of your Word And let your kingdom come, dear Lord!

SERMON

Ezekiel 33:7-11

LISTEN TO THE MESSAGE OF THE WATCHMAN

1. WE ARE UNDER THE DEATH PENALTY BECAUSE OF OUR SIN
2. GOD DOES NOT TAKE PLEASURE IN THE DEATH OF THE WICKED
3. GOD'S WORD PROMISES PARDON AND LIFE

Please stand

- ♪: Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold, uphold me with your free Spirit.

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.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

C: **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, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

♪: **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.

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Go Labor On

CW 563
See page 8

Please stand

SONG of SIMEON

♪: **In peace, Lord, you let your servant now depart according to your word.**
For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for ev'ry people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory, the glory of your people Israel.

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

C: **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.

C: **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.

C: Amen.

† † †

PREACHER
PRESIDING MINISTER
ORGANIST
CANTORS

Pastor Jeffrey Bovee
Pastor Rob Guenther
Becky Berg
Keith and Liz Wessel, Joseph Wessel and Lucille Wessel

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Go Labor On

CW 563

Go la - bor on; spend and be spent - 'Tis joy to
Go la - bor on; count not the cost - Your earth - ly
Go la - bor on while it is day; The world's dark
They die in dark - ness at your side With - out a

do the Fa - ther's will. It is the way the Mas - ter
loss is heav'n - ly gain. The world in - deed will praise you
night is has - t'ning on. Speed, speed your work, do not de -
hope to cheer the tomb; Take up the torch and wave it

went; Should not the ser - vant tread it still?
not, But you will share in heav - en's reign.
lay, For it is thus that souls are won.
wide, The torch that lights the thick - est gloom.

5. Toil on, faint not, keep watch, and pray; Be wise the erring soul to win.
Go forth into the world's wide way; Compel the wand'rer to come in.
6. Toil on and in your toil rejoice; For toil comes rest, for exile home.
Soon shall you hear the Bridegroom's voice, The midnight cry, "Behold, I come!"

HOLY BAPTISM of Charlotte Evangeline Price

OPENING HYMN

God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

CWS 737

1. God's own child, I gladly say it: I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it, Gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth's treasures many? I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free, Lasting to eternity!
2. Sin, disturb my soul no longer: I am baptized into Christ!
I have comfort even stronger: Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.
Should a guilty conscience seize me Since my baptism did release me
In a dear forgiving flood, Sprinkling me with Jesus' blood?
3. Satan, hear this proclamation: I am baptized into Christ!
Drop your ugly accusation; I am not so soon enticed.
Now that to the font I've traveled, All your might has come unraveled,
And, against your tyranny, God, my Lord, unites with me!
4. Death, you cannot end my gladness: I am baptized into Christ!
When I die, I leave all sadness To inherit paradise!
Though I lie in dust and ashes Faith's assurance brightly flashes:
Baptism has the strength divine To make life immortal mine.
5. There is nothing worth comparing To this lifelong comfort sure!
Open-eyed my grave is staring: Even there I'll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising, Still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ; I'm a child of paradise!

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: Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded baptism when he said: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." All of us are born into this world with a deep need for baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But Jesus took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. At our baptism he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. Our sinful nature need not control us any longer. We recall what baptism means for our daily lives as we speak these words:

C: Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

M: As baptized children of God we confess our sins:

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.

M: In obedience to the command of our Lord and trusting in his promise, you have brought this child to be baptized. Jesus told us: "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." It is in baptism that God grants the new life of forgiveness, joy, and peace to little children. By the power of God's Word, this gracious water of life washes away sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe.

Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart † to mark you as a redeemed child of Christ.

Charlotte Evangeline Price, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—has forgiven all your sins. By your baptism, you are born again and made a dear child of your Father in heaven. May God strengthen you to live in your baptismal grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

Please stand

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Our Lord commands that we teach his precious truths to all who are baptized. Christian love therefore urges all of us, especially parents and sponsors, to assist in whatever manner possible so that *Charlotte* may remain a child of God until death. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility, then answer: Yes, as God gives me strength.

C: Yes, as God gives me strength.

M: Let us pray:

Merciful Father in heaven, we thank you for the blessing of baptism by which you offer and grant the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Help us to regard our baptism as the robe of righteousness we are to wear all the days of our life. Look with special favor on *Charlotte* and grant *her* a rich measure of your Spirit that *she* may grow in faith and godly living. Make us willing to carry out our responsibilities to those who have been baptized, so that all of us may finally come to the blessed joys of heaven, through Jesus our Lord.

C: Amen.

Service resumes with PRAYER and PRAISE on page 3

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 245.

Baptism ~ Charlotte Evangeline Price will enter the washing of rebirth during the 8 am service. We commend her into the care of the Good Shepherd that she may remain in her baptismal faith.

In-Person Bible Classes ~ The 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 Angels at 7 pm. After six weeks, they will present the same topics in the opposite time slots. The in-person class will be held in the basement or join the class online at bit.ly/StJohnsBibleClass.

Pictorial Directory ~ Due to COVID19 complications, Lifetouch has suspended their operations and will not be able to photograph subjects until January 2021 at the earliest. Therefore, the St. John's pictorial directory project is on hold until further notice. We will arrange new schedules to accommodate those who have not had their photos taken yet when they are back in operation. Shutterfly will still work with any customer service issues related to prints you may have ordered. Sorry for the inconvenience.

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

A Special Voters' Meeting ~ will be held at church on Tuesday, September 22, at 7 pm. This single-purpose meeting will be used to present the results of the St. John's Ministry Review 2020 process in the form of a strategic plan to guide the ministry of the congregation over the next decade. This plan, developed under the theme Hope in the Lord and based on the words of Psalm 130:7, will be shared with the voters for reaction and initial approval. Copies of the document are available in the narthex and an email with the document has been sent to your email. If you didn't receive it, please contact the church office at stjohnsnewulm@gmail.com or 507-354-6744.

Book Available ~ A new commentary on the Book of Job is available at St. Paul's Lutheran Church office. The cost is \$10. Written by Pastor Tim Smith, there are 60 copies available; first come, first serve.

MVL Announcements ~ *Open Position* 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.

Bus Drivers Needed Palmer Bus Service provides safe and reliable transportation for students. With an increased enrollment and necessary distancing measures, we're urgently seeking MVL route drivers and substitute drivers for these great students. Full-time and part-time positions available with paid training! Interested individuals should contact Site Manager Casey Stearns at 507-995-5387.

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.

MLC Worldwide Homecoming Event ~ The 2020 MLC Homecoming Sprinter Fun Run has a new look! Due to Covid-19, the 1-mile Fun Run/Walk will be a WORLDWIDE EVENT. We are excited to invite everyone around the globe to join us for this FREE activity! Learn more or register at bit.ly/MLCSprinter. Questions? Contact Sarah Zahrt at mlcsprinterwalkrun@gmail.com. Those who register by noon on Friday, October 2, are eligible for awesome prizes from campus entities (MLC swag!) and community businesses. Event t-shirt orders (if desired) are due by September 21.

WELS & ELS Singles Facebook Group ~ If you're single (unmarried, divorced, widowed) and looking to socialize, make friends, or enjoy fellowship with other singles who share your faith, we encourage you to join our Facebook group! Our group consists of over 260 members with ages ranging from 18-65+. We're an active group who loves sharing Biblical encouragement, prayers, Lutheran memes, personal victories, and tacos. Our page is full of discussion posts and we typically have a weekly video hangout on Sunday evenings. We'd love to have you join us.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/wels.els.singles>

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 ~ Know anyone who would like to join the community at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato as a Resident Hall Coordinator or Security Officer? Please help spread the word and refer them to the Bethany Jobs page on our website for more information!

Staff Minister Jim Dretske
Teacher Christine Baganz
Teacher Laura Balza
Teacher Karen Grunwald
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About the Cover ~ The prophet Ezekiel was called by God to be the watchman of Israel. To this faithful man was given the task to warn the unruly with God's law, and to comfort those who believed and obeyed with the saving gospel of God's love and mercy in Jesus Christ the Savior, even before Jesus' name was known to the Israelites. To all who believed, God gave the promise of life. That same promise is ours today through faith in the same Savior.