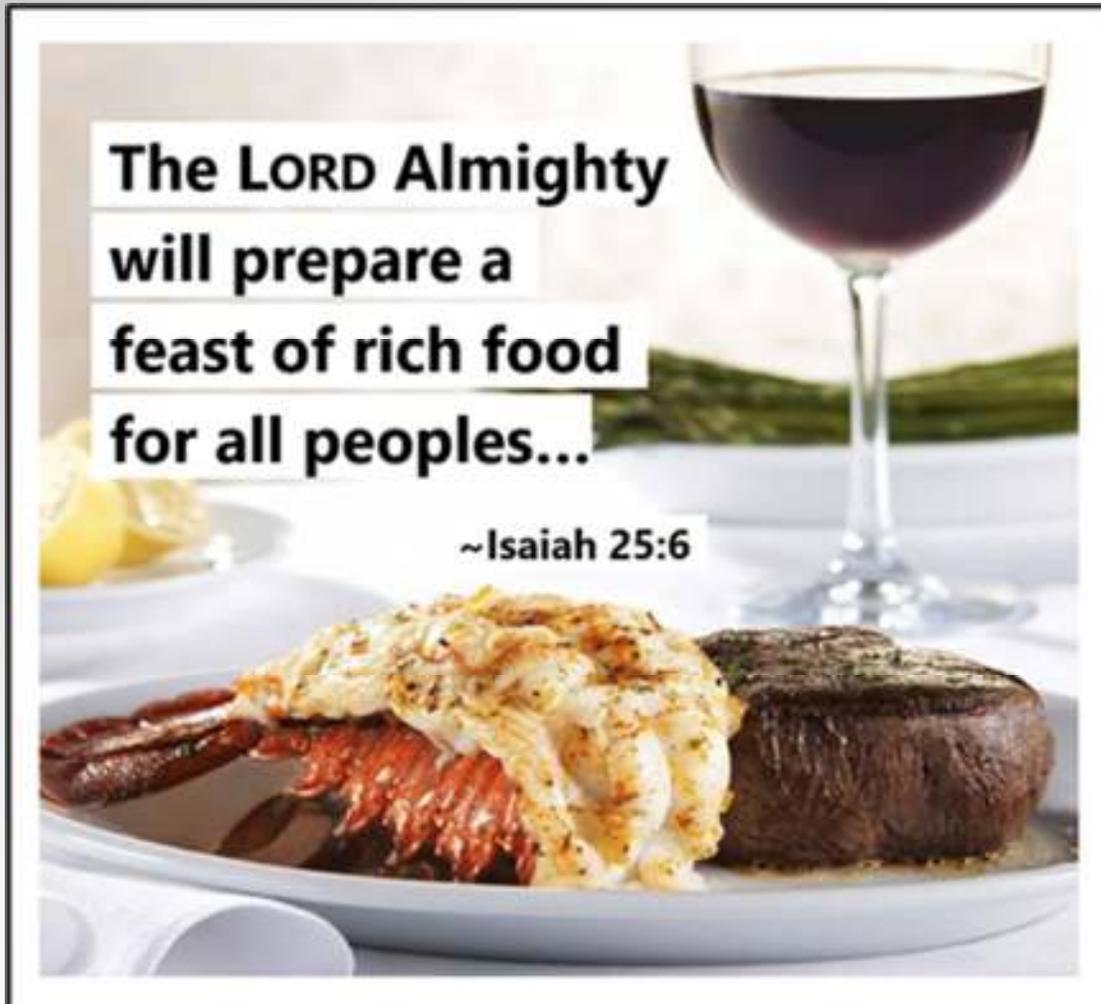


St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
627 South Washington, New Ulm, Minnesota



Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
October 24/25, 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

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 24/25, 2020

Prayer before worship: Our Father in heaven, we thank and praise you for the promise of the great banquet feast you have prepared for us. We know that we don't deserve it. But through your Son's work for us—by his perfect life and innocent death on our behalf—our sin is forgiven and death itself will be swallowed up forever! Help us to always put our trust in you, our God and our Savior! Amen.

OPENING HYMN

This Is the Feast of Victory

CW 265



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,	bless - 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!	



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



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

P: 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.

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

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

♪: **Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues forever. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him.**

P: Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

♪: **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine-- the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all

peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The LORD has

spoken. In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

PSALM of the DAY

Psalms 23

see page 8

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 4:4-13

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is

right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me - put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not

saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

VERSE of the DAY

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

ANTHEM

In Christ Alone

Sung by Grades 3-4

- 1. In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my all in all, Here in the love of Christ I stand.*
- 2. In Christ alone—who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones he came to save.
Till on that cross, as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on him was laid. Here in the death of Christ I live.*
- 3. There in the ground his body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day Up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory, Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am his and he is mine—Bought with the precious blood of Christ.*
- 4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man Can ever pluck me from his hand;
Till he returns or calls me home, Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.*

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.' But they paid no

attention and went off-- one to his field, another to his business. The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both

good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. 'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless. Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are invited, but few are chosen."

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

♪: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN of the DAY***Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness*****CW 376**

1. Jesus, your blood and righteousness My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Mid flaming worlds, in these arrayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
2. Bold shall I stand in that great day—Who can a word against me say?
Fully through you absolved I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
3. Lord, I believe your precious blood, Which at the very throne of God
Forever will for sinners plead, For me—e'en for my soul—was shed.
4. Lord, I believe were sinners more Than sands upon the ocean shore,
You have for all a ransom paid, For all a full atonement made.
5. When from the dust of death I rise To claim my mansion in the skies,
E'en then this shall be all my plea: Jesus has lived and died for me.
6. Jesus, be worshiped endlessly! Your boundless mercy has for me,
For me and all your hands have made, An everlasting ransom paid.

SERMON**Isaiah 25:6-9****Feast, Live, Trust****APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

PRAYER of the CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

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 forever. Amen.

HYMN

There Still Is Room

CW 565

1. There still is room! His house is not yet filled;
Not all the guests are there.
Oh, bring them in! Their hunger shall be stilled
With bread, yes, bread to spare.
Go, call them from the lanes and byways,
From winding roads and crowded highways.
There still is room! There still is room!
2. There still is time! The Master's voice still rings,
And all his heralds plead:
"Oh, hide beneath the shelter of his wings
Against the time of need."
The gracious call is still extended;
The day of grace is not yet ended.
There still is time! There still is time!
3. Now is the time! How fast the moments fly!
How soon each hour is gone!
You virgins, hear and heed the midnight cry;
Look for the break of dawn.
The Bridegroom comes; prepare to greet him.
Rise! Trim your lamps! Go out to meet him!
Now is the time! Now is the time!

P: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

♪: **Amen.**

P: 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.

♪: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See

CW 219

Lord, when your glory I shall see And taste your kingdom's pleasure,
Your blood my royal robe shall be, My joy beyond all measure!
When I appear before your throne, Your righteousness shall be my crown;
With these I need not hide me. And there, in garments richly wrought,
As your own bride I shall be brought To stand in joy beside you.

† † †

PREACHER

PRESIDING MINISTER

ORGANIST

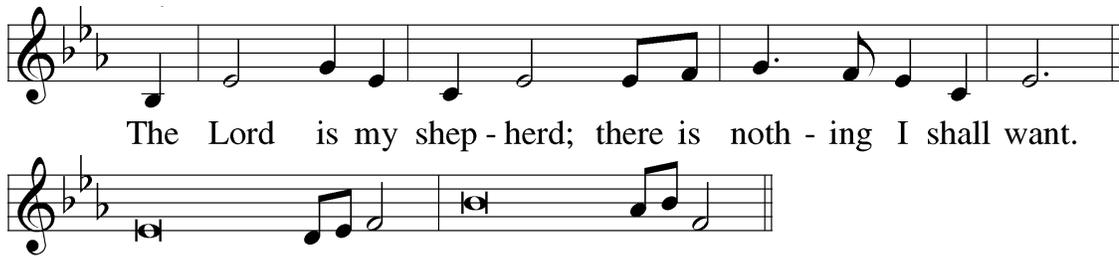
CHILDREN'S CHOIR (Gr. 3-4)

Pastor Rob Guenther

Pastor Jeffrey Bovee

Becky Berg

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The Lord is my shep - herd; there is noth - ing I shall want.

The LORD is my shepherd,*
I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,*
he leads me beside quiet waters.

He restores my soul;*
he guides me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,*
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Refrain

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.*
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,*
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

**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

Attendance for the past weekend was 254 with 186 attending Communion.

Voters' Meeting ~ The quarterly voters' meeting will be held in the church at 7 pm on Tuesday, October 27. Social distancing, wearing of masks, and other pandemic protocols will be in place. Agenda items include adoption of the proposed 2021 budget; council elections; ratification of board and committee appointments; and reports from the called workers, congregational officers, and the various boards and committees. Copies of the proposed budget and ballot are available in the Narthex. The voters will also hear the second reading of a proposed constitutional change to make permanent a representative on the St. Paul's Board of Child Discipleship. The proposed wording follows:

Article 2, Section 3. Officers

The church council officers shall consist of a president, a vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer, a financial secretary, a deacon, a board of elders chairman, a board of youth and education chairman, a representative to St. Paul's Board of Child Discipleship, a board of trustees chairman, a board of stewardship chairman, and a board of evangelism chairman. These officers shall be elected by the voters at the congregation's election meeting.

Article 3, Section 12. Representative to St. Paul's Board of Child Discipleship

The elected representative will represent St. John's and be St. John's voting member at St. Paul's Board of Child Discipleship meetings. The representative is also a voting member of St. John's church council. The representative shall report from time to time to the St. John's Board of Youth and Education as needed.

All voters are invited and encouraged to attend the meeting.

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. 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 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.

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

Daylight Savings Reminder ~ Daylight savings ends next weekend. Remember to set your clocks back one hour.



AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Holiday Canvass ~ Join us for a walking canvas! 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.

Trunk or Treat at St. Paul's School ~ Sign up at johnandpaulministries.com to DECORATE A CAR for Trunk or Treat on October 31st from 2 - 4 pm. How creative can you get this year? Prizes will be awarded for the top-voted decorated car and for the most creative way to hand out candy social-distance style! For safety this year, only a family cohort can decorate a car together. For other guidelines and decorating ideas see the website! There is a limit so sign up soon!

MVL Announcements ~ 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. MVL is *seeking housing* for one of our international students. This young man is a sophomore and remained in the area over the summer. Host families are compensated for housing international students. If you are interested in serving as a host family for the school year, please contact the school office at 507-354-6851 or email Dr. Plath at tplath@mvlhs.org. 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. 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 bus driving positions available* with paid training! Interested individuals should contact Site Manager Casey Stearns at 507-995-5387.

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 ~ One of the best meals I (Pastor Guenther) have ever eaten has been at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse. But that meal is nothing compared to the banquet feast that God has prepared for us. Now already we feast on his Gospel. One day we will feast forever in heaven. We certainly don't deserve this feast. But we have it by his grace through Jesus. Now we put our trust in him, our Savior God.