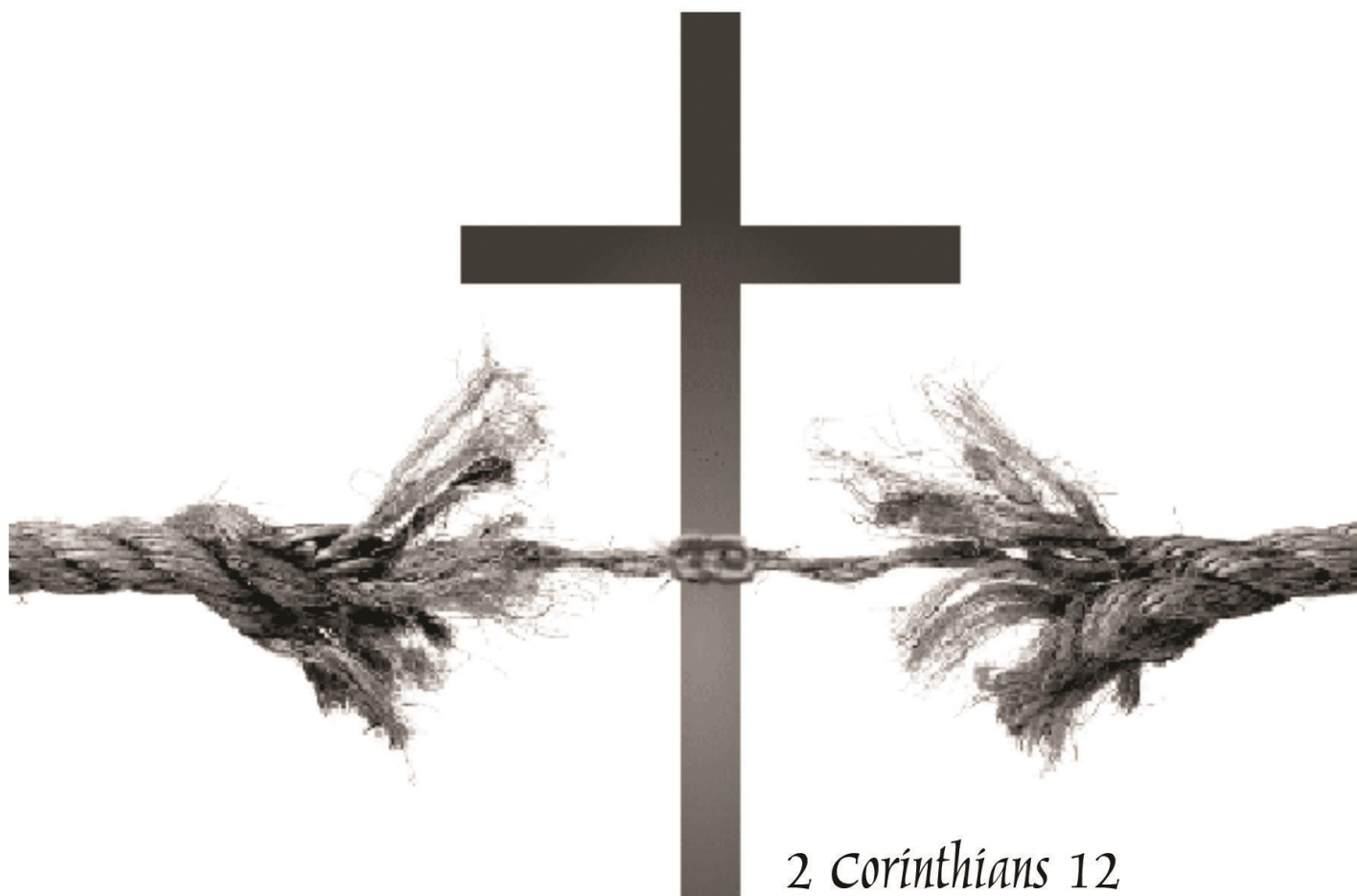


"My grace is sufficient for you.



2 Corinthians 12

My strength is made perfect in weakness."

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany February 15 / 16, 2025



St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

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 **YouTube**
bit.ly/SJyoutube

 facebook.com/stjohnsnewulm
507-354-6744

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.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN EPIPHANY

February 5/16, 2025

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Almighty God, help us and be with us in our times of weakness, fear, and doubt. Remind us that although we are weak your grace is sufficient for us and you are always strong. Rescue us from putting our trust in ourselves or in things that cannot save or give us lasting comfort. Instead, cause us to trust whole-heartedly in you and your unfailing promises of forgiveness, peace, and eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. It is in his name we pray. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Come unto Me, Ye Weary

CW 706

- 1 “Come unto me, ye weary, and I will give you rest.”
O blessèd voice of Jesus, which comes to hearts oppressed!
It tells of benediction, of pardon, grace, and peace,
of joy that has no ending, of love that cannot cease.
- 2 “Come unto me, ye wand’rers, and I will give you light.”
O loving voice of Jesus, which comes to cheer the night!
Our hearts were filled with sadness, and we had lost our way,
but thou hast brought us gladness and songs at break of day.
- 3 “Come unto me, ye fainting, and I will give you life.”
O cheering voice of Jesus, which comes to aid our strife!
The foe is stern and eager, the fight is fierce and long,
but thou hast made us mighty and stronger than the strong.
- 4 “And whosoever cometh, I will not cast him out.”
O patient love of Jesus, which drives away our doubt,
which, though we be unworthy of love so great and free,
invites us very sinners to come, dear Lord, to thee!

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

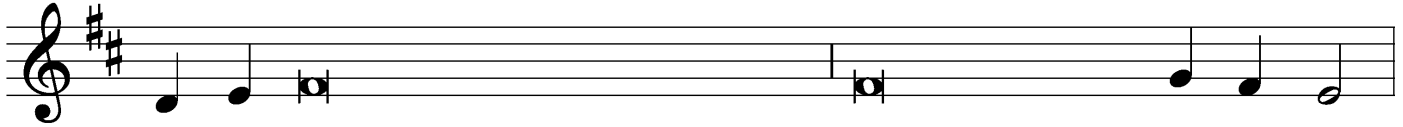
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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.





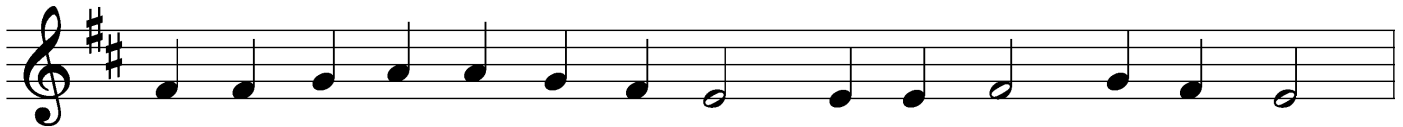
For the peace from above and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



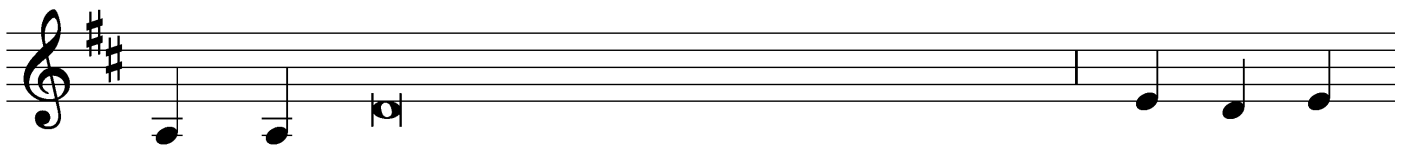
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



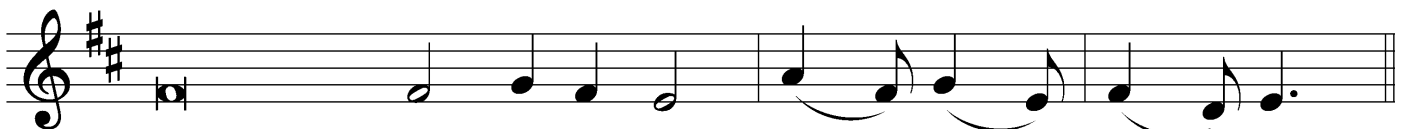
and for the un - it - y of all, let us pray to the Lord.



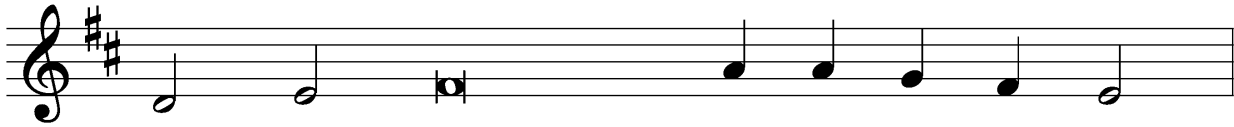
Lord, have mer - cy.



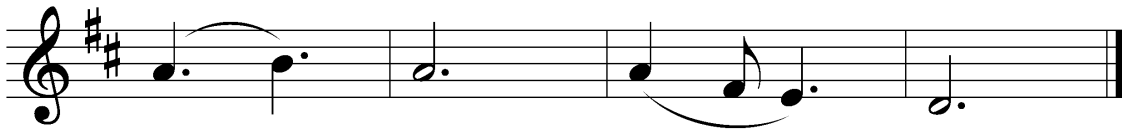
For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra - cious Lord.



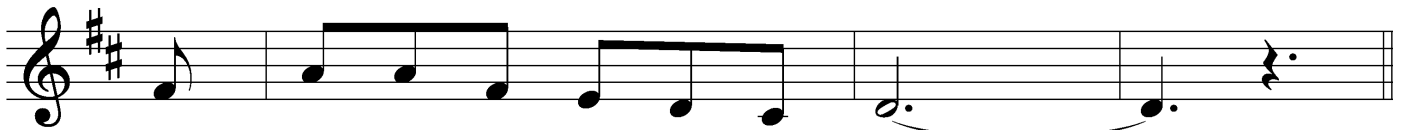
A - men. A - men.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to



God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,



and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly

Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on

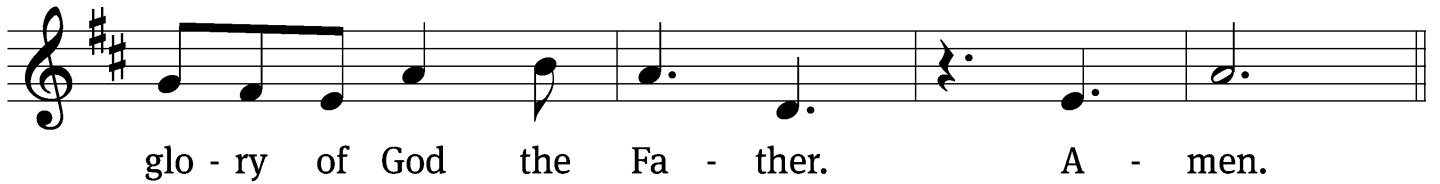
us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the

Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For

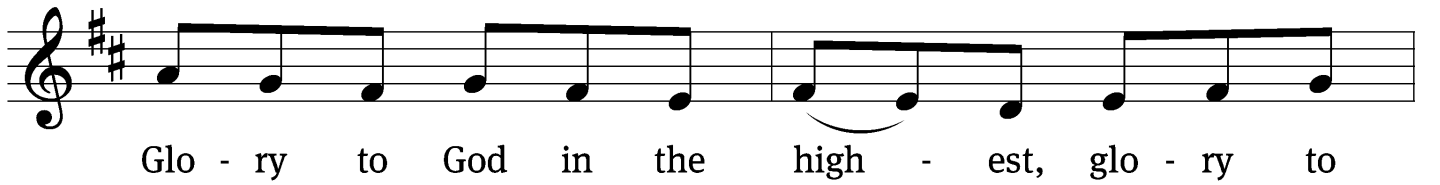
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus

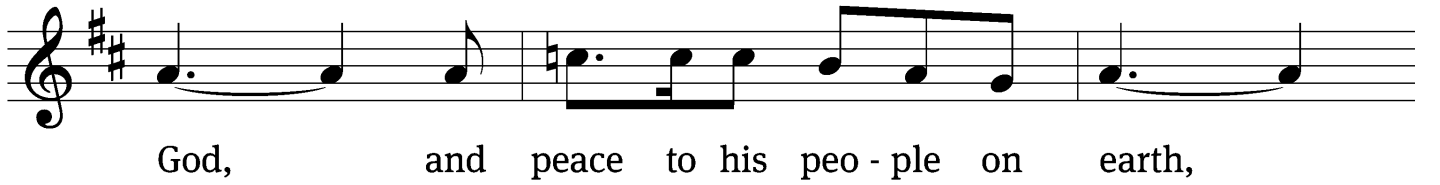
Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the



glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to



God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,



and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God of power and might, you know that we live in the midst of many great dangers, and in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Give us strength and protection to support us in all peril, and carry us through all temptations; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

ANTHEM 6:30

Come Unto Me

arr. L Stanley Glarum

Come unto me, come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: And ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Come unto me, come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Amen

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 17:5–8

⁵ This is what the LORD says:

“Cursed is the one who trusts in man,
who draws strength from mere flesh
and whose heart turns away from the LORD.

⁶ That person will be like a bush in the wastelands;
they will not see prosperity when it comes.
They will dwell in the parched places of the desert,
in a salt land where no one lives.

⁷ “But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD,
whose confidence is in him.

⁸ They will be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream.

It does not fear when heat comes;
its leaves are always green.

It has no worries in a year of drought
and never fails to bear fruit.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY 6:30 Their Delight is in The Law of The Lord



The image shows two staves of musical notation in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are written below the staff: "Their de-light is in___ the law of the LORD, and they med-i-tate on___ God's". The second staff continues the melody with similar note values and rests. The lyrics are: "teach - ing, on God's teach - ing day_ and night." The music ends with a double bar line.

Their de-light is in___ the law of the LORD, and they med-i-tate on___ God's

teach - ing, on God's teach - ing day_ and night.

***Choir:** Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor sat in the seats of the scornful! Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.*

Refrain: Congregation

***Choir:** They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.
It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgement comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
For the Lord knows the way, the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked, shall be destroyed.*

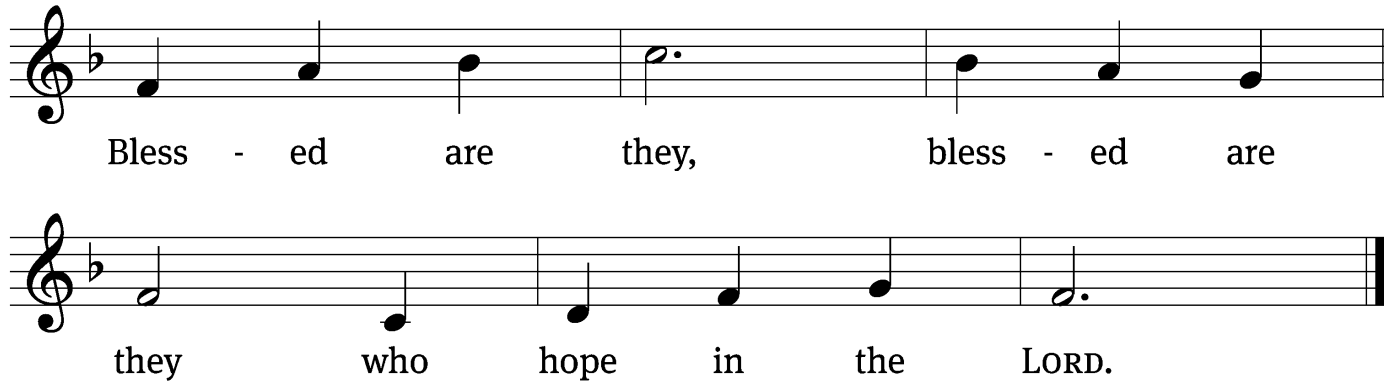
Refrain: Congregation

PSALM OF THE DAY

Blessed Are They

Psalm 1

Refrain



Bless - ed are they, bless - ed are
they who hope in the LORD.

Blessed is the one who / does not walk
 in step with the / wicked
 or stand in the way that / sinners take
 or sit in the company of / mockers,
 but whose delight is in the law / of the LORD,
 and who meditates on his law / day and night.
 That person is like a tree planted by streams of / water,
 which yields its fruit in / season
 and whose leaf does not / wither—
 whatever they do / prospers. *Refrain*

Not so the / wicked!
 They are like chaff that the wind / blows away.
 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the / judgment,
 nor sinners in the assembly of the / righteous. *Refrain*

For the LORD watches over the way of the / righteous,
 but the way of the wicked leads to de- / struction.
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 12:7b–10

Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹ But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you,

for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. ¹⁰ That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Refrain



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



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

Tone



The LORD will watch over your coming and go - ing



both now and for - ev - er - more.

GOSPEL

Luke 6:17–26

¹⁷ He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸ who had come to

hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured,¹⁹ and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

²⁰ Looking at his disciples, he said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ Blessed are you who hunger now,
for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² Blessed are you when people hate you,
when they exclude you and insult you
and reject your name as evil,
because of the Son of Man.

²³ “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven.
For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich,
for you have already received your comfort.

²⁵ Woe to you who are well fed now,
for you will go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you,
for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

- 1 Your works, not mine, O Christ, speak gladness to this heart;
they tell me all is done, they bid my fear depart.
To whom but you, who can alone for sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?
- 2 Your blood, not mine, O Christ, can heal my sinful soul;
your wounds, not mine, contain the balm that makes me whole.
To whom but you, who can alone for sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?
- 3 Your cross, not mine, O Christ, has borne the dreadful load
of sins that none could bear but the incarnate God.
To whom but you, who can alone for sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?
- 4 Your death, not mine, O Christ, has paid the ransom due;
ten thousand deaths like mine would have been all too few.
To whom but you, who can alone for sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?
- 5 Your righteousness, O Christ, alone can cover me;
no other righteousness can set a sinner free.
To whom but you, who can alone for sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?

SERMON*Boast in your Weaknesses*

2 Corinthians 12:7b-10

*Stand***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 truly 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.

Be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.

Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.

The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. [Especially bless . . . *here name the*

person and the cause of the petition.] Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

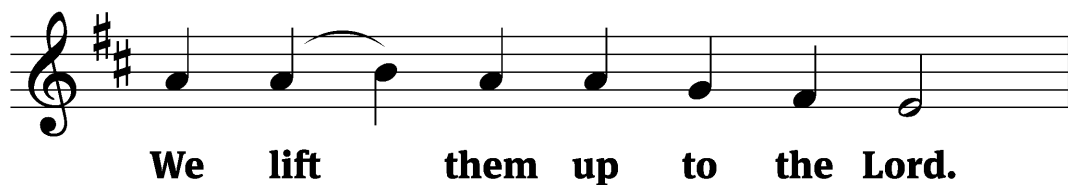
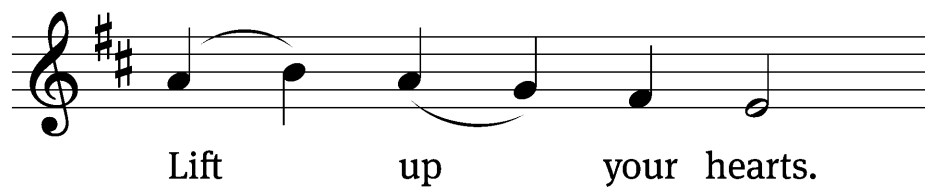
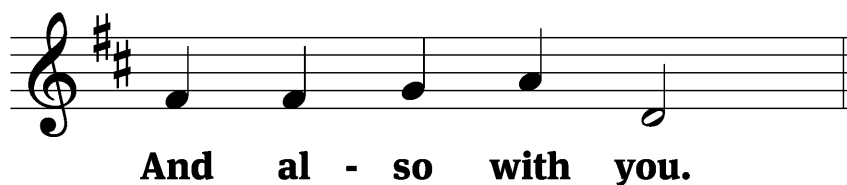
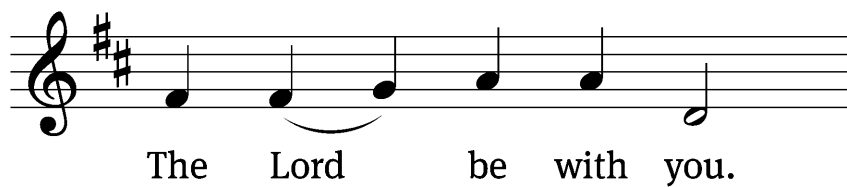
Silent prayer

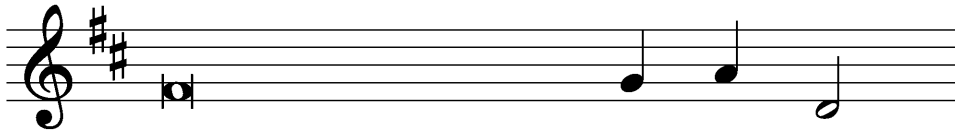
Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

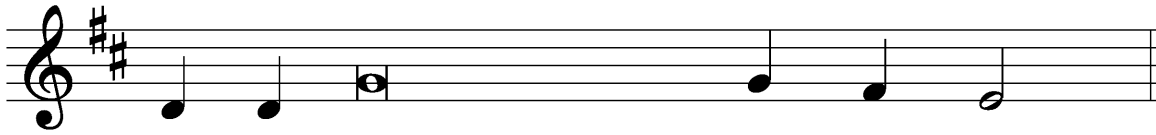
OFFERING

Stand





Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

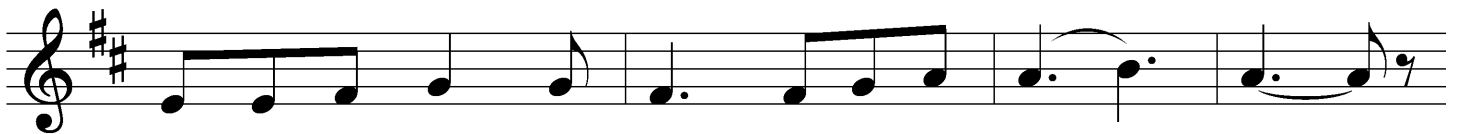


It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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 lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts,



heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

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 \dagger 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 \dagger 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.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us, grant us peace.

Be seated

- 1 Afflicted saint, to Christ draw near, your Savior's gracious promise hear;
his faithful Word you can believe, that as your days your strength shall be.
(v.2)
- 2 Your faith is weak, your foes are strong, and if the conflict should be long,
the Lord will make the tempter flee, that as your days your strength shall be.
So, sing with joy, afflicted one; the battle's fierce, but the vict'ry's won!
God shall supply all that you need; yes, as your days your strength shall be.
- 3 Should persecution rage and flame, still trust in your Redeemer's name.
In fiery trials you shall see that as your days your strength shall be.
So, sing with joy, afflicted one; the battle's fierce, but the vict'ry's won!
God shall supply all that you need; yes, as your days your strength shall be.
- 4 When called to bear your weighty cross, or sore affliction, pain, or loss,
or deep distress, or poverty, still as your days your strength shall be.
So, sing with joy, afflicted one; the battle's fierce, but the vict'ry's won!
God shall supply all that you need; yes, as your days your strength shall be.

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

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.

PRECHER

PRESIDING MINISTER

ORGAN

SR. CHOIR

Pastor Jeff Bovee

Pastor Rob Guenther

Jon Roux

Adrian Smith

Welcome, Visitors!

Please scan the QR code to sign our guest register.



Acknowledgments

Setting Three from Christian Worship

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THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday	8, 9:30, 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class
Tuesday	4 pm	Oak Hills Service
	7 pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday	3:30 pm	Public and Homeschool Catechism
	6 pm	Handbells
	6:30 pm	Bible Information Class
	7 pm	Choir
Thursday	10 am	Bible Class: Proverbs
	7 pm	Bible Class: Vices and Virtues
Friday	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: Vices and Virtues
Saturday	9 am	Usher Training
	6:30 pm	Worship
Sunday, Feb. 23	8, 9:30, 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class
Wednesday, Feb. 26	3:30 pm	Homeschool & Public School Catechism
	6 pm	Handbells

	6:30 pm	Bible Information Class
	7 pm	Choir
Thursday, Feb. 27	10 am	Bible Class: Proverbs
	7 pm	Bible Class: Vices and Virtues
Friday, Feb. 28	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: Vices and Virtues

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for this past weekend was 609

Fruits of Faith:

\$10,263 Home Operations ~ BTD: \$106,787 / YTD received: \$110,068
 \$2,117 WELS Missions ~ RTD: \$9,415 (2025 Goal: \$87,000)
 \$1,142 MVL ~ RTD: \$6,340 (2025 Goal: \$57,000)
 \$100 Building Fund
 \$60 K-12 Education Assistance
 \$170 LWMS
 \$23 Food and Fellowship
 \$25 St. Paul's School Building Fund
 \$100 St. Paul's School
 \$100 Benevolence Fund
 \$18 Miscellaneous

Slide Advance Assistants Needed ~ If you can click a remote, you are qualified to assist with advancing slides during services, especially if you already are in the habit of watching the slides during the services. If you have interest in assisting in this way, please send me an email at sm.dretske@stjohnsnewulm.com to get on a list of people who receive notices when there is a need to fill a service for the coming weekend. A link to an Online Slide Advance Sign-up sheet will be sent which will allow you to fill in your name for services which would work for you. Easy! Thanks!

Printed Church Directories - The pew copies are getting worn and we have now had quite a few new members join St. John's recently, as well as have had members move away or have babies ;) So it would be good to update pictures, phone numbers, addresses, birthdays, anniversaries for all of our current members and their families. Please send updates to sm.dretske@stjohnsnewulm.com You can also ask me or some other member to take your picture in the New Narthex and send the file with any changed information for your family. I am usually available

between services. Let's get this done in February so that I can print New Pew Copies early in March. Thanks!

Close Communion ~ At St. John's we practice "close communion." That is, we invite only those who are in fellowship with us as members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Church (or of a synod that is in fellowship with us) to commune with us. We are in no way judging your personal faith. But we recognize that in the Lord's supper we enjoy not only a close communion, or fellowship, with God, but we also enjoy a close communion with one another as we publicly express our agreement in every teaching of God's Word. And we wouldn't presume to ask you to publicly confess your agreement with all that we teach and believe without first being instructed in what it is that we teach and believe. But if you do desire to commune with us, please speak to one of the pastors after the service.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Host families needed ~ Martin Luther College is excited to host the WELS National Band Fest on March 7-9, 2025! The festival band is made up of band students from our WELS high schools across the nation. We are seeking welcoming local families to house those who are traveling distances to be here. Please contact Beth Scharf at events@mlc-wels.edu if you are willing to host or scan the QR code to complete the hosting form. Thank you!



Bingo Night ~ The MLC Ladies' Auxiliary is sponsoring their annual Bingo Night on Wednesday, Feb. 26. This is one of the year's highlights for MLC students when they can have a night of fun and win great prizes of quilts, gift cards, and baked treats! We are looking for donations of blankets & quilts, cash to purchase the gift cards, and treats for alternate prizes during the evening. Please consider this opportunity to partner with the Auxiliary for this night of fun encouragement! Drop off donations at the MLC reception desk by February 18 or mail them to 1995 Luther Court, New Ulm, MN 56073. On behalf of our future pastors, staff ministers, and teachers, thank you!

MVL JV Softball Coaches Needed ~ MVL is looking for two JV softball coaches. Starting March 10 through May 15. Practice times are 3:30-5:30 daily. Games are played after school. No weekend tournaments or games. Contact Craig Morgan at 507-276-7576 or email cmorgan@mvlhs.org

Open Positions at LMSG ~ Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG) is seeking a part-time paid bookkeeper to manage financial transactions, contributions, and reports for the organization. Additionally, there is a volunteer opening for an LMSG Their Stories Told interviewer/writer to share the stories of WELS/ELS Military Service Members. LMSG provides Christ-centered support to WELS and ELS Military Service Members, Veterans, and their Families. Learn more at www.lutheranmilitary.org.

Treasure Haus ~ The Treasure Haus Board of Directors announces the 2025 annual meeting. This annual meeting will be special as it will commemorate the 40th anniversary of support for Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School and contributions to many other ministry support groups. Members of the MVL Congregational Association and their numerous volunteers are welcome to attend. The meeting will be held at MVL on March 16, 2025 beginning at 2:00pm. Those planning to attend must notify the planning committee by 1. signing up at the Treasure Haus, 2. emailing manager@treasurehaus.org 3. or calling the Treasure Haus 507-354-6108. All reservations must be received by February 15, 2025. There will be musical entertainment by MVL students, a trivia quiz game on our history, displays of historical memorability, and a tour of the new MVL addition. Join us to recognize God's blessings as we continue "serving one another in love."

ProMusica Minnesota Chamber Music ~ concert is Sunday, February 16 at 3PM in Martin Luther College's Chapel of the Christ. The concert features Bethel Balge, pianist, and Jenny Haugen, soprano, performing with musicians of the Minnesota Orchestra. The concert features The Trout Quintet by Schubert and a Piano Quintet by Hummel. Learn more at promusicamn.com.

LWMS Rally ~ All are invited to attend the LWMS rally on April 5 at Friedens Lutheran Church in New Prague, MN. The rally begins with a coffee fellowship at 8:00AM, and the speaker of the day is Pastor Larry Schlomer- World Mission board Chairman. Please RSVP to Carrie Schaefer carriehieb@yahoo.com.

Travel with WELS Groups ~ Interested in traveling with other members of our WELS faith family where daily devotion and Christian fellowship are integral parts of the itinerary? The OWLS (WELS Seniors group) is partnering with *Father's World Tours* to offer two upcoming trips, and WELS members of all ages are eligible to come along. Nature enthusiasts, spend some time with MLC Professor Emeritus Jim Pope in the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota. The May 10-16

trip offers convenient starting points (MSP, New Ulm, or Sioux Falls) and affordable pre/post-tour (May 9 or 16) hotel opportunities. History lovers, join MLC professors Pete Baganz, Paul Koelpin, and Keith Wessel for a bucket list June 8-25 trip to London, Normandy, and Paris. Group flights are available from Chicago or Minneapolis. Registration closes March 14. Visit www.fathersworldtours.com or contact Steve Balza (steve@fathersworldtours.com or 507-217-1731) for full details.

About the Cover ~ There are times when we struggle with doubts, fears, and trials of all kinds. Our faith may seem to be hanging on only by a mere thread. However, it is during those times that God is testing us. He reminds us to put our faith in him, not in ourselves, because as St. Paul reminds us, God's strength is made perfect in weakness. That is to say, when we are not able to trust in ourselves we need to trust in God. We are weak, but he is strong.