

# St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

627 South Washington, New Ulm, Minnesota



## *First Sunday in Christmas*

**December 28/29, 2024**

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**Today's service is televised locally**

Channel 14 - Comcast: Monday at 6 pm, Tuesday at 1 pm & Thursday at 10 am

Channel 3 - Nuvera: Monday at 6 pm, Tuesday at 1 pm & Thursday at 10 am

**SERVICE OF THE WORD**  
**First Sunday After Christmas**  
**December 28/29, 2024**

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:** God, thank you for sending your Son to be our big brother, our high priest, our redeemer. Jesus, thank you for rescuing us by your sacrifice on our behalf. Thank you helping us still today! Help us to live for you in thanks for all you have done for us and for all you continue to do. Amen.

**OPENING HYMN**            *I Stand beside Your Manger Here*            **CW 334**

*Please stand*

**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:**    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.**

**M:**    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.**

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

## OH, TASTE AND SEE



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are



they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -



ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -



ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -



ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.



Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

M: Let us pray.

*The minister says the Prayer of the Day.*



C: A - men.

*Be seated*

## FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 50:4-9

The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught. <sup>5</sup> The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears, and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back. <sup>6</sup> I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. <sup>7</sup> Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. <sup>8</sup> He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! <sup>9</sup> It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me. Who is he that will condemn me? They will all wear out like a garment; the moths will eat them up.

## PSALM OF THE DAY

*How Lovely*

Psalm 84

## SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 2:10-18

In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. <sup>11</sup> Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. <sup>12</sup> He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises." <sup>13</sup> And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me." <sup>14</sup> Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death-- that is, the devil-- <sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. <sup>16</sup> For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. <sup>17</sup> For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins

of the people. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

### VERSE OF THE DAY

*The choir sings the proper VERSE OF THE DAY or the congregation sings the following general verse. During Lent the general verse may be omitted.*

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Stand*

### GOSPEL

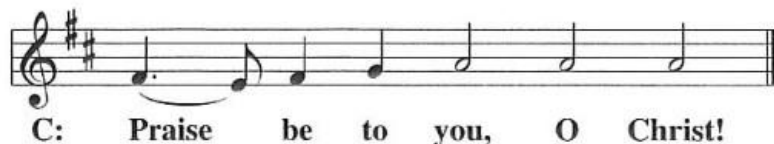
**Luke 2:41-52**

Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. <sup>43</sup> After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. <sup>44</sup> Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers,

listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." <sup>49</sup> "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>51</sup> Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

## GOSPEL

*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



*Be seated*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Christ Is the World's Light*

**CW 515**

**SERMON**

**Hebrews 2:10-18**

*Our Big Brother*

- I. Was Born to Rescue Us*
- II. Lives to Help Us*

*Please stand*

## 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.

*Be seated*

## **OFFERING**

*Please stand*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

**We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.**

You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

**We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.**

Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

**Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.**

Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

**Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.**

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

We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

**We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. 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.

*Be seated*

**HYMN**

*Peace Came to Earth*

**CW 330**

*Stand*

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.

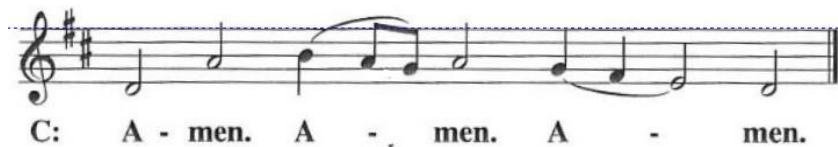
OR

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



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.



**HYMN**

*Let Us All with Gladsome Voice*

**CW 332**

**PREACHER**

Pastor Rob Guenther

**PRESIDING MINISTER**

Pastor Jeff Bovee

**ORGAN**

Jon Roux

**Welcome, Visitors!** Please scan the QR code to sign our guest register.



## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

|                   |                |                                        |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------|
| Sunday            | 8, 9:30, 11 am | Worship                                |
|                   | 9:30 am        | No Bible Class                         |
| Tuesday           | 4 pm           | Oak Hills Service                      |
|                   | 6 pm           | New Years Eve Service                  |
| Wednesday         | 8 am           | New Years Day Office Closed            |
| Thursday          | 10 am          | No Bible Class                         |
|                   | 7 pm           | No Bible Class                         |
| Friday            | 10 am          | No Bible Class                         |
| Saturday          | 6:30 pm        | Worship                                |
| Sunday, Jan. 5    | 8, 9:30, 11 am | Worship                                |
|                   | 9:30 am        | No Bible Class                         |
| Monday, Jan. 6    | 6:30 pm        | Elders Meeting                         |
| Tuesday, Jan. 7   | 7 pm           | Women of St. John's                    |
| Wednesday, Jan. 8 | 3:30 pm        | Homeschool & Public School Catechism   |
| Thursday, Jan. 9  | 10 am          | Bible Class: Proverbs                  |
|                   | 7 pm           | Bible Class: Vices & Virtues           |
| Friday, Jan. 10   | 10 am          | Women's Bible Class: Vices and Virtues |

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for this past weekend was 561 with 412 receiving the Lord's Supper

### **Fruits of Faith:**

\$28,699 Home Operations ~ Year to Date needed: \$898,932 / Year to Date received: \$882,828

\$1,909 WELS Missions ~ Received to Date: \$85,794 (2024 Goal: \$78,000)

\$747 MVL ~ Received to Date: \$55,939 (2024 Goal: \$52,000)

\$139 Food and Fellowship

\$6,010 K-12 Education Assistance

\$1,500 Ministerial Student Scholarship Fund

\$305 Building Fund

\$5 Sanctuary Renovation

\$25 St. Paul's School Building Fund

\$1,456 Gifts for Called Workers/Staff

\$92 Women of St. John's

*This does not include Christmas Eve or Christmas Day offerings*

## AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

**St. Paul's Preschool Open House** ~ Mon. Jan. 20, 2025 – 3PM – 6PM.  
New preschoolers, please come and visit! This includes SPP children moving to a new SPP classroom! St. Paul's Preschool offers full day & part-time sessions for 3, 4 and 5 year old children. Watch for a preschool Information/Registration mailing in early January. St John's (NU & SE) & St. Paul's members and our school families are invited to have first choice of preschool sessions through Jan 20<sup>th</sup>. (Community "Open Registration" begins Jan. 21.) If you have questions, please contact our preschool director, Mrs. Heidi Meyer: [preschool@splnewulm.org](mailto:preschool@splnewulm.org)

**Pastor Kuehl Installation** ~ Members of the MVLHS Association are invited to attend the installation of Rev. Stephen Kuehl. Rev. Kuehl will be installed as a teacher at Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School on Monday, January 6, as part of an MVL chapel devotion, beginning at 2:26 p.m. Association pastors who would like to participate in the laying on of hands should contact Rev. Jon Ladner ([jladner@mvlhs.org](mailto:jladner@mvlhs.org)) for more information. The service will be completed by 3:00 and light refreshments will follow.

**Amazing Race** ~ The 2025 Amazing Race is right around the corner! This FUN raising event will benefit the School Building Project and is always one of the must-attend events of the year. It will take place on Sunday, February 2, with lunch for all starting at 11:30 and race time at 1pm. There will be events at school for everyone, even those who don't wish to race. If you would like to race, get your teams together and prepare for a trip around town that you won't soon forget! You can register your team of 4-7 people here: <https://bit.ly/amazingrace2025>. Cost is \$15 per racer. Team registration is due Friday, January 17, with a deadline of January 10 to order your Amazing Race short sleeve t-shirt at <https://bit.ly/amazingracets25> (see attached t-shirt graphic). We are already looking forward to the big day!