St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

627 South Washington, New Ulm, Minnesota



First Sunday in Advent

November 28/29, 2026

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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

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
November 28/29, 2026

Welcome, Visitors! Members and Visitors please scan the QR code to sign our register.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Lord, we know that too often we have grown lazy and complacent in watching and waiting for your return. But because of Jesus' work for us by his perfect life and innocent death on a cross, we know where we will go when you come again: to be with you in glory forever. As long as we remain in the faith. So help us to keep watch, to be alert, to stay connected to you through your Means of Grace so that we are ready for that day when we die or you return. In Jesus' name, amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE ***Service of the Word***

OPENING HYMN ***Savior of the Nations, Come*** CW 301

1 Savior of the nations, come;
Virgin's Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
that the Lord chose such a birth.

2 Not by human flesh and blood,
by the Spirit of our God
was the Word of God made flesh,
woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

3 Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child
of the virgin undefiled,
though by all the world disowned,
yet to be in heav'n enthroned!

4 From the Father's throne he came
and ascended to the same,
captive leading death and hell.
High the song of triumph swell!

5 Praise to God the Father sing,
praise to God the Son, our King,
praise to God the Spirit be
ever and eternally.

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.

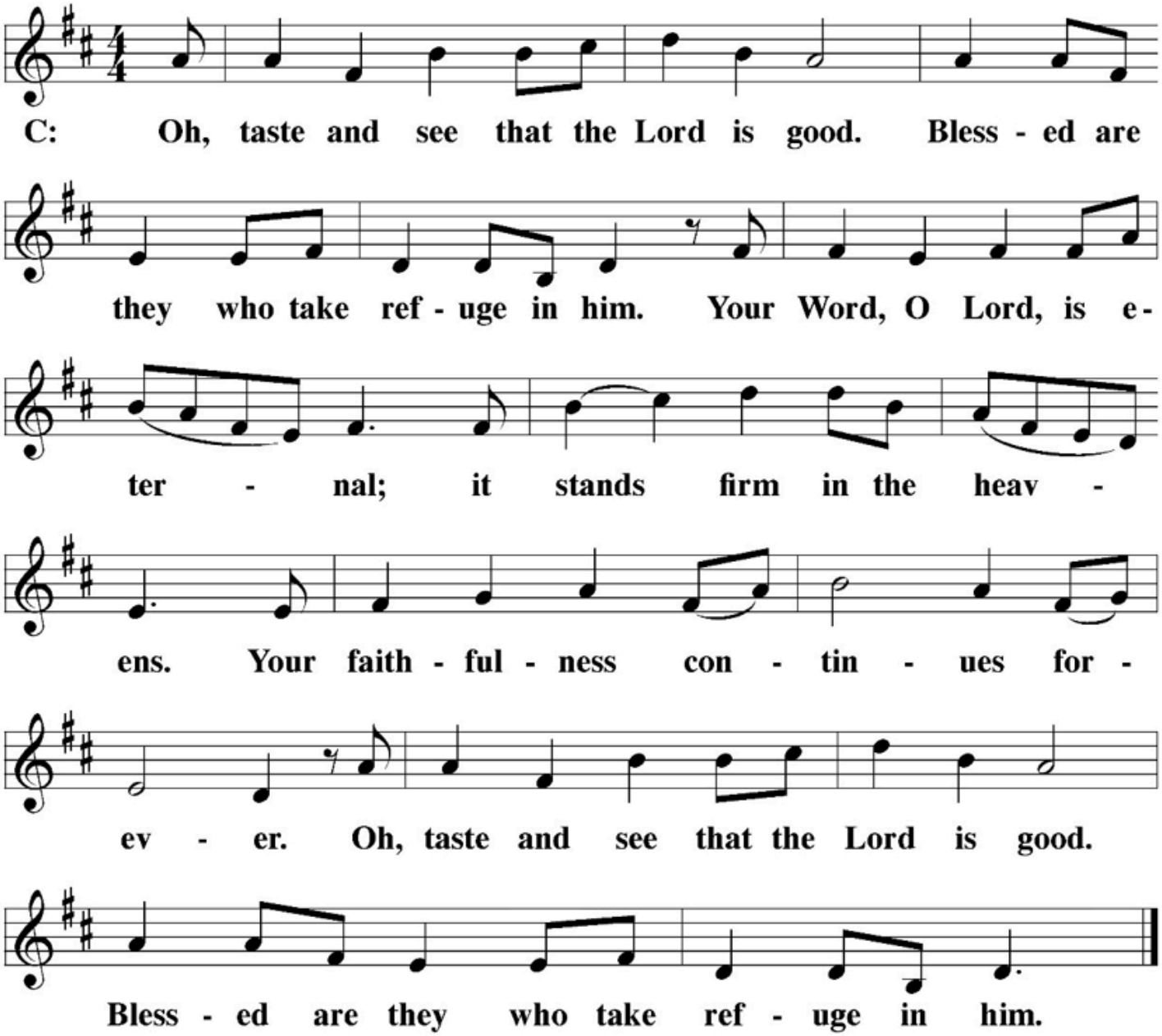
CONFESSION OF SINS

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.

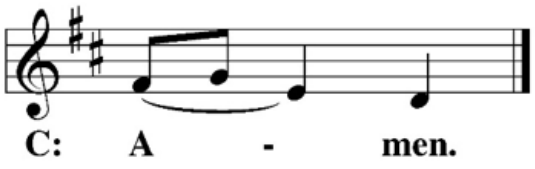
M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

OH, TASTE AND SEE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.
Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength, and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



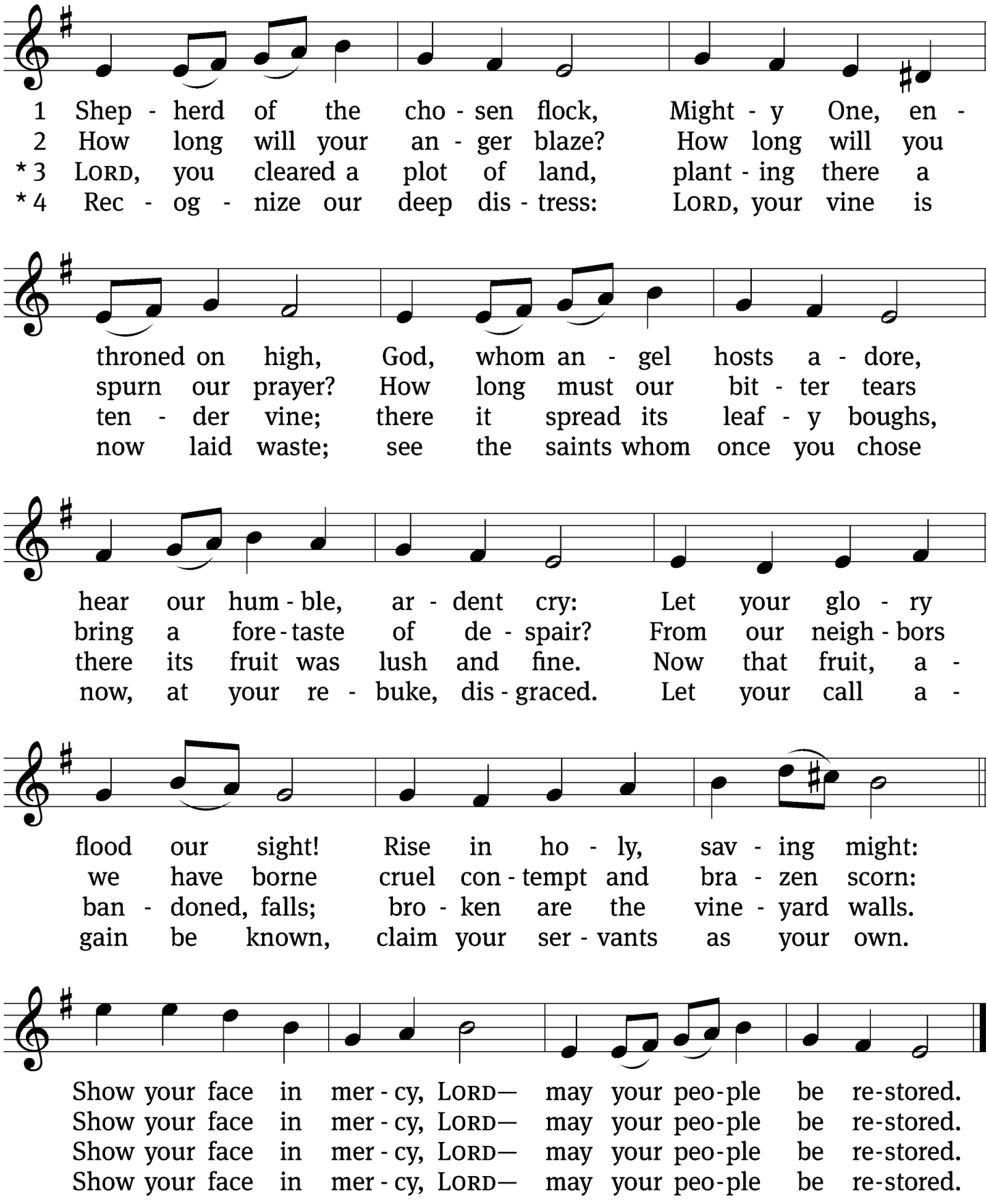
FIRST LESSON Isaiah 64:1-9

[1] Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains
would tremble before you! [2] As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water
to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause
the nations to quake before you! [3] For when you did awesome things that we
did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.
[4] Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen
any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. [5] You
come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways.
But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can
we be saved? [6] All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our
righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the
wind our sins sweep us away. [7] No one calls on your name or strives to lay
hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over
to our sins.

[8] Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are
all the work of your hand. [9] Do not be angry beyond measure, Lord; do not
remember our sins forever. Oh, look on us, we pray, for we are all your
people.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY ***Show Your Face*** Psalm 80

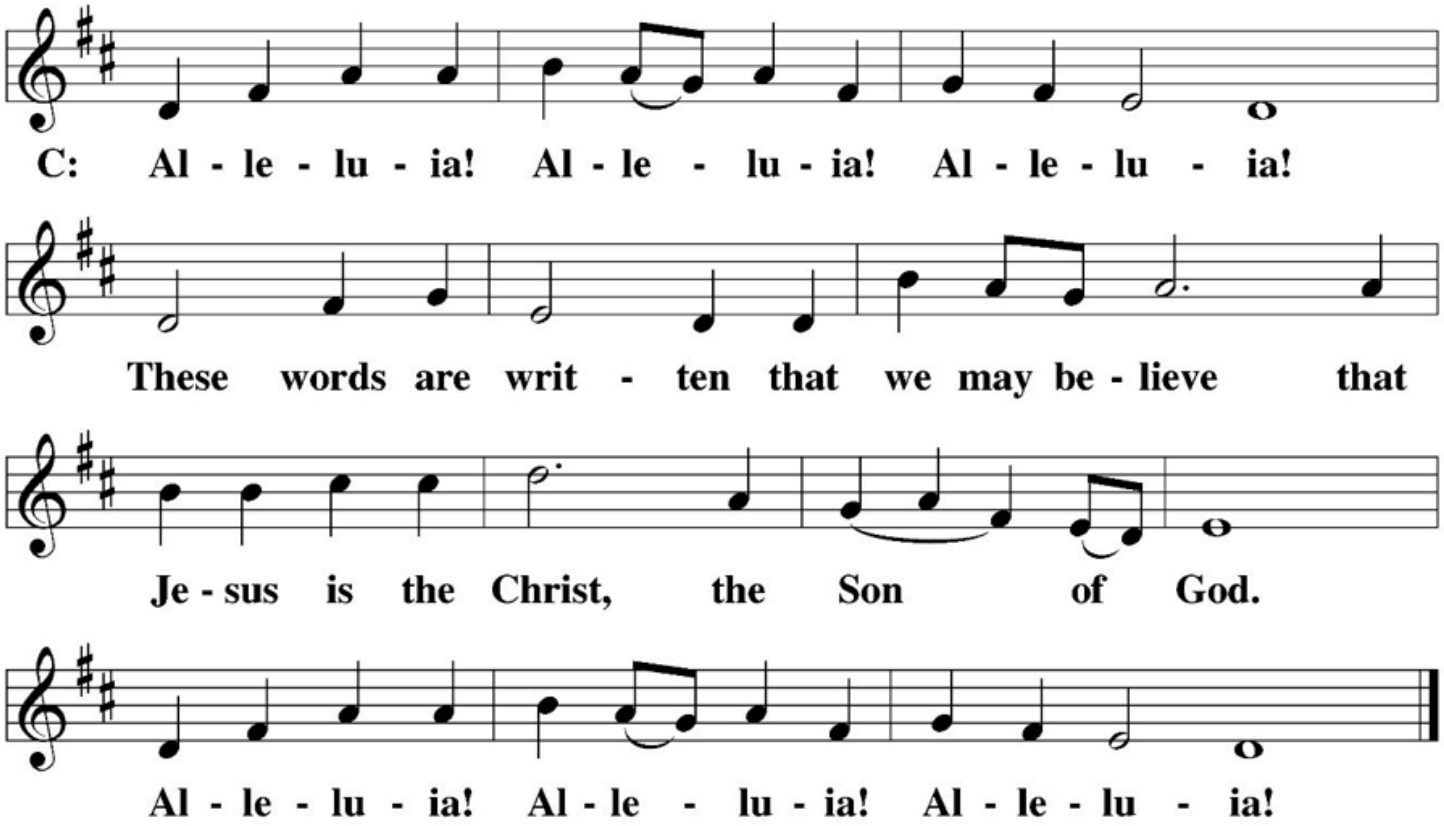


SECOND LESSON 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

[3] Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
[4] I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. [5] For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— [6] God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. [7] Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. [8] He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9] God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

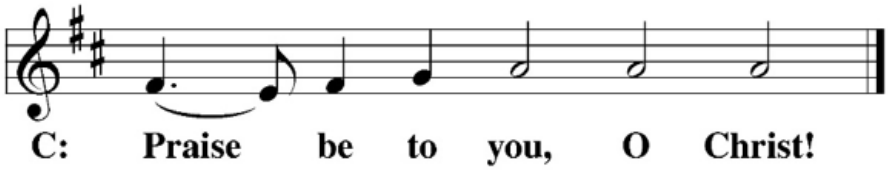
VERSE OF THE DAY



GOSPEL Mark 13:26-37

[26] "At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with
great power and glory. [27] And he will send his angels and gather his elect
from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.
[28] "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender
and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. [29] Even so, when you
see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door.
[30] Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these
things have happened. [31] Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will
never pass away.
[32] "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in
heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. [33] Be on guard! Be alert! You do not
know when that time will come. [34] It's like a man going away: He leaves his
house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells
the one at the door to keep watch.
[35] "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the
house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the
rooster crows, or at dawn. [36] If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you
sleeping. [37] What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!' "

The Gospel of the Lord.



HYMN OF THE DAY ***Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*** CW 487

1 Lo! He comes with clouds descending, once for ev'ry sinner slain;
thousand thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Christ reveals his endless reign.

2 Ev'ry eye shall now behold him robed in glorious majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him, pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing, shall their true Messiah see.

3 Those dear tokens of his passion still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation to his ransomed worshipers.
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture,
gaze we on those glorious scars!

4 Yea, amen, let all adore thee high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory, claim the kingdom as thine own.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!

SERMON Stay Alert and Watch Mark 13:26-37

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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.
C: We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.

M: 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.

C: 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.

M: 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.

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

M: 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.

C: 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.

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

Silent prayer.

M: 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.

C: 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.

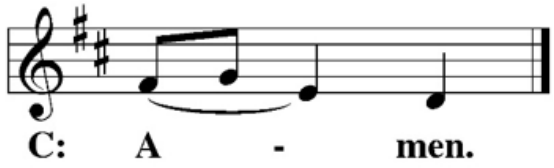
HYMN *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying* CW 486

1 "Wake, awake, for night is flying,"
the watchmen on the heights are crying;
"awake, Jerusalem, arise!" Midnight hears the welcome voices
and at the thrilling cry rejoices: "Oh, where are all you virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes, awake! Your lamps with gladness take! Alleluia!
With bridal care yourselves prepare to meet the Bridegroom, who is near."

2 Zion hears the watchmen singing, and all her heart with joy is springing;
she wakes, she rises from her gloom.
For her Lord comes down all-glorious,
the strong in grace, in truth victorious; her star is ris'n, her light is come.
Now come, O Blessèd One, Christ Jesus, God's own Son. Hail! Hosanna!
We enter all the marriage hall to eat the Supper at your call.

3 Now let all the heav'ns adore you, let saints and angels sing before you
with harp and cymbal's clearest tone. Of one pearl each shining portal,
where, dwelling with the choir immortal,
we gather round your radiant throne.
No vision ever brought, no ear has ever caught such great glory;
therefore will we in victory sing hymns of praise eternally.

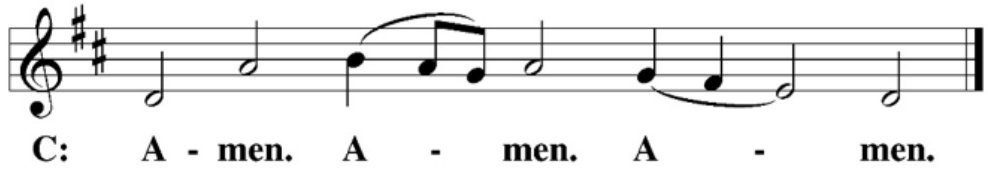
M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and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



BLESSING

M: 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.



CLOSING HYMN ***Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray*** CW 873

1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; from your sleep awaken!
Be not by the evil day unawares o'ertaken;
for the foe, well we know, is a harvest reaping
while the saints are sleeping.

2 Watch against the devil's snares lest asleep he find you;
for indeed no pains he spares to deceive and blind you.
Satan's prey oft are they who secure are sleeping
and no watch are keeping.

3 Watch! Let not the wicked world with its lies defeat you
lest with bold deceptions hurled it betray and cheat you.
Watch and see lest there be faithless friends to charm you
who but seek to harm you.

4 Watch against yourself, my soul, lest with grace you trifle;
let not self your thoughts control nor God's mercy stifle.
Pride and sin lurk within, all your hopes to shatter;
heed not when they flatter.

5 But while watching also pray to the Lord unceasing.
God protects you day by day, strength and faith increasing,
so that still mind and will shall unite to serve him
and forever love him.

PREACHER — Pastor Rob Guenther
ORGANIST — Jon Roux

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THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	No Bible Class or Sunday School
Monday	6:30 pm	Worship Committee Meeting
Wednesday	11 am	Midweek Advent Service
	4 & 6:30 pm	Midweek Advent Service
	5 pm	Advent Meal
	7:30 pm	Choir
Thursday	10 am	Bible Class
	7 pm	Bible Class
Friday	6:30 pm	Church Christmas Decorating
Saturday	8:30 pm	Christmas for Kids
	6:30 pm	Worship

NEXT WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, Dec. 6	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class and Sunday School
	7 pm	Youth Group Event
Monday, Dec. 7	4 pm	Elders' Meeting
Wednesday, Dec. 9	11 am	Midweek Advent Service
	4 & 6:30 pm	Midweek Advent Service
	5 pm	Advent Meal
	7:30 pm	Choir
Thursday, Dec. 10	10 am	Bible Class
	11:30 am	Stewardship Meeting
	7 pm	Bible Class
Saturday, Dec. 12	6:30 pm	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance last weekend was 621.

Fruits of Faith:

$9,587 Home Operations ~ YTD: $764,368 / Needed: $792,552
$1,053 WELS Missions ~ YTD: $77,495 (2026 Goal: $100,701)
$652 MVL ~ YTD: $50,115 (2026 Goal: $62,278)
$581 Building Fund
$6 Food and Fellowship
$110 St. Paul's School Building Fund
$520 K-12 Tuition Assistance Fund
$100 Technology Fund
$58 Miscellaneous Receipts

Givelify Scan the QR code to use the Givelify app and donate your offering.

The Twelve Days of Christmas ~ Scripture, Family, and Service. You're invited this Christmas season to join us for The Twelve Days of Christmas, a devotional series designed to help us grow in God's Word, strengthen our faith at home, and serve one another and our neighbors. Beginning December 25, each day will include a short Scripture reading, a devotional reflection, a question for family discussion, a prayer, and a simple activity or service opportunity. Together, we'll explore Scripture and reflect on the gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh, who continues to speak to us through his Word. The hope is that this shared experience will help us build meaningful devotional habits, grow together in faith, and carry the joy of Christmas into our homes, congregation, and community.

Christmas for Kids 2026 ~ Get ready for a morning full of fun at St. John's! Join us on Saturday, December 5th, from 8:30–11:00 a.m. for our annual Christmas for Kids event! Children in Pre-K through 4th grade are invited to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with a morning of Bible study, festive crafts, Christmas music, and cookie decorating! Ready to join the fun? Sign up your children using the QR code below. We can't wait to celebrate the joy of Jesus' birth with your kiddos!

Christmas for Kids Food Donation ~ We are looking for food donations for Christmas for Kids! If you are able to help out, a sign up sheet is in the new narthex.

Women of St. John's ~ Please join us on Tuesday, December 1st at 7 p.m. for our annual Christmas Party. We will be meeting in the church basement. Please bring a wrapped white elephant gift to exchange. Contact Sarah Logston with any questions (logstonsarah@gmail.com). Hope to see you there!

Advent by Candlelight and Tea ~ Ladies, you are all invited to a WELS Women's Ministry Advent by Candlelight program, "Questions of Christmas", to help us prepare our hearts for the coming of our Savior. This will be held at St. John's on Sunday, Dec. 6, at 2pm. We will share in readings, singing, light refreshments, tea/coffee and fellowship. Hope to see you there and feel free to bring a friend. A signup sheet to help us plan for refreshments is in the new narthex. For any questions contact Kara Johnson (763) 218-6622.

New Ulm Emergency Food Shelf ~ St. John's supports the New Ulm Emergency Food Shelf by providing volunteers to assist clients on the third Monday of each month from 11:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. Duties include accompanying clients as they select their food options based on distribution guidelines, weighing carts, and pushing them to the garage where the clients load their items into their cars. Three volunteers will serve on the third Monday each month. If you are interested in volunteering for 2027, please indicate your availability on the sign-up sheet in the narthex. For more information, call Carla Melendy (507-217-9750) or Deb Beatty (507-276-2722). In December, you will receive a schedule and guidelines for helping at the food shelf.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

LMSG Ammo Can Campaign ~ Each May and November, Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG) seeks donations in support of our military men, women, and families. LMSG, a partnership of ELS and WELS Veterans, is working to grow awareness of and bring Christian support to our Christian Warriors and their families in our congregations. By placing your gift in the Ammo Can located in the new narthex, you are supporting the spiritual and mental health of our Christian Warriors through programs like our retreats and workshops, educational support for pastors serving military families, Veterans pursuing a second career in public ministry, and more. Visit www.lutheranmilitary.org for more information. Thank you for standing Shoulder to Shoulder in Service with those who serve our Nation!

Job Opening at MLC ~ Female Dormitory Custodian: Helps care for the place that our female students call home during their time at MLC. Interested individuals should apply online at mlc-wels.edu/hr/.