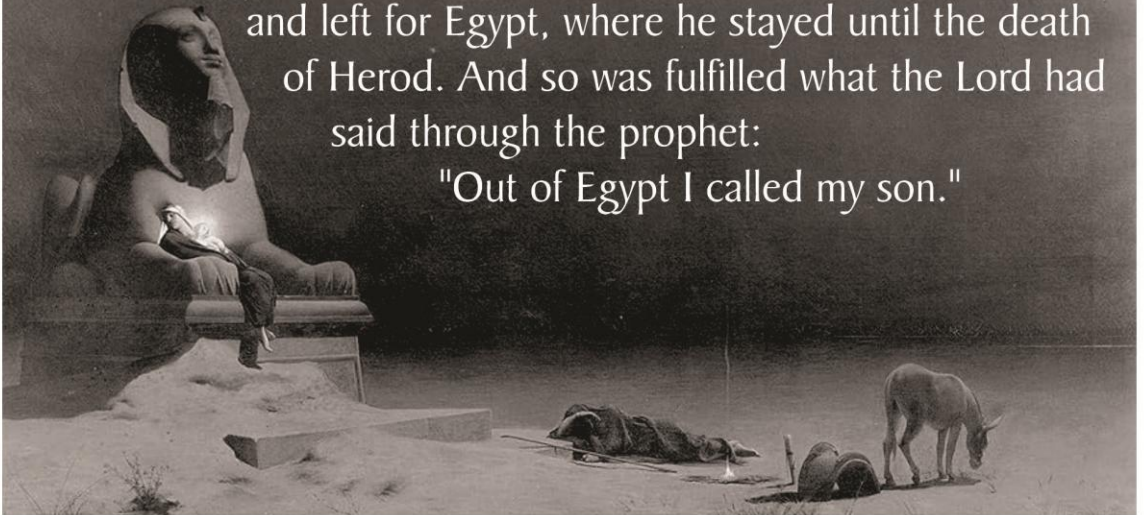


Matthew 2:13-2-15 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet:

"Out of Egypt I called my son."



First Sunday After Christmas

DECEMBER 27 / 28, 2025

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.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 27/28, 2025

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



PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Almighty God, as you spoke to your people of old and directed their lives according to you will, so speak to us now through Word and Sacrament. Strengthen our faith and lead us through this world of danger and peril to the place you want us to be, holding fast to your promises of forgiveness and salvation. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE	<i>Service Setting 1</i>	pg. 155
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OPENING HYMN	<i>Let All Together Praise Our God</i>	CW 355
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Stand

CONFESSION OF SINS		pg. 155
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LORD HAVE MERCY		pg. 156
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GLORY TO GOD		pg. 157
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PRAYER OF THE DAY		pg. 160
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Be seated

FIRST LESSON	Isaiah 63:7-9
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⁷ I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD, the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to all the LORD has done for us—yes, the many good things he has done for Israel, according to his compassion and many kindnesses. ⁸ He said, “Surely they are my people, children who will be true to me”; and so he became their Savior. ⁹ In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his

presence saved them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

The Word of the Lord.

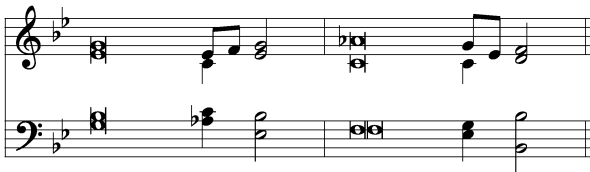
Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY *Great Are the Works of the LORD* Psalm 2D

Refrain



Tone



Why do the nations / conspire
and the peoples / plot in vain?

The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together a- / gainst the LORD
and against his A- / nointed. *Refrain*

The One enthroned in / heaven laughs;
the Lord / scoffs at them.

He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, / saying,
“I have installed my King on Zion, my holy / mountain.” *Refrain*

I will proclaim the / LORD’s decree:

He said to me, “You are my Son; today I have become your / Father.”

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 LESSON

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴ But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶ Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

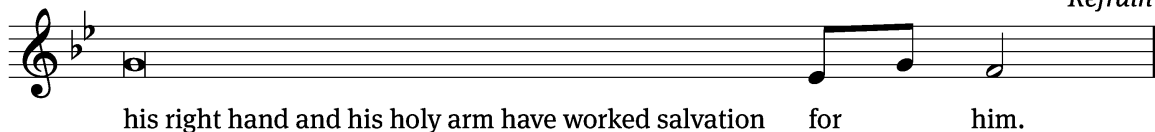
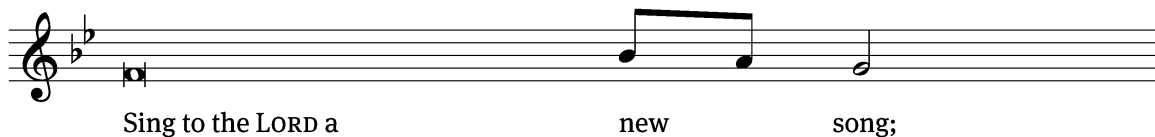
Psalm 98:1



Refrain



Tone



¹³ When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁶ When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”

¹⁹ After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt ²⁰ and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.”

²¹ So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, ²³ and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY *All Hail! You Infant Martyr Flowers* CW 978



1 All hail! You in - fant mar - tyr flow'rs, cut off in
2 With ter - ror does the ty - rant hear that God's own
3 King Her - od ra - ges at the Word: "Go, sol - dier,
4 Oh, what is gained from this of - fense? What prof - it



life's first dawn - ing hours; like rose - buds, snapped in
Son to us draws near. On Da - vid's throne he
with your ruth - less sword, to him, who stands where
comes from vi - o - lence? The Sav - ior - King sur -



dread - ful strife, when Her - od sought our Sav - ior's life.
comes to dwell and reign as King of Is - ra - el.
we have stood, and stain the In - fant - crib with blood!"
vived the day, as Christ was safe - ly whisked a - way!

- 5 A voice is heard in bitter pain as Rachel mourns the infants slain,
refusing comfort—sacred lore— because her children are no more!
- 6 Of you, O little lambs, we sing, first victims slain for Christ our King:
beneath the heav'nly altar's ray with martyr-palms and crowns you play!
- 7 To you, the virgin-born, we raise thanksgiving and eternal praise,
whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore.

SERMON

Do You Hear What I Hear

Matthew 2:13-23

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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH pg. 164

OFFERING

HYMN *The Only Son from Heaven* CW 383

Stand

PRAYER AND BLESSING pg. 171

CLOSING HYMN *There Is a Redeemer* CW 519

PREACHER	Pastor Jeff Bovee
PRESIDING MINISTER	Pastor Rob Guenther
ORGANIST	Susan Decker

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship No Bible Class
Wednesday	7 pm	New Years Eve Service
Thursday		Office Closed No Bible Class
Saturday	6:30 pm	Worship
Sunday, Jan 4	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
Tuesday, Jan 6	7 pm	Women of St. John's
Wednesday, Jan 7	6:30 pm	Public and Homeschool Catechism
Thursday, Jan 8	10 am	Bible Class
	7 pm	Bible Class

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for this past weekend was 443 with 336 receiving the Lord's supper.

Fruits of Faith:

\$17,585 Home Operations ~ Needed: \$889,895 / YTD: \$877,737

\$2,265 WELS Missions ~ YTD: \$97,244 (2025 Goal: \$87,000)

\$540 MVL ~ YTD: \$59,597 (2025 Goal: \$57,000)

\$45 Building Fund

\$5,110 K-12 Education Assistance

\$400 St. Paul's School Building Fund

\$500 Endowment Fund

\$272 Altar and Flowers

\$1,487 Gifts for Called Workers/Staff

\$60 Food + Fellowship

\$20 Organ Fund

\$300 Martin Luther College

\$.25 Lutheran Charities

\$131 Miscellaneous Income

\$100 Technology Equipment

Grand Piano on the Wish List ~ St. John's Worship Committee would like to replace the piano in the front of the church. The existing piano was not designed for a large space seating 350 people, but for a house or small music studio. The council has approved that a new 5-foot Yamaha grand piano (to be placed in the front of the sanctuary near the lectern) be added to the wish list. This piano would enrich our worship as it fills the church with sound. It's known for its stability of tuning and action and delivers a clear sound that would accompany the congregation and choirs well. The cost is approximately \$21,400 for the piano, delivery and installation, and all needed accessories. If you are interested in contributing to this worship enhancement, please note "Piano" on your offering envelope or electronic gift. To God be the glory!

Active Threat Training Available ~ St. John's is hosting active threat training provided by Protect His House. This training is being offered at no cost to all interested St John's and St. Paul's members. Training will cover situational awareness, action planning, and tactics to respond to threatening situations. The class will be held at St. John's LC, Saturday, January 24th from 9am - 12pm. Registration is required. Use promo code SJLCFREE at registration. Use the QR code on the posters found around church, or go to <https://phhtraining.com/event/phh-level-1-active-threat-awareness-seminar-new-ulm-minnesota/> to register.

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Beginnings ~ On Saturday, January 10th at 7:00 pm, St. Paul's New Ulm will be hosting a special presentation about New Beginnings: A Home For Mothers, a WELS affiliated program. Ruth Westphal, the program manager will be here to present.

St. Paul's Preschool Open House ~ Mon. Jan. 19, 2026 – 3PM – 6PM New preschoolers, please come and visit! (And 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 19th . (Community "Open Registration" begins Jan. 20.) If you have questions, please contact our preschool director, Mrs. Heidi Meyer: preschool@splnewulm.org.

About the Cover ~ This painting entitled, "Rest on the Flight into Egypt" by French artist Luc Olivier Merson (1879) which hangs in the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, depicts Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus resting beneath the shadow of the great Sphinx in Egypt. Although the Bible never mentions such an event, the artist reminds us that the Holy Family, as they are sometimes referred to, did indeed go to that historic country, and may have seen the sights which we associate with Egypt even today. In God's plan, he brought Jesus back to the place where the Israelites were once enslaved, but then brought him out again back to the Promised Land on behalf of us all. Jesus' deliverance from his enemies by the hand of God reminds us that God has delivered us from all our enemies through him.