

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

627 South Washington, New Ulm, Minnesota

For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons
marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,



so shall your God rejoice over you.

ISAIAH 62:5

Second Sunday in Epiphany

January 18/19, 2025

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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

SECOND SUNDAY IN EPIPHANY

January 18/19, 2025

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Heavenly Father, we know that we deserve to be divorced from you for all of eternity in hell for all of the many times we have cheated on you, serving our own passions over our commitment to you and loving other "gods" more than you. Yet, in your grace, you sent your own son to make us pure, clean, and holy in your sight. You made us, the Church, your beautiful bride and married yourself to us. Now help us to live for you in purity as we express our thanks. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Service Setting 3

OPENING HYMN	<i>Songs of Thankfulness and Praise</i>	CW 386
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Stand

CONFESSION OF SINS	pg. 188
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LORD HAVE MERCY	pg. 190
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GLORY TO GOD	pg. 191
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Be seated

FIRST READING

Isaiah 62:1–5

- ¹ For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet,
till her vindication shines out like the dawn,
her salvation like a blazing torch.
- ² The nations will see your vindication,
and all kings your glory;
you will be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will bestow.
- ³ You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand,
a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
- ⁴ No longer will they call you Deserted,
or name your land Desolate.
But you will be called Hephzibah,
and your land Beulah;
for the LORD will take delight in you,
and your land will be married.
- ⁵ As a young man marries a young woman,
so will your Builder marry you;
as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride,
so will your God rejoice over you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY *I Will Praise Your Name Forever* Psalm 145B

Refrain



I will praise your name for - ev - er, my King and my God.

Tone



Great is the Lord and most wor- / thy of praise;

his greatness no one can / fathom.

One generation commends your works to an- / other;

they tell of your / mighty acts.

The Lord upholds / all who fall

and lifts up all who are / bowed down. *Refrain*

The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the / proper time.

You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every / living thing.

The Lord is near to all who / call on him,

to all who call on / him in truth.

He fulfills the desires of those who / fear him;

he hears their cry and / saves them.

**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

Ephesians 3:14–21

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

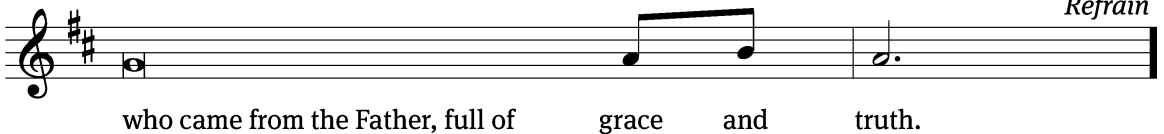
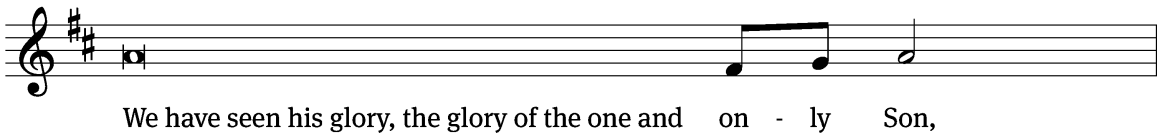
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Refrain



Tone



GOSPEL

John 2:1–11

¹ On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ² and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

⁴ "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."

⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶ Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

⁷ Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim.

⁸ Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.”

They did so, ⁹ and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰ and said, “Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.”

¹¹ What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

My Song Is Love Unknown

CW 397

SERMON

Your Wonderful Wedding Day

Isaiah 62:1-5

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

pg. 198

OFFERING

Stand

THE SACRAMENT

pg. 199

LORD'S PRAYER

pg. 201

Be seated

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

O Love, How Deep

CW 545

Stand

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

pg. 203

PREACHER
PRESIDING MINISTER
ORGAN

Pastor Rob Guenther
Pastor Jeff Bovee
Becky Berg

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: Psalms
Monday	6:30 pm	Worship Committee
Tuesday	4 pm	Oak Hills Service
	7 pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday	3:30 pm	Public and Homeschool Catechism
	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
	10 am	Sunset Apt. Service
	11 am	Highland Regency Service
	4:30 pm	St. John's Night @ MVL Boys BB

Saturday	6:30 pm	Worship
	3 pm	Winter Carnival
Sunday, Jan. 26	8, 9:30, 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class: Psalms
Tuesday, Jan. 28	7 pm	Voters' Meeting
Wednesday, Jan. 29	3:30 pm	Homeschool & Public School Catechism
	6 pm	Handbells
	7 pm	Choir
Thursday, Jan. 30	10 am	Bible Class: Proverbs
	7 pm	Bible Class: Vices & Virtues
Friday, Jan. 31	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class: Vices and Virtues
Saturday, Feb. 1	6:30 pm	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for this past weekend was 379

Fruits of Faith:

\$14,534 Home Operations ~ Budgeted to Date: \$35,596 / Year to Date received: \$24,011

\$1,109 WELS Missions ~ Received to Date: \$2,398 (2024 Goal: \$87,000)

\$897 MVL ~ Received to Date: \$1,522 (2024 Goal: \$57,000)

\$230 Building Fund

\$45 St. Paul's School Building Fund

\$160 St. Paul's School

\$60 MLC

\$155 Food + Fellowship

\$18 Women of St. John's

\$100 Undesignated Memorials

Change for Next Voters' Meeting ~ A consent agenda format will be used for the reports at the upcoming voters' meeting to streamline the process and focus on key discussions—think of it as the "skip to the good part" button. The annual reports will be available for review starting next Sunday, several days before the meeting. Please take the time to review them in advance, as all items on the consent agenda

St. John Food Shelf Volunteers ~ The 2025 schedule for the food shelf volunteers is in your church mailbox. Please contact Deb Beatty (507-276-2722) or Carla Melendy (507-217-9750) if you have any questions.

St. John's Cancer Journey Group ~ The meeting of St. John's cancer group scheduled for Sunday, January 19, has been postponed due to forecasts of very cold temperatures and bitter windchills for that day. Watch for future announcements of the new meeting date.

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

Bingo Night ~ will be Wednesday, February 26, 2025!

The MLC Ladies' Auxiliary sponsors this highly anticipated event for all MLC students. We need your donations! The Auxiliary is currently asking for baked goods, quilts/blankets, and cash for gift cards. Please drop off donations at the MLC reception desk. Or mail them to 1995 Luther Court, New Ulm MN 56073. Questions? Please email mlcauxiliary@mlc-wels.edu or call 507.354.8221. Want to promote the event in your congregation? Visit our [Bingo website](#) for downloadable materials. Thank you from many grateful students!

Bus Drivers Needed at MVL ~ Here at MVL/Palmer Bus Service, we're excited to announce that we are now hiring bus drivers! As two of our valued drivers are retiring, we have an excellent opportunity for new team members to join our dedicated transportation family. This is more than just a job—it's a chance to make a real difference in your community by providing safe and reliable transportation for the MVL students. Our drivers play a crucial role in the lives of MVL students, ensuring they get to school, home, and extracurricular activities safely each day. As an MVL bus driver, you'll enjoy a flexible schedule that works around your life, imagine the joy of seeing your MVL students as you help transport them to their school or sporting events! We're looking for individuals who have a passion for community service, enjoy working with kids, and are ready to take on an important role in our transportation team. If you're someone who thrives on helping others and wants to make a meaningful difference, this is the perfect job for you. Current openings include both AM and PM route drivers and extracurricular activity drivers. We provide paid training and all expenses in getting your School Bus Drivers License. Apply today and join us in providing outstanding service to the families of MVL. If you have any questions or would like more information, feel free to reach out to Ray Vulcan, Palmer Bus Service MVL Site Manager at 507-995-5387.

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 20th. (Community "Open Registration" begins Jan. 21.) If you have questions, please contact our preschool director, Mrs. Heidi Meyer: preschool@splnewulm.org

About the Cover ~ An engaged couple or a brand new bride and groom can't get enough of each other. That's the way God describes the way he feels about you. "As a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you." That's the way Isaiah put it. Paul put it this way: "Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless," (Eph. 5:25-27). Christ made us a beautiful bride, clothed in the wedding dress of the robe of his righteousness. Now we're eager to live for him who married himself to us.