

## Second Sunday in Advent December 6 / 7, 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.

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT**  
**December 6/7, 2025**

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



**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:** Almighty God, we praise you that in your mercy you sent Jesus Christ to atone for our sin and thus make peace between us and you, our holy and benevolent Creator reconciled to sinful people such as we. Cause us to know that peace that surpasses all understanding which is ours only through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. May his perfect righteousness, imputed to us through faith in him, cause us to well up in joyful praise and produce the fruits of faith in our lives. Bless us as we worship you this day. We pray it in Jesus' saving name. Amen.

**HANDBELLS 8 & 9:30 am**      *The Wexford Carol*      arr. Kurt Meyer

**ORDER OF SERVICE**      *Service Setting 2*      pg. 172

**OPENING HYMN**      *Comfort, Comfort All My People*      CW 312

*Stand*

**CONFESSION OF SINS**      pg. 172

**LORD HAVE MERCY**      pg. 174

**GLORY TO GOD**      pg. 176

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**      pg. 178

*Be seated*

## FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-10

<sup>1</sup> A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. <sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—<sup>3</sup> and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. <sup>9</sup> They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup> In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM OF THE DAY**

*Out of the Depths*

Psalm 130

## SECOND LESSON

Romans 15:4-13

<sup>4</sup> For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

<sup>5</sup> May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, <sup>6</sup> so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. <sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed <sup>9</sup> and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles;  
I will sing the praises of your name.”

<sup>10</sup> Again, it says, “Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.”

<sup>11</sup> And again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; let all the peoples extol him.”

<sup>12</sup> And again, Isaiah says, “The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope.”

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 3:4,6

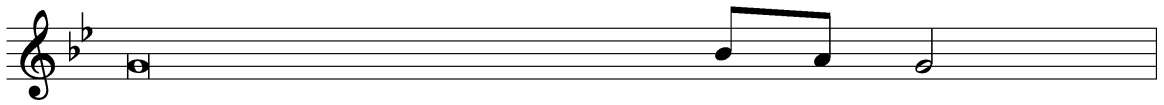


### *Refrain*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### *Tone*



Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.

### *Refrain*



And all people will see God's sal - va - tion.

## GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea <sup>2</sup> and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup> This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’ ”

<sup>4</sup> John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. <sup>6</sup> Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup> And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our

father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.<sup>10</sup> The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.<sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      *Behold, a Branch Is Growing*      CW 360

**SERMON**      From the Branch Will Come the Harvest      Isaiah 11:1-10

*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** pg. 182

**OFFERING**

**THE SACRAMENT** pg. 183

***Stand***

**LORD'S PRAYER** pg. 185

***Be seated***

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN** *As Angels Joyed with One Accord* CW 320

**DISTRUBUTION HYMN** CW 660

***Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face***

***Stand***

**PRAYER AND BLESSING** pg. 187

**PREACHER**

Pastor Jeff Bovee

**PRESIDING MINISTER**

Pastor Rob Guenther

**ORGANIST**

Jon Roux

**HANDBELLS**

Becky Berg

## Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
Wednesday	11 am	Advent Midweek Service
	4 & 6:30 pm	Advent Midweek Service
	6:30 pm	Public and Homeschool Catechism
	7:30 pm	Choir
Thursday	10 am	Bible Class
	7 pm	Bible Class
Saturday	6:30 pm	Worship
Sunday, Dec 14	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class and Sunday School
		<a href="https://bit.ly/SJBibleClassonline">https://bit.ly/SJBibleClassonline</a>
Tuesday, Dec 16	7 pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday, Dec 17	11 am	Advent Midweek Service
	4 & 6:30 pm	Advent Midweek Service
	6:30 pm	Public and Homeschool Catechism
	7:30 pm	Choir
Thursday, Dec 18	10 am	Bible Class
	7 pm	Bible Class



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Attendance for this past weekend was 283.

### **Fruits of Faith:**

<p>\$9,419 Home Operations ~ Needed: \$836,501 / YTD: \$812,010 \$1,095 WELS Missions ~ YTD: \$92,685 (2025 Goal: \$87,000) \$1,013 MVL ~ YTD: \$57,584 (2025 Goal: \$57,000) \$505 Building Fund \$160 K-12 Education Assistance \$125 St. Paul's School Building Fund \$156 Food and Fellowship \$38 Miscellaneous Income</p>
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**Gift Cards for Nontraditional (second career) MLC students ~** Women of St. John's will be collecting gift cards (or funds to purchase them) through Sunday, December 7th to give our 19 nontraditional MLC students for Christmas. There is a collection box on the table in the new narthex if you would like to contribute. Please contact Sarah Logston (507-766-6455) with any questions.

**Women of St. John's Ladies' Night Out Christmas Party ~** We will be gathering at Carl's Corner in Essig on Tuesday, December 2nd at 6 p.m. for a meal and some fellowship activities. Please note that payment is by cash only and we will be ordering off the menu that evening. Parking is very limited, so carpooling is strongly encouraged. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the new narthex to indicate if you plan to attend and if you need a ride (or can provide one). Please sign up by November 24th so a final headcount can be given to the restaurant a week in advance. Contact Sarah Logston (507-766-6455) with any questions.

**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!

### **AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**New Ulm Food Shelf Volunteers** ~ St. John's supports the New Ulm Emergency Food Shelf by providing volunteers to assist clients on the third Monday of each month from 11:45-3 pm. Duties include accompanying clients as they select their food options based on distribution guidelines, weighing and loading carts, and pushing them to the garage, where clients load their items into their cars. Four volunteers are needed on the third Monday of each month. If you are interested in volunteering for 2026, please indicate your availability on the sign-up sheet in the narthex. For more information, or if you have questions, call Carla Melendy (507-217-9750) or Deb Beatty (507-276-2722). You will receive a volunteer schedule in December, along with guidelines for volunteers.

**OWLS Meeting** ~ Our local MN Valley Chapter 13 OWLS (Organization of Wels Lutheran Seniors) will be meeting at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, New Ulm on Monday, December 8 for our annual Christmas gathering. Fellowship begins at 11:40 AM. The MLC student(s) will present the Christmas message with songs from 12:10 - 12:50 PM. A catered meal from Joni's will follow. To help subsidize the costs not covered by Thrivent Action Team moneys, each attendee will be asked to donate \$5. If you have not signed up and plan to attend, contact Myron Fluegge via phone, 507-359-2424 or email, [flueggemtj@hotmail.com](mailto:flueggemtj@hotmail.com) by Wednesday noon, December 3 for a meal count. Hope you can make it.

**St. Paul's Band** ~ The Raider Band program will present its December concert on Thursday, December 11 at 7:00 pm in the St. Paul gymnasium. We will start off with a sacred sing along with the reading of Luke 2 by the 5th graders. Many small groups will present our favorite carols in instrumental praise as well. The Raider band will play all the music from The Nutcracker in 3 minutes. Don't believe me? Come and find out for yourself! Finally, the Mass Band will wow you with 12 Joyous Days of Christmas playing percussion toys, kazoos and SINGING! Yep, a singing band! Don't miss out on the fun! Come join us!

**MLC Christmas Concert** ~ Martin Luther College invites you to the annual Christmas concert, For Us and For Our Salvation, presented Saturday, December 13, at 7:30 pm and Sunday, December 14, at 4:00 pm in the MLC Chapel of the Christ. All are welcome as we open the Advent season with this joyous campus tradition!

**Christmas for Families** ~ Saturday, December 20th, all families are invited to travel to Bethlehem to hear about the birth of Jesus from the shepherds, wise men, and others! Come to St. Paul's Church anytime between 9:00-11:00 AM to hear about the first Christmas, decorate cookies, play games, do crafts, and enjoy other activities.

**Treasure Haus** ~ Do you love treasure hunts, vintage finds, or simply helping others? Join the Treasure Haus family and support our ministry as we fund Christian education at Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School. We have many opportunities to serve with openings at the register, sorting and pricing incoming donations while providing a welcoming atmosphere for customers. We would love to welcome you to our team and will find just the right task to fit your schedule and our needs. Please contact us at 507-354-6108 and ask to speak with a manager.

**About the Cover** ~ Edward Hicks was Quaker minister and folk artist. He produced approximately 60 paintings, all of which he entitled, *The Peaceable Kingdom*, depicting a prophecy from Isaiah where a child leads a group of diverse animals living together in harmony. These paintings, created between about 1820 and his death, also frequently feature William Penn making a treaty with Native Americans in the background as an analogy for human-led peace. In the greater scheme these paintings are a picture of the peace which God brought to the world through Jesus Christ who reconciled natural enemies. Sinful man and Holy God have been brought to peace by the atoning work of Jesus Christ who made peace by taking away sin.