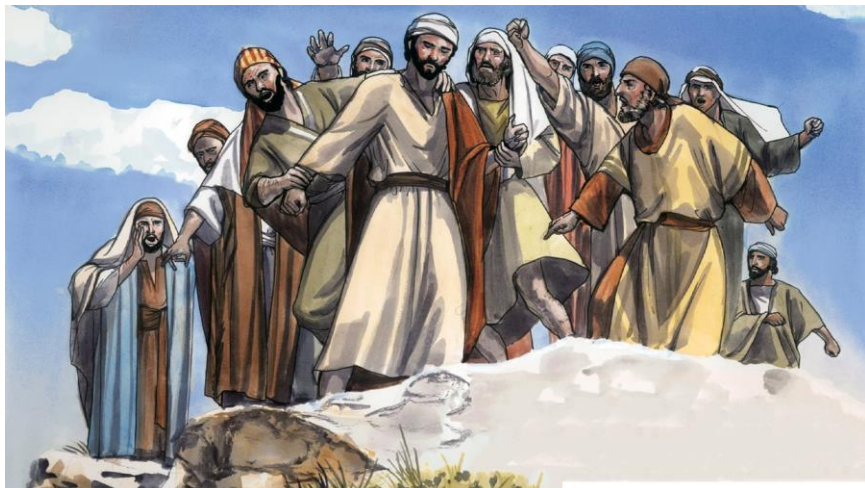




# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany*

*January 26, 2025 10:30 Service of the Word*

Jesus begins his public ministry in earnest after his testing by the devil in the wilderness. One of Jesus' first stops is his home town of Nazareth. At first they love to have Jesus back with them. His fame has been spreading. But then when he starts to teach what God is up to their feelings turn to rage. In a foreshadowing of the crucifixion they actually try to kill Jesus by throwing him off a cliff. We the readers start to see how God's mission will be met with a mixed response.

### *Welcome to worship today!*

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available on the usher's stand.

The Zoom feed for this service is shown in the nursery.

# † GATHERING †

## Prelude and Announcements

### Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom our hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### Gathering Hymn Rock of Ages

*(For music turn to Hymn 28 in the Songbook binder)*

**There is no rock, there is no god like our God;  
no other name worthy of all our praise.**

**The rock of salvation that cannot be moved,  
He's proven himself to be faithful and true.**

**There is no rock, there is no god like ours. *(Repeat)***

**Rock of ages, Jesus is the rock.**

**Rock of ages, Jesus is the rock.**

**Rock of ages. Jesus is the rock.  
There is no rock, there is no god like ours.**

Text and Music: Rita Baloche, copyright 1997 Maranatha Praise, Inc. Admin: The Copyright Company; CCLI Song #2240547

Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13)

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

Gathering Dialog (John 1)

A: In the beginning was the Word,

**C: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

A: In the Word was life,

**C: and the life was the light of all people.**

A: The Word became flesh and lived among us,

**C: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.**

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

‡ WORD ‡

First Reading Isaiah 61:1-6

B: The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,

because the LORD has anointed me;

he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,

to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives,

and release to the prisoners;

<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,

and the day of vengeance of our God;

to comfort all who mourn;

<sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion—

to give them a garland instead of ashes,

the oil of gladness instead of mourning,

the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

<sup>5</sup>Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks,  
foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines;

<sup>6</sup>but you shall be called priests of the LORD,  
you shall be named ministers of our God;  
you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations,  
and in their riches you shall glory.

*After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Poetry Psalm 71:1-6 (*read responsively*)

D: Lord, you are my shelter,  
do not fail me.

**C: You always do right;  
deliver me, rescue me,  
hear me and save me.**

D: Be my rock and haven,  
to whom I can always turn;  
be my tower of strength,  
keep me safe.

**C: The ruthless and wicked trap me;  
reach out to free me.**

D: You are my hope, O Lord,  
from the days of my youth.

**C: I have relied on you since birth,  
my strength from my mother's womb;  
I will praise you always.**

Second Reading Ephesians 1:3-10

E: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he

lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

*After the reading the reader may say:* The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation (Jeremiah 1:7,8)*

**C: Alleluia. You shall go to all whom I send you. Do not be afraid, for I am with you. Alleluia.**

*Gospel Reading* Luke 4:14-30

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you O Lord.**

<sup>14</sup>Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup>He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. <sup>16</sup>When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read,<sup>17</sup>and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup>“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

to let the oppressed go free,

<sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” <sup>20</sup>And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup>Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” <sup>22</sup>All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” <sup>23</sup>He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” <sup>24</sup>And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. <sup>25</sup>But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; <sup>26</sup>yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. <sup>27</sup>There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the

Syrian.”<sup>28</sup> When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage.<sup>29</sup> They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff.<sup>30</sup> But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

*After the reading:*

**P:** The gospel of the Lord

**C:** Praise to you O Christ.

### Children's Sermon

#### Sermon

Hymn of the Day Thy Holy Wings  
(For music see Hymn 613 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Thy holy wings, O Savior,  
spread gently over me,  
and let me rest securely  
through good and ill in thee.  
Oh, be my strength and portion,  
my rock and hiding place,  
and let my ev'ry moment  
be lived within thy grace.**
  
2. **Oh, let me nestle near thee,  
within thy downy breast  
where I will find sweet comfort  
and peace within thy nest.  
Oh, close thy wings around me  
and keep me safely there,  
for I am but a newborn  
and need thy tender care.**
  
3. **Oh, wash me in the waters  
of Noah's cleansing flood.  
Give me a willing spirit,  
a heart both clean and good.  
Oh, take into thy keeping  
thy children great and small,  
and while we sweetly slumber,  
enfold us one and all.**

## † BAPTISM †

We celebrate the baptism of Alexander James Barnes.

*Please turn to the Service of Holy Baptism on page 227 in the front of the Red Hymnal.*

## † THANKSGIVING †

### Special Music and Gathering of Prayers and Offerings

*You are invited to write a prayer concern on the small blank slip of paper in your worship bulletin. This slip will be collected by the ushers in the offering plates. The concerns raised will be prayed for later in the service.*

### Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: Merciful God,

**C: in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you embrace our lives with your great love for humanity. With joy and gladness we ask that these gifts may be for many a sign of that love, and that we may continue to share in your divine life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Prayers of Intercession

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*Issues raised by the congregation are prayed for.*

*The prayer concludes:*

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

† SENDING †

*Blessing*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine upon you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor  
and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

*Sending Hymn* On Our Way Rejoicing  
(For music see Hymn 537 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. On our way rejoicing  
gladly let us go.  
Christ, our Lord has conquered;  
Vanquished is the foe.  
Christ without, our safety;  
Christ within, our joy;  
who, if we be faithful,  
can our hope destroy?**

*Refrain:* **On our way rejoicing;  
as we forward move,  
hearken to our praises,  
O blest God of love!**

**2. Unto God the Father  
joyful songs we sing;  
unto God the Savior  
thankful hearts we bring;  
unto God the Spirit  
bow we and adore,  
on our say rejoicing  
now and evermore. Refrain**



*Dismissal*

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: God's Work. Our Hands.**



"You sound much better today, Dear."



"Just TELL me if the mike's not working."

**Worship assistants TODAY:**

Greeters and Ushers	Janice Lockwood
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle
Counters	John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour	Barnes Family

**Worship assistants for next Sunday, February 2**

Greeters and Ushers	Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Acolyte	Alyssa Young
Altar Care	Linda Thompson
Communion Assistant	Mary Zuege
Counters	Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour	

Scripture readings from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible* copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States. Psalm from *The Psalter* copyright 1994, Liturgical Training Publications. Variable worship texts from *Sundays and Seasons 2025* copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress.

**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
888 County Road 9, Victor, NY 14564  
stjohnsvictor.com (585) 924-5192  
The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor  
William Shi, Pianist