

January 4, 2025,  
2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS  
Pastor Tom Olson  
Minnesota Valley Free Lutheran Church

PRELUDE: Jan Ellingson (Osthus.Reynolds sing)

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 111

LEADER: Praise the LORD. I will extol the LORD with all my heart

ALL: In the council of the upright and in the assembly.

LEADER: Great are the works of the LORD;

ALL: They are pondered by all who delight in them.

LEADER: Glorious and majestic are his deeds,

ALL: And his righteousness endures forever.

HYMN #25 “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

NEW YEAR PRAYER (Unison): *Gracious Father in heaven, so many of us need a fresh start. We have failed in many ways this past year. We receive your full forgiveness through the precious blood of Jesus. We ask that you would fill us afresh with the Holy Spirit and power to have victory over sin. We also thank you that at the end of our brief lives that you are preparing a home for us in heaven. Help us to share this good news of Jesus and His love with our hurting world. In Jesus' Name. Amen*

Children's Message

Reader: Carol Hoikkala

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: *Isaiah 63:7-14 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 the house of Israel, according to his compassion and many kindnesses. 8 He said, "Surely they are my people, sons who will not be false 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. 10 Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them. 11 Then his people recalled the days of old, the days of Moses and his people--where is he who brought them through the sea, with the shepherd of his flock? Where is he who set his Holy Spirit among them, 12 who sent his glorious arm of power to be at Moses' right hand, who divided the waters before them, to gain for himself everlasting renown, 13 who led them through the depths? Like a horse in open country, they did not stumble; 14 like cattle that go down to the plain, they were given rest by the Spirit of the LORD. This is how you guided your people to make for yourself a glorious name.*

GOSPEL LESSON: *Matthew 2:13-23 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: "He will be called a Nazarene."*

READER: Here ends the reading of God's Word.

CONGREGATION SINGS: God be praised, for His glad Tidings!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER FOR OFFERING**

**PRAISE AND WORSHIP SONGS:** Chosen by Jan

**SERMON TITLE:** “The Blessings for the New Year” Matthew 5:1-12, Dave Fischer

**HYMN #53** “*As with Gladness Men of Old*”

**LORD’S PRAYER:** *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, The power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen*

**HOLY COMMUNION (Dave Fischer oversee)**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION:** *May the Lord, Mighty Lord, Bless and keep you forever-- Grant you peace, Perfect peace, Strength in every endeavor. Lift up your eyes and see His face, Feel His grace forever. May the Lord, Mighty Lord, Bless and keep you forever.*

**POSTLUDE:** Jan Ellingson