



One faith, one hope, one family  
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	Serving today	Serving next Sunday
<b>Worship leader</b>	Paul Workentine	Paul Workentine
<b>Music</b>	Betsy	Holly
<b>Greeters</b>	Jan	Jocelyn
<b>Ushers</b>	Jim	Derek
<b>Cleaning</b>	Greg & Tricia	Josh & Holly
<b>Snacks</b>	Rachel	Decorating dinner
<b>Video</b>	Sarah & Audrey	Bob & Jan
<b>Flowers</b>	Jim & Jan	



Our church family is part of the national church organization called the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. As a national church, we have 1200+ congregations across the United States and support mission work withing the U.S. and in 40+ foreign countries.



## A Real Christmas Includes Repentance

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Troutville, Virginia  
 December 8, 2024 at 10 a.m.

# Welcome

There is a dark side to Christmas, and it lives in our hearts.

We are in no shape to greet baby Jesus if we are full of ourselves. His whole reason for coming to earth was to live in our place and die in our place so God would not punish us for our sins. What kind of welcome would we give our Savior if we refused to admit the obvious – we have done wrong and need his help?

So we listen to the cry of John the Baptist, the greatest prophet before Jesus. God sent him to prepare people back then and prepare us today to meet our God and our Savior. John's message remains simple. "Repent!"

Thanks for joining us this morning. We're praying Jesus love for you comes through loud and clear in our worship service and everything we do this morning. Welcome!

## Restrooms

Restrooms are down the hallway on the left.

## Nursery

We enjoy children in worship, especially when they are singing God's praises in their own way. We think it's important for children to see what's going on in worship and begin participating at an early age. If today just isn't a good day for them, feel free to make use of our nursery just to the right of the doors as you exit the worship space.

## Calendar

### Today

10 am Worship  
11 am Good food and good friends  
11:30 am Sunday school and Habakkuk  
12:30 pm Voters' mtg

### Monday

7 pm Bible information class

### Tuesday

6 pm Blue Ridge Quilters use our space

### Wednesday

9:30 am Amazing Grace Bible study  
6 pm Choir  
7 pm Amazing Grace Bible study

### Thursday

2 pm Bible information class  
4:30 pm Bible information class

### Next Sunday

10 am Worship and communion  
11:30 am Decorating dinner

To access "Story of God's Love" scan the code below:



To access "Take a Breath of Joy" scan the code below.



To input cell # to receive "Take a Breath of Joy" daily at noon, scan the code:



## Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**Amen.**

## Arise, O Christian People

CW 310 sts. 3-4

3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on  
4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; turn not from me a -  
high; be - neath his feet in ter - ror the  
side, and help me to re - ceive you this  
haugh - ty soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and  
bless - ed Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger  
right, that heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion and makes true  
low come now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing your  
prep - a - ra - tion— it is the Lord's de - light.  
prais - es glad - ly and forth your glo - ry show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607-1662; (st. 3): tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-1874, alt.; (st. 4): tr. unknown, alt. Tune: New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein, Hamburg, 1598, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

## There's a Voice in the Wilderness

CW 308

1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a  
2 O\_\_\_ Chris - tians, you bring\_\_\_ good ti - dings; get  
3 But the Word of our God is e - ter - nal; the  
call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
arm of the Lord is strong. He stands in the midst of the  
high - way, a high - way for our God!  
peo - ple the com - ing of their King.  
na - tions, and he shall right the wrong.  
The\_\_\_ val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
Like the flow'rs of the field they\_\_\_ per - ish; like  
He shall feed his\_\_\_ flock like a shep - herd, the  
loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed  
grass their works de - cay. The pow'r and\_\_\_ pomp of  
lambs shall gent - ly hold, to pas - tures of peace shall  
plac - es where the Lord our\_\_\_ God\_\_\_ may go!  
na - tions shall\_\_\_ pass like a dream\_\_\_ a - way.  
lead them, and\_\_\_ bring them\_\_\_ safe to his fold.

Text: James L. Milligan, 1876-1961, alt. Tune: Henry H. Bancroft, 1904-1988

*Stand*

## Invocation

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

**Amen.**

## Confession

God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.

**Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.**

*James 4:6,10*

Dear friends, the season of Advent is a time of preparation as we await Christ's second coming on the Last Day. We prepare our hearts to meet him as we humbly seek his forgiveness.

**Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

**But with you there is forgiveness; therefore, you are feared.**

*Psalm 130:3,4*

## My Soul Will Magnify the Lord

*975 st. 1*

1 My soul will mag-ni-fy the Lord; I re-joice in God my  
Sav-ior, in the won-der of his fa-vor.  
For he has done great things for me, he was mind-ful

## Offering

*The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him.*

Deuteronomy 18:15

## Blest Is He Who Comes

choir

*His is no earthly kingdom;  
It comes from heaven above.  
His rule is peace and freedom  
And justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding  
For kindness so abounding:  
Oh, blest is He that came  
In God the Father's name.*

*Prepare the royal highway;  
The King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley  
A level road appear!  
Then greet the King of Glory  
Foretold in sacred story:  
Oh, blest is He that came  
In God the Father's name.*

*Stand*

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## 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 and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## Prayer of the Church

Gracious Lord, you sent your Son into our world to destroy the power of Satan and restore the human race as your children and heirs. Work in us during this Advent season so that we may rejoice in the coming of our Savior and long for his coming again.

### Hosanna\* to the Son of David!

Use the preaching of your holy law to rid us of all delusions that we can gain your love with our own efforts. Work sorrow in our heart over the wrong we have done and lead us to give up any hope that we can fix our sin. Lead us to be honest about our sinful status in your sight.

### Hosanna to the Son of David!

Lift up our hearts to see the King who comes to save by becoming a real human being in order to stand in our place. Through his Word and sacraments make us your children and keep us in faith. Thrill us with his promise to come and take us to our eternal home to live with you forever. Open our eyes to see and believe the wonders of the Savior's love.

### Hosanna to the Son of David!

As we live with Christ and trust in him, move us to turn away from sin day after day with the strength your Holy Spirit provides. When we fall, forgive us and renew us to love and serve you and all people. Empower us and guide us to walk with Christ by faith.

### Hosanna to the Son of David!

Protect us from the distractions that come at this time of the year. Keep our hearts focused on Christ and his forgiving love in the middle of our celebrations and activities. Give us joy at his coming at Christmas, his coming in the gospel, and his coming again.

### Hosanna to the Son of David!

Move us to share with others the most important gift of this season, Jesus has come to save us. Lead us to pray for those whose joy is diminished because of sickness, pain, or loss. Bring your peace and comfort to all who struggle, who grieve, who suffer, who wander. Give us opportunities to help to those in need. May others see the love of Christ in us.

### Hosanna to the Son of David!

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

### *Silent prayer*

Loving Lord, work in us during this Advent season so that our joy may be genuine and may rest in the promises of the King who comes to save.

### **Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

\*Hosanna is a cry for mercy and of praise for the ancient Church before Jesus came. It means "Lord, save us!"

of his ser-vant; ev-'ry age shall call me bless-ed.

The hope of A-bra-ham come in the

giv-ing of a Son; for he who prom-ised is

might-y in re-mem-ber-ing his mer-cy.

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974. Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974. Text and tune: © 2005 Thankyou Music, admin. Capitol CMGPublishing.com. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 723384

God's promise to Abraham and his descendants was fulfilled in the coming of his Son. Jesus Christ humbled himself by submitting to God's law. He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross. God promises to lift up the humble and fill the hungry with good things because of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor, so that we through his poverty might become rich.**

2 Corinthians 8:9

Even as we await Christ's second coming, he comes to us here and now in the words he gives his messengers to speak: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## My Soul Will Magnify the Lord

CW 975 st. 2

2 My soul will mag-ni-fy the Lord for his grace to those who  
fear him through ev-'ry gen-er-a-tion.  
The proud he scat-ters to the wind as the rul-er's  
strength is bro-ken, and the rich are left with noth-ing.  
The hum-ble lift-ed high, and the  
hun-gry sat-is-fied; our por-tion and our  
treasure, our hope and help for-ev-er.

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974  
Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974  
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*Be seated*

## Sermon

Luke 3:1-9

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Tracoonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.  
Every valley shall be filled in,  
every mountain and hill made low.  
The crooked roads shall become straight,  
the rough ways smooth.  
And all people will see God’s salvation.’ ”

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. 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.”

### Forgive my unfruitful life

*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*

## On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

CW 316



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin and fur - nished  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and lift us  
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; come, then, and lis - ten,  
for a Guest with - in, and let us all our  
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
up to fall no more; O make your face on  
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings good news a - bout the King of kings.  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
us to shine, and fill the world with love di - vine.  
we a - dore and Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: tr. composite; Charles Coffin, 1676-1749 Tune: Latin, 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621 Text and tune: Public domain

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

We light two Advent candles, remembering Jesus, who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.

**We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.**

We hear his call to repent.

**We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.**

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

**Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blest.**

## My Soul Will Magnify the Lord

CW 975 st. 1



1 My soul will mag - ni - fy the Lord; I re - joice in God my



Sav - ior, in the won - der of his fa - vor.

# The Word

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## First Reading

*Malachi 3:1–7b*

“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty.

But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

“So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,” says the LORD Almighty.

“I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them.

Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Comfort, Comfort All My People

CW 312

## Second Reading

*Philippians 1:3–11*

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Children’s Sermon