



**MORRISON
ZION
LUTHERAN**
Wisconsin Evangelical
Lutheran Synod

Our mission is to
Glorify God
as we
Gather
around the Gospel
to help people
Grow
in the **Gospel**
and
Go
with the **Gospel**

Welcome! We thank
God that you have
joined us at worship
today.

Restrooms are
located in the
basement. Hearing
loop headphones and
Large Print Hymnals
are available from an
usher.

If your children need
to leave worship,
please take them to
the basement. A TV
broadcasts the service
in the basement.

Today we gather
together in the
presence of God. He is
present among us in a
special way through
his Word and
Sacrament. We
acknowledge our sin
and rejoice in the good
news of forgiveness
through the life and
death of Christ. This is
the focus of our
worship.

December 8, 2024

A Real Christmas

A real 
Christmas
starts with
Advent.

A Real Christmas Is Rooted in Repentance

The closer we get to Christmas, the greater the pressure. There is so much work to be done! We want our houses to look good for out-of-town guests. We want to impress people with the thoughtfulness of our gifts. What a welcome relief, therefore, to hear what is required to really be ready for Christmas: only repentance. You see, repentance is the opposite of work. It is the candid and honest admission of our sin combined with the joyful trust that everything needed to bring us close to God has already been done by Christ.

At this frenetic time of year, the call to repent is not another demand to do something more. It is gracious invitation to set down our work to make way for Christ's work. Rooted in that repentant rest, we can fully enjoy a real Christmas.

Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith and warns us against the dangers of not understanding what communion is, we practice close communion. WELS, ELS, and members of other churches around the world who are in fellowship with WELS are welcome to commune with us. If you would like to learn more about becoming a member and communing with us in the future, please contact pastor.

Questions for Personal Preparation for Holy Communion are located on p.15 of this service folder.

Gathering Rite

My Soul in Stillness Waits CW 325

Stand



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.



1 O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of glo - ry,



your ra-diance shines in all who look to you; come, light the



hearts of all in dark and shad-ow.

M: We wait in hope for the LORD ; he is our help and our shield.

C: **In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.**

M: May your unfailing love be with us, LORD, even as we put our hope in you (Ps 33:20-23)



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

M: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;

C: **according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions**

M: Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. (Ps 51:1-2; 32:1)

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

C: **But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.**

M: I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope. (Ps 130:3-5)



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.



2 O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our spir - its;



our thirst-y hearts are yearn-ing for your Word; come, make us



whole, be com-fort to our hearts.

M: I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.

C: **Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.**

M: He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins. (Ps 130:6-8)

M: My heart is not proud, LORD, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me

C: **But I have calmed and quieted myself, I am like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child I am content.**

M: Israel, put your hope in the LORD both now and forevermore. (Ps 131:3)



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

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

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

M: We hear his call to repent.

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

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

Two Advent candle is lit.



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

My Soul in Stillness Waits

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Tune: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Text and tune: © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 725297

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

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.

C: **Amen.**

Be Seated

THE WORD

First Lesson

Malachi 3:1-7b

Through God's Word and the messengers who proclaim it, the Lord encourages his people to return to him in humble repentance.

¹"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.

²But 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. ³He 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, ⁴and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.

⁵"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.

6“I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.
7Ever 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. (NIV)

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 66 CW (Red Hymnal)

Refrain

At the works of your hands, O Lord, I
lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

Psalm tone *

Shout with joy to God, all the earth!*
Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious!

Praise our God, O peoples,*
let the sound of his praise be heard.

He has preserved our lives*
and kept our feet from slipping.

Refrain

Come and listen, all you who fear God;*
let me tell you what he has done for me.

If I had cherished sin in my heart,*
the Lord would not have listened;

but God has surely listened*
and heard my voice in prayer.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

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Second Lesson

Philippians 1:3–11

God began his good work in us at our baptism, empowering us to love, to demonstrate discernment, and to produce fruits of repentance.

³I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷It 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. ⁸God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God. (NIV)

Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. And all people will see God's salvation. Alleluia. (Luke 3:4,6 NIV)

Stand

Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist prepared people to meet their Savior by preaching a message of repentance and forgiveness.

¹In 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 Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— ²during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As 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.

⁵Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.

⁶And all people will see God's salvation.’” (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

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 fully 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 worshipped 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



Hymn of the Day

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

Sermon

Luke 3:1-6



Stand

Create in Me

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

Be Seated

Offering

Stand

Please sign the friendship register located in your pew.

Guests please don't feel a necessity to give an offering today. *"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"* (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Prayer of the Church

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.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

Proper Preface

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the World. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen

O Christ, Lamb of God



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us your peace. A - - men.

Be Seated

Distribution

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Distribution Hymn

Prepare the Royal Highway CW 302



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a -



near! Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a
King! Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread
King! Your King, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its
bove. His rule is peace and free - dom and



lev - el road ap - pear! Then greet the King of
gar - ments! Shout and sing! God's prom - ise will not
trib - ute too should bring. All lands, bow down be -
jus - tice, truth, and love. So let your praise be



glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
fore him! All na - tions, now a - dore him!
sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Refrain
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's Word!

Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.; Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847

Tune: Swedish, 17th cent.

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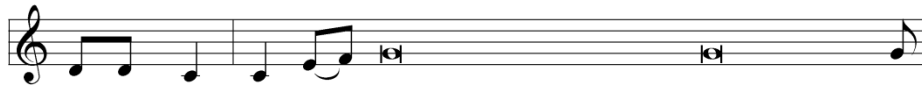
THANKSGIVING

Stand

Song of Simeon



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing



to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-



pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the



Gen-tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **And his mercy endures forever.**

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Benediction

M: 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.

C: **Amen.**

Be Seated

Hymn

Comfort, Comfort All My People CW 312 (Koine Setting)



1. "Com - fort, com - fort all my peo - ple; speak of peace," so says our God.
 2. All their sins our God will par - don, blot - ting out each dark mis - deed;
 3. John the Bap - tist's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 4. Straight - en out the crook - ed high - way; make the rough - er plac - es plain.



"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, groan - ing from their sor - rows' load.
 all that well de - serve his an - ger, he no more will see or heed.
 call - ing peo - ple to re - pent - ance for the king - dom now is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, read - y for his ho - ly reign.



Speak to all Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 They have suf - fered man - y a day; now their griefs have passed a - way.
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is spread a - broad,



tell them that their sins I cov - er, that their war - fare now is o - ver."
 God will change their ach - ing sad - ness in - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 let the val - leys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that his word is nev - er bro - ken.

Interlude after each verse

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PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

A: *He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.*

Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

A: *I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?*

Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

A: *I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.*

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

A: *His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.*

Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

A: *In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.*

Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

A: *I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."*

Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

A: *I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.*

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.

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