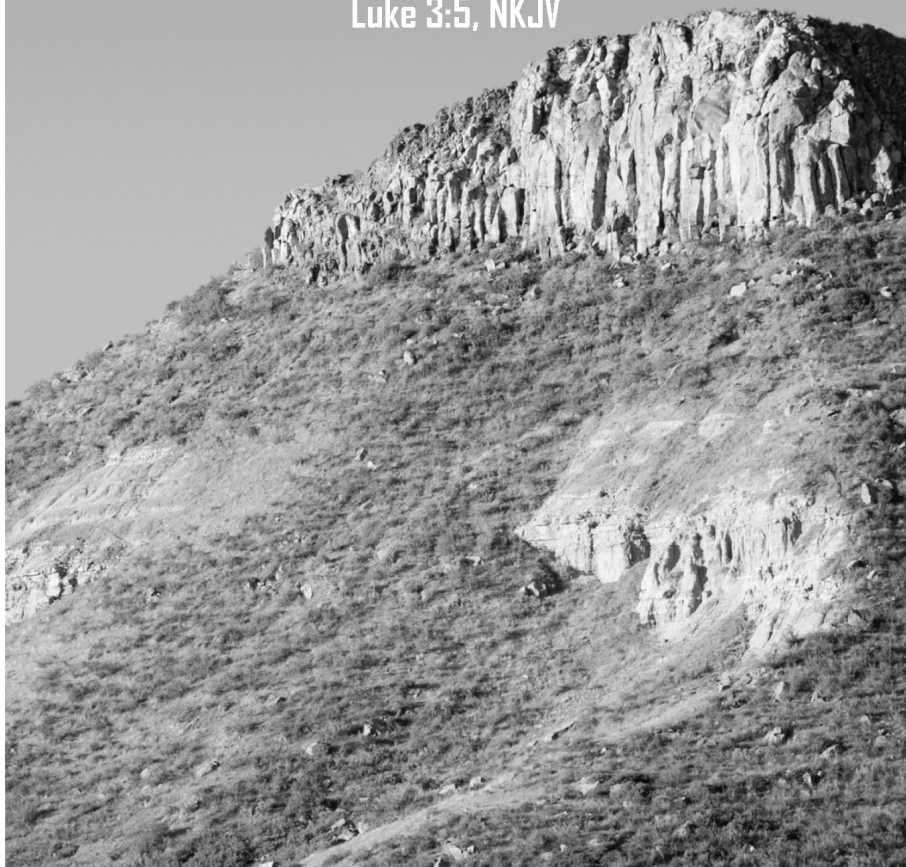


Every VALLEY shall be filled And every
MOUNTAIN and HILL brought low; The
CROOKED places shall be made straight
And the ROUGH ways smooth.

Luke 3:5, NKJV



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

1449 34th Street NW, Winter Haven, FL 33881
www.WinterHavenLutheran.com

Rob Sauers, Pastor (920) 602-3242
Neil Bernthal, Teacher (863) 967-5145
Katie Naumann, Teacher (253) 230-4184

As We Gather

As we gather for worship today, let us pause to consider the weight of preparation—not for decorations or gifts, but for the coming of our King. In the wilderness of our hearts, where valleys of despair meet mountains of pride, John the Baptist’s call to repentance echoes. But this call is not another burden; it is an invitation to lay them down. Together, we will explore how repentance clears the path for Christ, who comes not to demand perfection but to bring His perfect peace. Come, let your hearts be prepared for His grace.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

701 – Prepare the Royal Highway

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Confession and Absolution

- P** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.
- C** **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**
- P** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.
- C** Amen.

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Introit

Psalm 81:8, 10-11, 13

- P** Hear, O My people, and I will admonish you!
C O Israel, if you will listen to Me!
P I am the LORD your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt;
C Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.
P But My people would not heed My voice,
C And Israel would have none of Me.
P Oh, that My people would listen to Me,
C That Israel would walk in My ways!
P Glory be to the Father and to the Son
C and to the Holy Spirit;
P as it was in the beginning,
C is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy
on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G-clef, 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.


Kyrie Eleison
LORD, HAVE MERCY

Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis



Glo - ry to God, we give you thanks and praise; Of
Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son, You
A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord, At



heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing. We wor - ship
bore for us the load of this world's sin. O Lamb of
God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high: Who, with the



You, to You our hearts we raise, Lord God, al -
God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won, Re - ceive our
Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored, With all the



might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray...

... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Malachi 3:1-7b

¹ "Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,"

Says the LORD of hosts. ² “But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire And like launderers’ soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness. ⁴ “Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem Will be pleasant to the LORD, As in the days of old, As in former years. ⁵ And I will come near you for judgment; I will be a swift witness Against sorcerers, Against adulterers, Against perjurers, Against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans, And against those who turn away an alien— Because they do not fear Me,” Says the LORD of hosts. ⁶ “For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. ⁷ Yet from the days of your fathers You have gone away from My ordinances And have not kept them.”

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 66:1-12

- P** Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth!
- C** Sing out the honor of His name; Make His praise glorious.
- P** Say to God, “How awesome are Your works!
- C** Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit themselves to You.
- P** All the earth shall worship You And sing praises to You;
- C** They shall sing praises to Your name.”
- P** Come and see the works of God;
- C** He is awesome in His doing toward the sons of men.
- P** He turned the sea into dry land;
- C** They went through the river on foot.
- P** There we will rejoice in Him.
- C** He rules by His power forever;
- P** His eyes observe the nations;
- C** Do not let the rebellious exalt themselves.
- P** Oh, bless our God, you peoples!
- C** And make the voice of His praise to be heard,
- P** Who keeps our soul among the living,
- C** And does not allow our feet to be moved.
- P** For You, O God, have tested us;
- C** You have refined us as silver is refined.
- P** You brought us into the net;
- C** You laid affliction on our backs.
- P** You have caused men to ride over our heads;
- C** We went through fire and through water; But You brought us out to rich fulfillment.

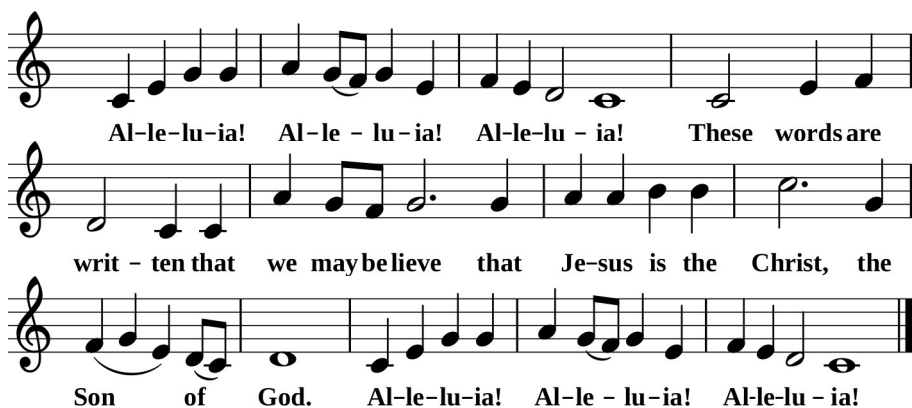
Epistle Reading

Philippians 1:2-11

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, ⁵ for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; ⁷ just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. ⁸ For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ. ⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, ¹¹ being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Alleluia

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia! These words are
writ - ten that we may believe that Je-sus is the Christ, the
Son of God. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia!

Confession of Faith

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.

Hymn

63 – On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Sermon Text

Luke 3:1-14

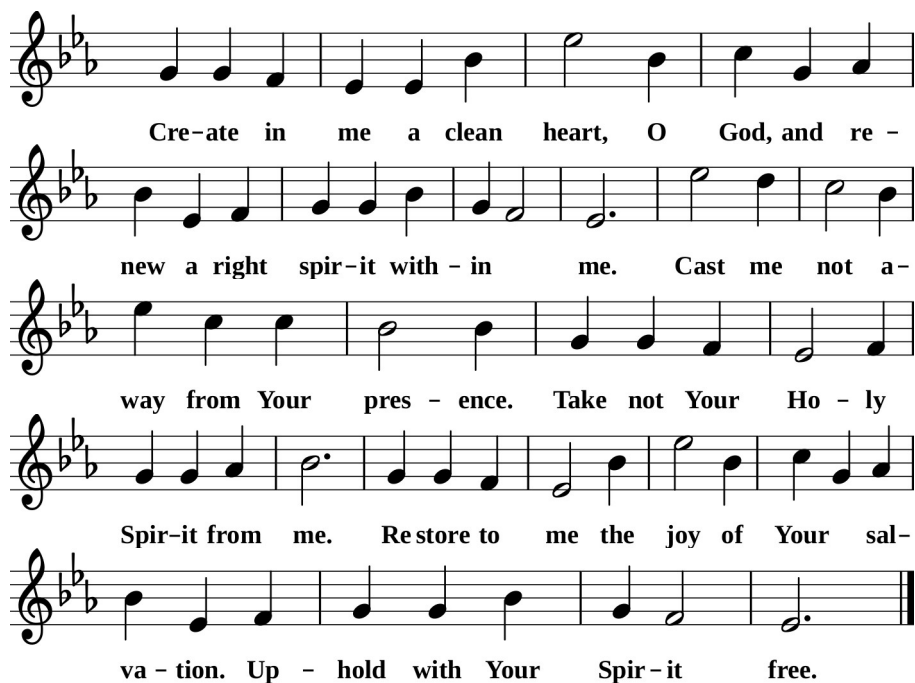
¹ Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ² while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. ³ And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough ways smooth; ⁶ And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ” ⁷ Then he said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. ⁹ And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” ¹⁰ So the people asked him, saying, “What shall we do then?” ¹¹ He answered and said to them, “He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise.” ¹² Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” ¹³ And he said to them, “Collect no more than what is appointed for you.” ¹⁴ Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, “And what shall we do?” So he said to them, “Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages.”



Sermon

**A Real Christmas is
Rooted in Repentance**

Offertory



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. Take not Your Ho - ly
Spir-it from me. Re store to me the joy of Your sal -
va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

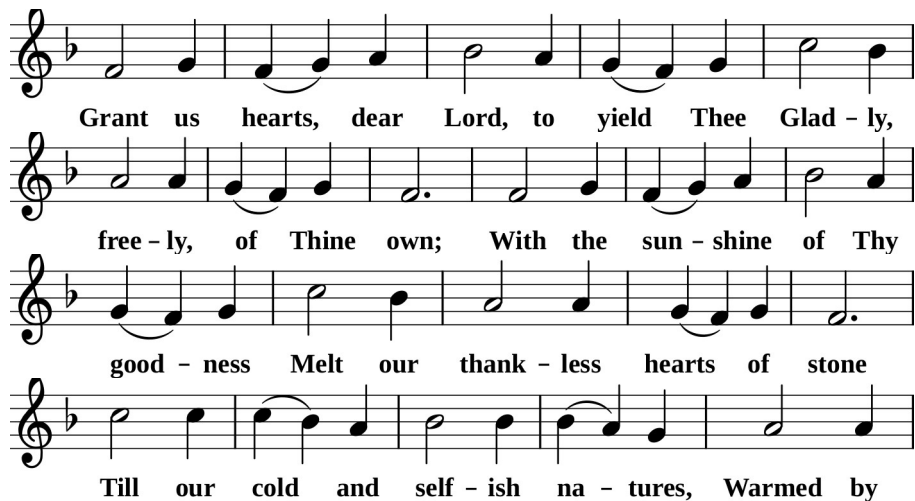
Hymn

75 – Ye Sons of Men, Oh, Hearken

Offering

Offering Hymn

442 (2)



Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee Glad - ly,
free - ly, of Thine own; With the sun - shine of Thy
good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone
Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by

Thee at length be - lieve That more hap - py
and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.

General Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
- C** Amen.

Hymn

61 – Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People

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✠ Announcements ✠

Upcoming Schedule

December 8	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
December 11	2:00 pm	Midweek Advent Worship
December 13	10:30 am	Learning with Littles Playgroup
December 15	9:15 am	Sunday School/Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
December 18	2:00 pm	Midweek Advent Worship
December 20	7:00 pm	Children's Christmas Worship Service
December 22	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)

Upcoming Meetings: Here is a schedule of our upcoming meetings:

- **January 5** – Annual Voters' Meeting
- **February 2** – Education/Elders
- **March 2** – Trustees/Church Council

Sunday Advent Worship Series – A Real Christmas: A parent says, “I want to give my kids a real Christmas.” What do you think that parent means? Perhaps they are thinking of trimming a freshly cut tree, finding the perfect presents, or spending the holidays with extended family. Perhaps they are thinking about all those things. “Then it will be a real Christmas!”

Certainly, all those are wonderful things. However, none of them are what makes Christmas real. The sad truth is Christmas is the most beloved holiday of so many, yet so few know what Christmas is really about.

If you want a real Christmas, then you need to observe Advent. Advent is Latin for “coming.” In the season of Advent, Christians observe the connection between the first time the Son of God came into our world as the Savior and the second time He will come as the Judge. Advent prepares our minds and hearts, so that we might soon celebrate a real Christmas.

Our worship in the season of Advent follows this path:

- **First Sunday in Advent (December 1)**
A Real Christmas Requires Remembering Why Christ Came
Sermon Text: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

- **Second Sunday in Advent (December 8)**
A Real Christmas Is Rooted in Repentance
Sermon Text: Luke 3:1-14
- **Third Sunday in Advent (December 15)**
A Real Christmas Restores Hope in a Broken World
Sermon Text: Luke 7:18-28
- **Fourth Sunday in Advent (December 22)**
A Real Christmas Will Lift Up the Lowly
Sermon Text: Luke 1:39-55

Join us in worship this Advent season to prepare for a truly meaningful celebration of our Savior's birth! If you missed any of the previous services, you can watch online at <https://winterhavenlutheran.com/sermons/>.

Advent Midweek Services: "The Christmas Trees of Scripture": The most widely recognized symbol of the season—the Christmas tree—has deep connections to our faith. While other religions used evergreen branches to symbolize eternal life, it was the Lutherans of 16th-century Germany who began the tradition of bringing evergreen trees indoors during the holidays. They adorned the trees with red ornaments, representing the blood of Christ, and with candles, symbolizing the light of Christ. The tree was often topped with a star or angel, pointing to the story of Jesus' birth. The Christmas tree is a cherished part of our celebration of Christ's coming.

In our Midweek Advent Services, we will focus on some "Christmas trees" found in Scripture. These are not evergreens, nor are they decorated with lights or ornaments, but they point us to the Christ and the salvation He brings. These trees remind us why the birth of Jesus Christ is so worthy of celebration.

Service Schedule and Themes:

- **Midweek One** – December 4 at 2:00 pm
Sermon Text: Genesis 3:1-15
Theme: The Tree of Rebellion
- **Midweek Two** – December 11 at 2:00 pm
Sermon Text: Isaiah 11:1-10
Theme: The Tree of Promise
- **Midweek Three** – December 18 at 2:00 pm
Sermon Text: Revelation 22:1-5
Theme: The Tree of Life

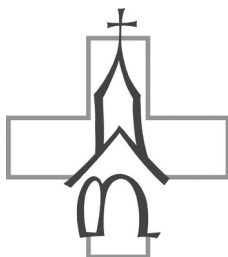
Join us as we reflect on these trees and the life and hope we have in Christ this Advent season! If you missed any of the previous services, you can watch online at <https://winterhavenlutheran.com/sermons/>.

Learning with Littles: Our next session is this Friday, December 13th at 10:30-11:30 am with a Christmas Fun theme! There will be no session the fourth Friday of December. We will resume on January 10th. We've had a great semester with an average of 12 littles at each session and 22 different families that have joined us!

Christmas Candy Bags: We are preparing, once again, to share the joy of Christmas with the children of our congregation through Christmas Candy Bags. Please consider donating candy for this effort. Donations can be placed on the conference table in Pastor's office.

CLC Call News: Pastor Caleb Schaller of Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI has returned the call to St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School, Mountain View, CA. <> Pastor Drew Naumann of Trinity Ev. Lutheran, Spokane, WA has received the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.

Fruits of Faith		December 1, 2024		Attendance: WH – 40	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>		<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>			
<i>General Budget</i>		<i>General Budget</i>			
\$1,200.25	General Budget	\$375.25	CLC General Budget		
\$1,423.00	Weekly Need	\$57.69	Weekly Need		
-\$222.75	-Under / +Over	+\$317.56	-Under / +Over		
\$72,589.96	Year to Date Offerings	\$3,205.25	Year to Date Offerings		
\$68,304.00	Year to Date Need	\$2,769.12	Year to Date Need		
+\$4,285.96	Year to Date (+/-)	+\$436.13	Year to Date (+/-)		
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		<i>Non-Budgetary</i>			
	Building Fund		ILC Student Aid Fund		
\$10.00	Property Improvement		ILC Building Fund		
	ILC Scholarship Fund		ILC Improvement Fund		
\$5.00	Tuition Grant		Mission Development (MDF)		
\$45.00	Benevolence Fund	\$200.00	Project Kinship		
	Outreach		ILC Tour Choir		
	School Fund		Spokesman/Daily Rest		



✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

December 9 – December 14

Monday: Luke 1:26-36 – Gabriel brings the Word of promise to Mary. When she wants more information, she seeks it from the messenger rather than from human experience. The power of the Most High will do this.

Tuesday: Romans 1:16-17 – The heart of it all: The gospel of Jesus is the power of God for salvation, for it brings a righteousness from God which is received by faith. Salvation comes with Jesus!

Wednesday: Romans 1:18-25 – Mankind is certainly in desperate need of the power of God for salvation (verse 16), for God's anger is revealed against all who suppress the truth and worship the creation rather than the Creator.

Thursday: Genesis 3:1-15 – The reason for the Savior's coming begins with the temptation and fall of Eve and Adam in the garden. The tempter would not always lead them, but would be crushed by the woman's seed.

Friday: Psalm 8:1-2 – From the highest heavens to the lips of little children and nursing babies comes the praise (compare Matthew 21:16) of Him who put a stop to the enemy of all mankind.

Saturday: Psalm 8:3-9 – The Son of God came from heaven to become a son of man, to suffer and rise again in majesty. Jesus called Himself the Son of Man (Luke 19:10) and Hebrews 2 applies these verses to Him.


Sola Scriptura

SCRIPTURE ALONE

