



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



2nd Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

10:30 Holy Communion

Last week we began Luke's gospel and heard the angel Gabriel promise Zechariah that he and his aging wife would have a son. The idea was improbable but not impossible. Today we hear the angel Gabriel tell Mary that she too will have a son. This is simply impossible. Yet to this news Mary replies, "Let it be with me according to your word." What great faith is this that she turns over her life to God's designs?!? What is the root of such faith and how would it look in our own lives?

Welcome to worship today!

Please observe social distancing and remain conscious of the need to prevent the spread of infectious disease. In this bulletin is an insert that will be used to determine today's attendance. It will also help to identify who was here if contact tracing is necessary. Please fill it out and place it in the offering plate.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

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.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: God for whom we wait,

**C: in the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.**

We fail in believing that your good news is for us.

We falter in our call to tend your creation.

We find our sense of self in material wealth.

We fear those different from ourselves.

**We forget that we are your children
and turn away from your love.**

**Forgive us, Blessed One,
and assure us again of your saving grace.**

Amen.

P: God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!

Through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.

You are children of the Most High,
inheritors of the eternal promise,
and recipients of divine mercy.

God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn Prepare the Royal Highway
(For music turn to Hymn 264 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. 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:**

Refrain **Hosanna to the Lord,
For he fulfills God's Word!**

- 2. God's people, see him coming:
Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain***

- 3. Then fling the gates wide open
To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
Its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him;
Their voices join your singing: *Refrain***

- 4. His is no earthly kingdom;
It comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
And justice, truth and love.
So let your praise be sounding
For kind-ness so abounding: *Refrain***

Text: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1772-1847; Music: Swedish folk tune, 14th century

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

† WORD †

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

A: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call us to prepare your way, for the kingdom of heaven is near. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

C: Amen

As the second candle on the wreath is lit we sing:

Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel

(For music turn to Hymn 257 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. Oh come, Oh come Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

*Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.*

**3. O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain**

First Reading Isaiah 9:6-7

B: For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Isaiah 12:2-6 (*read responsively*)

D: Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid,

**C: for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.**

D: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

And you will say in that day:

**C: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.**

D: Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.

**C: Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

Second Reading Hebrews 1:1-4

E: Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (*Hebrews 1:1-2*)

C: Alleluia. Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Luke 1:26-38

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with

you.”²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day For All the Faithful Women
(For music see Hymn 419 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **For all the faithful women
who served in days of old,
to you shall thanks be given;
to all, their story told.
They served with strength and gladness
in tasks your wisdom gave.
To you their lives bore witness,
proclaimed your pow'r to save.**

6. **We honor faithful Mary,
fair maiden, full of grace.
She bore the Christ, our brother,
who saved our human race.
May we, with her, surrender
ourselves to your command
and lay upon your altar**

our gifts of heart and hand.

Last **All praise to God the Father!**

All praise to Christ the Son!

**All praise to God the Spirit,
who binds the church as one!**

**With saints who went before us,
with saints who witness still,
we sing glad alleluias
and strive to do your will.**

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., copyright 1993 GIA Publications, Inc. Music: Finnish Folk Tune

Nicene Creed

P: Let us confirm our faith with the Nicene Creed

**C: 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 virgin Mary
and became truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

Prayers of the Church

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.

The pastor will begin the prayer with a petition and then invites the congregation to add additional petitions and thanksgivings. Please conclude your petition with: Lord in your mercy,

*The congregation will respond: **Hear our prayer.***

The pastor concludes the prayer:

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

C: Amen.

Peace

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

C: And also with you.

P: We share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

† MEAL †

Special Music

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: God of our waiting and watching,

**C: we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
to the service of all your people.**

**Prepare the way before us
as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus the Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, though whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

(Isaiah 6:3, spoken)

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

P: In the night in which he was handed over our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

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.**

Invitation to Communion

P: Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

Communion Distribution

Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. You are invited to come forward to the altar. Due to the pandemic we are using wheat wafers and individual glasses. If you need a gluten free wafer please tell the pastor. White grape juice is available in the individual glasses for those who do not wish to take wine. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:

Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)

254 *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus (Red Hymnal)*

272 *Lo, How a Rose (Red Hymnal)*

Communion Blessing *After all have communed the pastor will say:*

P: The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray:

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

C: Amen.

‡ **SENDING** ‡

Blessing

P: The God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn Bethlehem Highway

(For music turn to Hymn 45 in the Songbook binder)

**Chorus: There is hope on Bethlehem highway
for the ones who will journey there.
And the hope is the child in a manger
bringing us love beyond compare**

**1. It's a lifeline for the needy,
It's sight to those who can't see.
It's a freedom for the faithful
in a child of prophecy. *Chorus***

**2. Let the an-gels go before us.
Let the darkness become light.
Now the savior lives among us.
Now truth has come to life. *Chorus***

Text and music: David Lee Brown and James Hersch; Copyright 1992 Dakota Road Music, used with permission # 1941957

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: **God's work. Our hands.**



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