

2020 Advent Midweek Two

Dec. 9, 2020

THE CHILD WHO IS A VIRGIN'S GREAT SON

AS WE GATHER

When Jesus was about to be conceived, Gabriel told Mary, “The child to be born will be called holy” (Luke 1:35). *Holy* means “set apart for a purpose.” Centuries before, Samson was one of the judges God set apart to lead His people. His birth was announced to his mother by the angel in words similar to those of Gabriel. Though holy in his calling, Samson had many human failings, as do we, hopeless in our inability to free ourselves from sin. In direct contrast to Samson, Mary’s Son, Jesus, “in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15). Samson saved God’s people from the Philistines, but Jesus saves us from all sin. When Jesus gave His life, He offered us His own holiness. Now, God’s Word “You shall be holy, for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:16) applies to us by grace. In every circumstance, we are able to echo Mary’s response: “Let it be to me according to your word.”

+ PREPARATION +

HYMN 370 What Child Is This *st. 1*

I What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

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INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

- P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**
- P The Lord reigns; let the peoples tremble!
C **He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!**
- P Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at His holy mountain;
C **for the Lord our God is holy!**
- P The child to be born will be called holy.
C **Let it be to me according to your word.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P Gabriel said, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.” God has now graciously favored us by giving us faith in the Son born to her. Let us go to Him, seeking His grace for Jesus’ sake.

Silence for reflection on the Word of God and our sinful condition

- P Father in heaven,
C **we confess that although You have declared us to be Your set-apart, holy people, too often we resemble the world around us in our speaking and acting. Instead of letting Your will be done as Your humble servants, we follow our own paths. We cannot serve You in holiness and righteousness without Your aid. As You have ransomed us not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, so now assure us of Your forgiveness and move our feet to walk in paths pleasing to You for the sake of Your holy Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.**
- P Do not be afraid! You have found favor with God. Our heavenly Father sent His Son to enter human history to be born of a virgin and live the obedient life for you. God raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God (1 Peter 1:21). Because God declares you to be holy, you are free from sin to serve Him in joy. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

370 What Child Is This *st. 2*



feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text and tune: Public domain

PSALM *Psalms 99*

- P** The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble!
 He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!
- A** The LORD is great in Zion;
 He is exalted over all the peoples.
- C** **Let them praise Your great and awesome name!**
Holy is He!
- P** The King in His might loves justice.
 You have established equity;
- A** You have executed justice
 and righteousness in Jacob.
- C** **Exalt the LORD our God;**
worship at His footstool!
Holy is He!
- P** Moses and Aaron were among His priests,
A Samuel also was among those who called upon His name.
P They called to the LORD, and He answered them.
 In the pillar of the cloud He spoke to them;
A they kept His testimonies
 and the statute that He gave them.
P O LORD our God, You answered them;
A You were a forgiving God to them,
 but an avenger of their wrongdoings.
- C** **Exalt the LORD our God,**
and worship at His holy mountain;
for the LORD our God is holy!

FIRST READING *Judges 13:2–7*

(The angel of the Lord announces Samson’s coming birth: “He shall begin to save Israel.” Samson foreshadows Jesus’ work.)

L The First Reading is from the thirteenth chapter of Judges.

There was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Manoah. And his wife was barren and had no children. And the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her,

C **“Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son.**

L Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb,

C **and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines.”**

L Then the woman came and told her husband, “A man of God came to me, and his appearance was like the appearance of the angel of God, very awesome. I did not ask him where he was from, and he did not tell me his name, but he said to me, ‘Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. So then drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.’”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING *1 Peter 1:13–21*

(We are holy because we have been given Jesus’ holiness by grace.)

L The Second Reading is from the first chapter of First Peter.

Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,

C **but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”**

L And if you call on Him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THIRD READING *Luke 1:26–38*

(The angel Gabriel announces Jesus' coming birth to Mary. He shall be the Son of the Most High.)

L The Third Reading is from the first chapter of Luke.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said,

C **“Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!”**

L But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her,

C **“Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.**

L And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus. He 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 father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” And the angel answered 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 called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” And Mary said,

C **“Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.”**

L And the angel departed from her.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORY

P And he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines.

C **He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.**

P You shall be holy, for I am holy.

C **He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.**

P Behold, I am the servant of the Lord.

C **He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.**

CREED Apostles' Creed, Second Article

P What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?

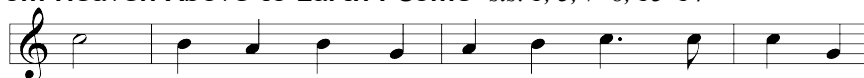
C **This, this is Christ the King, the Father's only Son, our Lord—
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.**

The third day He rose again from the dead.

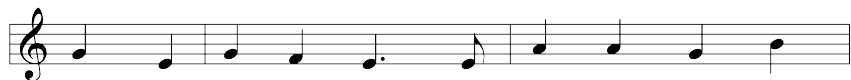
**He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the
Father Almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead
—the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come *sts. 1, 3, 7-8, 13-14*



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your
7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes, And see what
8 Wel - come to earth, O no - ble Guest, Through whom the



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your
in the man - ger lies. Who is this child, so
sin - ful world is blest! You came to share my



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.
young and fair? It is the Christ Child ly - ing there.
mis - er - y That You might share Your joy with me.

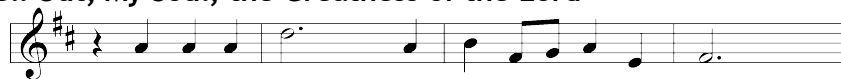
13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.

14 My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradlesong:

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MAGNIFICAT The Song of Mary, *Luke 1:46–55* (LSB 935)

935 Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord



1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord!
 2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of His name!
 3 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of His might!
 4 Tell out, my soul, the glo-ries of His Word!



Un - num - bered bless - ings, give my spir - it voice;
 Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;
 Pow'rs and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.
 Firm is His prom - ise, and His mer - cy sure.



Ten - der to me the prom - ise of His Word;
 His mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;
 Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,
 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord



In God my Sav - ior shall my heart re - jice.
 His ho - ly name, the Lord, the Might - y One.
 The hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.
 To chil - dren's chil - dren and for - ev - er - more!

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SALUTATION

- P The Lord be with you.
- C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P Lord Jesus, once a child laid to rest on Mary's lap,
- C **grant us such faith that we may entrust all things into Your care, finding peace in our hearts and sleep at the end of the day.**
- P Lord Jesus, whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
- C **grant us daily opportunities to sing Your praises in word and deed, reminding friends and neighbors of Your blessings, too many to number.**

- P Lord Jesus, Christ the King,
C **grant wisdom and guidance to those in power among the nations of the world, that they govern in justice and compassion, hastening to bring You laud and honor.**
- P Lord Jesus, who endured nails and piercing spear, bearing the cross for us,
C **grant confident hope in Your all-availing sacrifice for us and all who trust in the Word made flesh.**
- P Lord Jesus, whose coming salvation brings,
C **grant us loving hearts to enthrone You, raising the song on high, rejoicing in Your birth, the Babe, the Son of Mary!**
- P Hear us as we pray in Your name and as You have taught us:

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.**

PRAYER FROM SUNDAY

- P Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son,
C **that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds;**
P through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR TODAY

- P O Lord, who set apart Samson and the judges, the patriarchs and apostles,

- C strengthen us to recall our Baptism, by which You have given us Christ's own holiness, and to live as Your set-apart, holy people;
- P through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

- P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works,
- C give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness;
- P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

BENEDICTION

- P May God Almighty—the Father, who kept all His ancient promises; the Son, who entered human history as one of us to save us from our sins; and the Holy Spirit, who has worked faith in our hearts that we may celebrate the birth of the Babe, the Son of Mary—bless you and keep you, now and forever.
- C Amen. Thanks be to God!

349 Hark the Glad Sound

1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come

prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

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Acknowledgments

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Rev. David J. Lindenberg

Please Join Us for
Sunday Worship 9:30 am

Advent Worship
Dec. 16
7pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7pm
Christmas Day Worship 9:30am