



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



2nd Sunday of Advent

December 8th 2024

10:30 Service of the Word

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!

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available on the usher's stand.

The Zoom feed for this service is available in the nursery.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: God of mercy,

C: we confess that we have sinned.

**We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comfort.**

P: God of might,

C: we confess that we have sinned.

**We have turned away from our neighbors
We have trusted false promises.**

P: God in our midst,

C: we confess that we have sinned.

We plead: come to us.

Bring your mercy to birth in us.

P: A righteous Branch springs forth:
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through Christ Jesus
whose day draws near.

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.”³⁴ Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?”³⁵ The 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.”³⁶ And 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.³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.”³⁸ Then 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

Response to the Word

P: In Christ you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God'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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

A: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C: pray in the Holy Spirit. *(Jude 20)*

A: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. *(Jude 21)*

A: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**C: Everything old has passed away;
behold, everything has become new!** *(2 Corinthians 5:17)*

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 messages of Christ's peace.

Special Music and Gathering of Prayers and Offerings

You are invited to write a prayer concern on the small blank slip of paper in your worship bulletin. This slip will be collected by the ushers in the offering plates. The concerns raised will be prayed for later in the service.

‡ PRAYER ‡

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray. Merciful God,

C: in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you embrace our lives with your great love for humanity. With joy and gladness we ask that these gifts may be for many a sign of that love, and that we may continue to share in your divine life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

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.

Issues raised by the congregation are prayed for.

The prayer concludes:

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

C: Amen.

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**

† SENDING †

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
C: Amen.

Sending Hymn Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn
(For music turn to Hymn 242 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
behold! The Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heav'nly door
and lives now inside us forever.**
- 2. To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
Emmanuel comes a-singing,
his humble song is quiet and near,
yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul
and hymns of loving-kindness,
the thunder of his anthems roll
to shatter all hatred and blindness.**
- 3. In darkest night his coming shall be,
when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free,
so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song,
the lame shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the strong,
and weapons be broken asunder.**

4. **Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer
and love our endless story;
may God fill ev'ry day we share
and bring us at last into glory.**

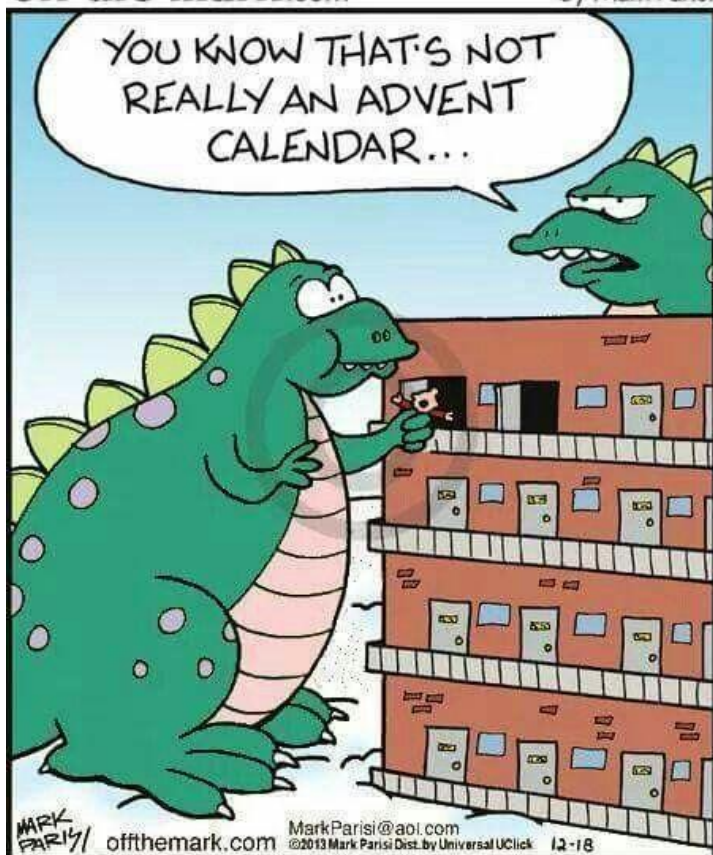
Text and music: Marty Haugen, Copyright 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

Dismissal

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

C: **God's Work. Our Hands.**





Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers Tom and Carol Urbanic
Acolyte Alyssa Young
Counters Babette Huber and Burdie Gillern
Coffee Hour

Worship assistants for next Sunday, December 15, 2024

Greeters and Ushers Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Acolyte Charlotte Stroup
Altar Care Mary Zuege
Communion Assistant Gary Boisseau
Counters John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour

Scripture readings from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible* copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States. Psalm from *The Psalter* copyright 1994, Liturgical Training Publications. Variable worship texts from *Sundays and Seasons 2025* copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress.

St. John's Lutheran Church
888 County Road 9, Victor, NY 14564
stjohnsvictor.com (585) 924-5192
The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor
William Shi, Pianist