

Welcome to Worship at
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI
Advent 4 - December 19, 2021

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

Hymn #23 - "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"

**Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

**Oh, come, O Root of Jesse, free
Your own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save,
And bring them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

**Oh, come, O Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

**Oh, come, O Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

Confession of Sins:

P: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord, have mercy on us!**

P: Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of Christ and His Word announce to you the grace of God, and in the place of and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, from you, will go out the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel. His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of eternity. Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a child. Then the remaining survivors from his brothers will return to the people of Israel. He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great to the ends of the earth. This one will be their peace. (EHV)

Psalm 85

Refrain: I will hear what the Lord proclaims: peace to his people.

**You showed favor to your 'land, O LORD;
You restored the fortunes of 'Jacob**

**You forgave the iniquity of your 'people
And covered 'all their sins.**

**Show us your unfailing 'love O LORD,
And grant us your sal'vation.**

Refrain: I will hear what the Lord proclaims: peace to his people.

**I will listen to what God the ‘LORD will say;
He promises peace to his people, ‘his saints.**

**Surely his salvation is near those who ‘fear him,
That his glory may dwell ‘in our land.**

**Love and faithfulness meet to’gether;
Righteousness and peace kiss each ‘other.**

**Glory be to the Father and ‘to the Son
And to the Holy ‘Spirit,
As it was in the be’ginning,
Is now, and will be forever. ‘Amen.**

Refrain: I will hear what the Lord proclaims: peace to his people.

Second Lesson: Hebrews 10:5-10

Therefore when he entered the world, Christ said: Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but you prepared a body for me. You were not pleased with burnt offerings and sin offerings. Then I said, “Here I am. I have come to do your will, God. In the scroll of the book it is written about me.” First he said: Sacrifices and offerings that were offered according to the law, both burnt offerings and sin offerings, you did not desire, and you were not pleased with them. Then he said: Here I am. I have come to do your will. He does away with the first in order to establish the second. By this will, we have been sanctified once and for all, through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ. (EHV)

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. Alleluia.

Gospel: Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary got up and hurried to the hill country, to a town of Judah. She entered the home of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. Just as Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She called out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why am I so favored that the mother of my Lord should come to me? In fact, just now, as soon as the sound of

your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy! Blessed is she who believed, because the promises spoken to her from the Lord will be fulfilled!” Then Mary said, My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior, because he has looked with favor on the humble state of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed, because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm. He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones. He has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, but the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his offspring forever. (EHV)

The 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 #274 - “My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord”

**My soul now magnifies the Lord;
My spirit shall in God rejoice.
My humble state he did regard,
Exalting me by gracious choice.**

**Henceforth shall people call me blest,
For great things he has done for me.
The mighty God is now my guest;
The Holy One has set me free.**

**His mercy is on all who fear,
Who trust in him from age to age.
His arm of strength to all is near;
The proud he scatters, though they rage.**

**He brings down rulers from their seat
And raises those of low degree.
He fills the hungry souls with meat;
The rich depart in poverty.**

**He helped his servant Israel,
Rememb'ring his eternal grace,
As from of old he did foretell
To Abraham and all his race.**

**So praise with me the Holy One,
Who comes in all humility.
To our Redeemer, God's own Son,
Be glory in eternity!**

**The Sermon: Luke 1:39-55
 "The Song Of Mary"**

The majority of our sermon text for today is made up of **The Song Of Mary** - which has been known for **centuries** as the **Magnificat**. Her song **got** this name from the **Vulgate** - the Latin **translation** of the Bible. In the Vulgate, her song **begins** with the word **magnificat**. The Christian church has always **treasured** **The Song Of Mary**. Over 1,400 years ago Christian congregations started to **include** it as a regular part of their worship services. In fact, we just used it **now**, in the **hymn** which we just sang, and we **also** sing it whenever we use the order of worship for **Evening Prayer** in our hymnal. So today let's take a few minutes to look at **The Song Of Mary** - the **Magnificat** - and by doing so, we'll see how we can imitate Mary's **humble attitude**, and give all **praise** to the Christ-child, our Savior. But before we delve into the actual **words** of Mary's song, it's good for us to remember the circumstances which **surround** her song.

Our text **begins** with Mary's visit to the house of her cousin, **Elizabeth**. Why would Mary make this **journey** from **Nazareth** all the way to the **hill country** of **Judea**? Perhaps she wanted to **get away**, because the people who knew her in **Nazareth** wouldn't **understand** her pregnancy. After all, who would **believe**

that the Angel **Gabriel** had appeared to her, and that he had told her that she would be the person who would give birth to the promised **Messiah**? In addition to **that**, it's hard to imagine the **impact** that news must have had on Mary **herself**. Since she was still a very **young** girl, probably only in her **teens**, she must have been **overwhelmed** by this news. She had **questions** like, "Why **me**? And why **now**?" After all, Mary didn't seem to be anyone who was **special** in any way. She wasn't from a **wealthy** family, nor was she the daughter of **influential** members of **society**. She was just a lowly **servant**. And seemingly out of **nowhere**, Gabriel told her that she had been chosen by **God** to be the **mother** of His Son. Maybe cousin **Elizabeth** would have some answers.

So, shortly after she heard the news, Mary went to **see** her cousin Elizabeth. By the way, Gabriel had **also** told Mary that **Elizabeth** - even at her **advanced** age - was **also** going to have a child, so she could certainly **relate** to what Mary was experiencing. No doubt Mary wanted to have a heart-to-heart **conversation** with Elizabeth about this major turn of events in **both** of their lives. When Mary arrived and greeted Elizabeth, **another** miracle occurred. As we heard in our text, "*Just as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby **leaped** in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the **Holy Spirit**.*" Remember, the baby who was in **Elizabeth's** womb was **John the Baptist** - the one whom God sent into the world to **prepare** the way for His Son. Even while he was still in the womb, John was already doing his job. And filled with the **Holy Spirit**, Elizabeth **understood** what John's **leaping** in the womb really **meant**. She exclaimed to Mary, "*Blessed are **you** among women, and blessed is the **fruit** of your **womb**! But why am **I** so **favored** that the **mother of my Lord** should come to me? In fact, just now, as soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb **leaped for joy**! Blessed is she who **believed**, because the promises spoken to her from the Lord will be **fulfilled**.*" I wonder how the pro-abortionists try to explain **that** away. While he was still **unborn**, John experienced the **emotion** of **joy** at the approach of his **Savior**, who was **also** still unborn.

Think of how **important** these words of Elizabeth were for Mary. The **angel** had already told her that she was giving birth to the **Savior**, and now Elizabeth **confirmed** this truth, and even gave her the title, "*mother of my **Lord**.*" **All** of this must have been so **overwhelming** for Mary. So, with all of that emotion and anticipation welled up inside of her, she then broke out into **song**. And what a song it was! Let's take a look at the **first verse**. Mary sang, "*My soul proclaims the **greatness** of the **Lord**, and my spirit has rejoiced in God **my Savior**, because he has looked with favor on the **humble** state of his **servant**.*" Right from the very **beginning**, it's clear that the overriding **theme** of Mary's song is **praise to God** for

His greatness. There's no hint of **self-pride** in her words. This song isn't about **her** - it's about her **God**. Mary knows that **she** is a **sinful** human being - a person who **isn't deserving** to be the mother of God. So, Mary **humbly** proclaimed the **greatness** of God, **her Savior**. Not only had He chosen **her** out of all the women in the world, but in one **great** and **merciful** action, He was finally fulfilling His **promise** to send a Savior - for **her**, and for **all people**.

Mary's **humble** attitude **continues** to shine forth as she goes on to sing, "*Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed, **because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.***" Mary knows that she isn't being blessed because of **her virtue**, but rather, because she has such a wonderful **God**. Just think for a moment about how Mary's prediction has come **true** - that all generations would call **her** blessed. She's even referred to as the **blessed** Virgin Mary. But again, Mary didn't want the **focus** to be on **her**, because the **blessing** came from **God**.

We would do well to **imitate** Mary's humble attitude as we look at our lives and see that **we too** have been richly **blessed** by our gracious God. Certainly none of us has received a message from the angel **Gabriel**, like Mary did, but we can confess right along with her that the Lord has looked with **favor** on **us**. And what a miracle **that** is. Just think about what we actually **deserve** from God because of our **sins**, and then **marvel** at the boundless **grace** and **mercy** He has **given** to us. That **alone** should be **very** humbling. It should drive any **hint** of **self-righteousness** right out of our minds. But unfortunately, our sinful nature wants nothing to **do** with that kind of humility. Sometimes we even find ourselves falling into the trap of thinking that we **deserve** the blessings God has given us. After all, we put in our time **worshiping Him** in church, we put our **money** into the offering plate, and we foolishly think that we live **our** lives **better** than those people "**out there.**" That sense of spiritual **entitlement** is completely **contrary** to the **humble** spirit that **Mary** had - the spirit which **we** should strive to **imitate**. Mary's example of humility and faith puts our sinful pride to **shame**. We need to **confess** that we deserve **nothing** but **punishment** from our God, and that any **blessings** we have received from Him are completely due to His **mercy** and **love**.

Mary sings about this process of God **humbling** the **proud** and **lifting up** the **humble** in the next words of her song. She said, "*He has **scattered** those who were **proud** in the thoughts of their hearts. He has **brought down** rulers from their thrones. He has **lifted up** the lowly. He has filled the **hungry** with **good** things, but the **rich** he has sent away **empty.***" Mary recognized that the Lord's way of acting was completely **different** from the world's way of acting. The world heaps praise

on the **rich** and the **proud**, but the **Lord** values those who are **humble**, **poor**, and **lowly** - those who put their trust in **Him**.

Again Mary's song glorifies **God** because of who He **is**, and because of what He has **done**. Her song **concludes** with **these** words: "*He has come to the **aid** of his servant Israel, remembering his **mercy**, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his offspring **forever**.*" Mary was **overwhelmed** by the great mercy which the Lord had shown to His people, but she wasn't **surprised** by it. Mary knew what the **Scriptures** say. She knew about the Lord's promises of **mercy** to His people. And she knew that her gracious Lord always **keeps** His promises. She also knew that her Lord's mercy extended to **her**, and to **all** of Abraham's descendants **forever**. That promise was about to be **fulfilled** in the person of **Jesus**. Mary knew the child in her womb would be the world's **redeemer**, and that's where the **focus** needed to be - on **Jesus**, not on **her**.

May we strive to **imitate** Mary's **humility** as we join together with her in giving all the **praise** and **glory** to her **Son**, Jesus. He was the **reason** she **sang** her song of praise, and He is the reason **we** sing today as well. The birth of Jesus brought Him to the **earth**, to live a **perfect life** for us - a life which He freely **sacrificed** on the cross to **pay** for our sins, and earn **forgiveness** for us. It's impossible for us to think about **Mary** without giving praise to **God**, who chose to send His Son into this world on that first Christmas.

So this year as we celebrate Christmas, let's remember what we **heard** in **The Song Of Mary**. That will remind us to imitate her **humility**, and to give all our **praise** and **worship** to the **Child** that Mary bore - our Savior, **Jesus Christ**. Amen.

Prayers:

O Jesus, Word of God made **flesh**, through whom the world was **formed**, and by whose Word all things are **upheld**, we stand in humble **awe** and **reverence** before the great mystery of Your **incarnation**. Our reason cannot comprehend how **You**, the Almighty Son of **God** - our **Creator** and **Preserver** - could be **born** on earth of a woman, and **live** here as our flesh-and-blood Brother. You are both **God** and **man**. But what we cannot understand with our **minds**, You have graciously enabled our **hearts** to accept by **faith**. We thank and praise You that through the Holy Spirit You have directed our hearts to bow in **faith** before You. You **are** indeed our **God** who was made flesh, our **Sin-bearer**, our **Substitute** under divine wrath, our **Savior** from sin, our **Righteousness**, our **Hope**, our **Joy**, and our **Peace**.

Dear **Savior** of the world, send the Holy Spirit to keep us in true **repentance**, so that we always **confess** our sins and unworthiness, and continually trust the **sacrifice** You made on the cross to save us. Create faith in **every** heart through the Gospel, so that **every** sinner may find in You **forgiveness** for his sins, and eternal **rest** and **salvation** for his soul. **Fill** us with Your Holy Spirit, **empowering** us to testify to others, that they too have been **ransomed** by Your blood.

With the Spirit directing and controlling our lives, **bless** our efforts to **overcome** sin and to live **righteously** in this evil world. Where we have **failed** in doing good, where we have **lacked** love for our brother, where we have **disobeyed** God and **sinned**, assure us of Your **forgiveness** - full and free.

Lord, **increase** our faith so that with Your help we will be able to chase our **worries** away; cast out all our **doubts**, subdue every sinful **desire** in us, and change our **gloom** and **depression** into **hope** and **joy**. And at last, take us safely to Yourself in **heaven**, where we will gladly sing our hosannas to You through endless ages. We ask all these things knowing that as our loving Lord and Savior, You **can** and **will** hear and answer us. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (sung to "Away in a Manger")

**Our Father in heaven all praise to Your name!
Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord reign alone;
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.**

**The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In times of temptation, to lead us; be near.
From evil deliver Your children most dear.**

**For Yours is the kingdom, o'er all things You reign.
And Yours is the power; all things You maintain.
To You be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.**

Hymn #39 - "Now Praise We Christ, the Holy One"

**Now praise we Christ, the Holy One,
The blessed virgin Mary's Son.
From east to west, from shore to shore
Let earth its Lord and King adore.**

**He who himself all things did make
A servant's form agreed to take,
That he as man mankind might win
And save his creatures from their sin.**

**The grace and pow'r of God the Lord
Upon the mother was outpoured;
A virgin pure and undefiled
In wondrous way conceived a child.**

**The noble mother bore a Son -
For so did Gabriel's promise run -
Whom John confessed and leaped with joy
Before the mother knew her boy.**

**Upon a manger filled with hay
In poverty content he lay;
With milk was fed the Lord of all,
Who feeds the ravens when they call.**

**The heav'nly choirs rejoice and raise
Their voice to God in songs of praise.
To humble shepherds is proclaimed
The Shepherd who the world has framed.**

**All honor unto Christ the Lord,
Eternal and incarnate Word,
With Father and with Holy Ghost,
Till time in endless time be lost.**

P: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel.

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.

The 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 on you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn #233 - “All People that on Earth Do Dwell”

**All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with fear; his praise forthtell;
Come ye before him and rejoice.**

**Know that the Lord is God indeed;
Without our aid he did us make.
We are his folk; he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.**

**Oh, enter then his gates with praise;
Approach with joy his courts unto.
Praise, laud, and bless his name always,
For it is seemly so to do.**

**For why? The Lord, our God, is good;
His mercy is forever sure.
His truth at all times firmly stood
And shall from age to age endure.**

**To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
The God whom heav’n and earth adore,
From us and from the angel host
Be praise and glory evermore.**