

Advent 4,  
12.20.2020

**Worship Theme: What's the best way to prepare for his coming? It's not with frantic doing. It's not with a focus on what we have done or promise to do. It's not with how we will somehow pay back God for what he brings. The best preparation for Christmas is with Mary, a readiness to receive God's good gifts. God bless your worship today.**

**HYMN: # 23 "Oh Come Oh Come Emmanuel"**

**M:** The grace of our Lord ☩ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

### CONFESSION OF SINS

**M:** God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**C:** **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil, and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment, both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

**M:** God our heavenly father has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ, and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

### PRAYER AND PRAISE

**M:** For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C:** 🎵 **Lord, Have Mer-cy**

**M:** For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

**C:** 🎵 **Christ, Have Mer-cy**

**M:** For the well being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C:** 🎵 **Lord, Have Mer-cy**

**M:** Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power, and keep us in your tender care.

**C:**  **A-men**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**M:** Let us pray.

*Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

BE SEATED

## **THE WORD**

### **First Lesson - 2 Samuel 7:8-16**

<sup>8</sup>“Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup>I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning <sup>11</sup>and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

”“The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: <sup>12</sup>When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup>He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup>I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men. <sup>15</sup>But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

### **Gospel - Luke 1:26-38**

#### *The Birth of Jesus Foretold*

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

<sup>29</sup>Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great

and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For nothing is impossible with God."

<sup>38</sup> "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

**M:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*PLEASE BE SEATED*

**HYMN:** # 399 *"Oh Come, All Ye Faithful"*

## **SERMON**

**Theme: "Ready to Receive the Greatest Gift"**

**Sermon Text - Luke 1:26-38** (*Same as the gospel reading*)

*PLEASE STAND*

## **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in 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 Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,  
and became fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is  
worshiped and glorified  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy Christian 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.**

*PLEASE BE SEATED*

## **OFFERING**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

We will sing of Your steadfast love, O Lord, heavenly Father. **With our mouth we cannot help but proclaim Your faithfulness to every generation.** As we near the celebration of the birth of Your Son Jesus Christ, we stand in awesome wonder of Your mysterious power and unapproachable wisdom. **We praise and glorify your name.**

Only by faith in You as the only wise God can we recognize the great miracle that You performed in the maiden Mary. **What you did is beyond our understanding.** May we never doubt that Your love could accomplish the miracle of the virgin birth. **May we have faith like Mary to accept Your will for our lives.**

Send Your Holy Spirit to inspire pastor and teacher to speak Your word faithfully in this Christmas season. **Send the Holy Spirit and work in our hearts this Christmas.** May Your Spirit help us believe what our reason and intellect cannot comprehend. **Fill us with joy that others recognize the gift that is theirs in the boy Jesus.**

Here us Lord as we bring You our private prayers... *Silent Prayer.*

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name;  
Your kingdom come;  
Your will be done on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread,  
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us;  
Lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil;  
For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**M:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.

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. Amen. A - men.

CLOSING HYMN: # "Prepare the Royal Highway"

### Announcements

#### CHRISTMAS CAROLING

*Sunday Evening, December 20, 4:00 PM*

Bring Christmas joy and cheer to those members of our church who are not able to get out at this time. Join Pastor Schwartz for Christmas Caroling to Peace shut in members. We will meet at Pastor's home on Sunday evening at 4:00 PM and travel to a few different member homes. This will be an outdoor activity. Afterwards, we will return to Pastor's backyard and enjoy some hot chocolate around the fire. Pastor's address: 2753 Micah Dr., New Port Richey, 34655.

#### DECEMBER WORSHIP LOCATIONS

During December, worship on **Sundays is at Cunningham Hall at 10:30 am.**

**Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services will be held at the Phi Delta Kappa Banquet Hall, 11311 Phi Delt Way, Odessa, 33556.** The Phi Delta Kappa Banquet Hall is next to Vallarta's Mexican Restaurant on State Road 54. Entrance to the Banquet Hall is off of Success Dr., through the Vallarta's parking lot.

- ❖ **Christmas Eve, 7:00 pm<sup>1</sup> - a Service of Lessons and Carols** Please register for the Christmas Eve Service at [peacelutherantrinity.com](http://peacelutherantrinity.com) or our Facebook page.
- ❖ **Christmas Day, 10:00 am - Christmas Festival Worship with Holy Communion**

Why is our worship location changing during December? The school district has informed us that due to Pasco County positivity rates they are suspending our use of the facility at the elementary school. We hope we will be able to return to worship at Trinity Elementary soon.

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Sermon thoughts gleaned from "Prepared to Answer" by Mark A. Paustian. Northwestern Publishing House, Milwaukee, WI

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<sup>1</sup> Please register for the Christmas Eve Service at [peacelutherantrinity.com](http://peacelutherantrinity.com) or our Facebook page.