

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Dec. 20-25, '21

Mon Micah 5:2-5a Through Micah God is speaking to Bethlehem as though it were a person, for He had strong feelings toward the village where Rachel died and was buried, the home of Boaz, Ruth, Obed, Jesse, and David. Though it was similar to others in Judah, God selected it for the birthplace of Jesus, whose career would *reach to the ends of the Earth* and administer peace on Earth, good will to mankind. "The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight" celebrates Jesus' entry into humanity. (TLH 647:1)

Tues Luke 1:26-38 Apparently Mary needed (and deserved) to be informed how she fit into God's plans for humanity: God wanted His Son to have the human genome via her (26-31), a crucial factor for Jesus' mission (32-33). Since *nothing will be impossible for God*, so shall it be! Glory be to God for being so generous, loving, and self-sacrificing toward wayward humanity!

Wed Hebrews 10:5-10 lets us eavesdrop on something important that Jesus had to say about His incarnation/birth in Bethlehem. "Father, You have *given Me a body*, which will be dedicated to serve You. Since in My body I can do better for humanity than sacrifices of animal flesh and blood could ever do, My self-sacrifice will supersede that whole rigmarole. In My body I will set things straight, *once and for all.*"

Thurs Zechariah 9:9 was fulfilled on Palm Sunday, but it was partially fulfilled at Christmas, too, like this: Jesus made that trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem along with Mary, and if she was riding on a donkey, so was Jesus, nestled in the womb of His mother. *Lowly and riding on a donkey* into Bethlehem may serve as prelude to His entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Also, it's a progression from lesser to greater: honor given by few at His birth progresses to more public acclaim on Palm Sunday. Glory be to God on high!

Fri Luke 1:39-55 As the long years of preview shrank to a few months, Mary took the hint that she could pay a visit to Elizabeth, her relative and friend, who was starting the third trimester of her pregnancy. It proved to be a surprise visit for them—and for John, another miracle baby, who was moved to rejoice at his Savior paying a visit to him and his family.

Sat Galatians 4:4-5 "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons." Jesus arrived right on schedule—the *fullness of time*; right on target—*born under the law of God*; right on purpose—to *redeem law-breakers*; right on effect—that *we might receive adoption as children of God.*

December 19, 2021

Advent 4

Organ: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Paul Seger

Acolyte: Grant Bernthal



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PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION

Ps. 89:1-5

¹ I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations. ² For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness." ³ You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: ⁴ 'I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.'" Selah ⁵ Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

Hymn: TLH #62

"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel!"

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C ♪ A - - - men.

CONFESSON AND ABSOLUTION:

P Pastor

C Congregation

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C ♪ **Who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C ♪ **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He gives power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C ♪ A - - - men.

✠ Announcements ✠

Christmas Eve Preparations

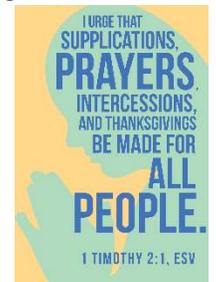
We're having a full run-through of the Christmas Eve Service after the church service today. If you have children in the service or are in the adult choir, please stick around for the run-through!

- ✠ Dec. 19: Bible Class & SS 9:15a
- ✠ Dec. 19: Bds. of Ed & Elders
- ✠ Dec. 24: Christmas Eve 7p
- ✠ Dec. 25: Christmas Day 10:15a
- ✠ Dec. 26: Orlando Service 8a
- ✠ Jan. 16: Council & Trustees
- ✠ Feb. 6: Annual Voters' Mtg.

Immanuel Lutheran College Christmas Concert A choral service featuring the choirs of Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary was live-streamed online last night from Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. To watch, go to www.eauclairemessiah.com and click on the "Live Stream" button (lower left). If you missed the live stream, a replay is available to view for one week following the concert.

CLC Call News Teacher Ross Kok of Holy Cross Lutheran School, Phoenix, AZ, *is still considering* the call to be the upper grade of Grace Lutheran School, Valentine, NE. + Pastor Paul Krause of Trinity Lutheran Church, Watertown, SD and Zion Lutheran Church, Hidewood Township, SD, *is considering* to Ascension Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA. + Pastor Sam Rodebaugh of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, Florida, *is still considering* the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.

Shut-in/Encouragement List Patti Meno continues to receive regular dialysis and is awaiting a kidney transplant. Johanna Jaehnigen remains mostly housebound. Greg Tincher is recovering from his recent surgeries at home and receiving frequent therapy. Shirley Rosenberry is struggling with severe knee pain which has greatly limited her mobility. Paulette Galstad is doing much better recently with the back pains that have hampered her mobility for so long. Liz Hartmann has been receiving treatments for an illness that has begun robbing her of her mobility. Thankfully, the treatments appear to already be working. She will most likely have a longer-term rehab to work through in the coming months.



Last Week: WH – 36 | Orlando – 14 | Wed – 20 **Offering** = \$1,056

General = \$951 | Property = \$50 | Benevolence = \$5 | Tuition Grant = \$50

Cleaner (12/25): Rodebaugh | **Acolyte (12/26):** Seth Bernthal

"How can this be, since I do not know a man?" ³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God." ³⁶ "Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. ³⁷ "For with God nothing will be impossible." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Rejoice, Highly Favored One!

- I. Rejoice! For you need not fear
- II. Rejoice, for your King is near

OFFERTORY

- C** ♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Hymn: TLH #114 "Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love"

- OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS -

Followed immediately by the Offering Hymn printed below:

OFFERING: TLH #442:2 "Lord of Glory, Who hast Bought Us"

- C** ♪ Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee- Gladly, freely, of Thine own; With the sunshine of Thy goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by Thee, at length believe That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.

PRAYERS & the BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

- P** The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.
- C** ♪ Amen, amen, a - men.

HYMN: TLH #95:1-4 "Savior of the Nations, Come"

INTROIT

Ps. 19:1ff; Is. 45:8

- P** Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.
- C** **The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. In them he has set a tent for the sun,**
- P** which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.
- C** **Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.**

C Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 1:23a

- P** Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel. Alleluia.

C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

G ♪ **All glory be to God on high, Who hath our race befriended! To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended. God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall reign on earth again; O thank Him for His goodness!**

P Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G ♪ **A - - - men.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – 2 Samuel 7:8-16 Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹ And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, ¹⁵ but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'"

EPISTLE LESSON – Romans 16:25-27 Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept

secret for long ages ²⁶ but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

CONFESSIO OF FAITH

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: TLH #364:1-5 "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"

SERMON – Luke 1:26-38 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" ²⁹ But when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. ³⁰ Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³² "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ "And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel,



"The child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God." Luke 1:35