



**The Child Who Is A  
Virgin's Great Son**



**December 10, 2025**

**Midweek Advent Service**

## 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.”

**HYMN** LSB 370:1 “What Child Is This”

## INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ 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 (1 Peter 1:18–19), 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.

**HYMN** LSB 370:2 “What Child Is This”

## **FIRST READING** Judges 13:2–7

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, “Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. 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, and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines.” 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

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, 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.” 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 your sake, 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

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, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" 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, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 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, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

### 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!**

**HYMN**    LSB 356    “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

## **SERMON**

## **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.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **DISTRIBUTION**

## **PRAYER FOR PEACE**

**P** Let us pray. 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.

## CLOSING HYMN

LSB 350 “Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come”


## PRE-K BELLS PERFORMANCE

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

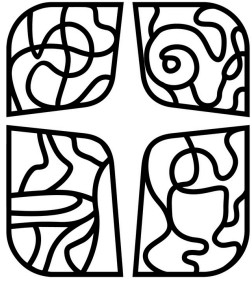
## DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!



Emmanuel's  
Christmas Eve Services  
December 24, 2025  
3:00 pm Children's Service  
7:00 pm Praise Service  
9:00 pm Traditional Service  
Christmas Day  
December 25, 2025  
One Service  
10:00 am



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## Emmanuel Lutheran's Children's Choir Performance

**11 am Service  
DECEMBER 21, 2025**

Are you 5- 15 years old?  
Wanna Join?  
Contact Heather M.  
Practice is Wednesdays  
in the Sanctuary during December  
5:30-6:00 pm



**Children's  
Christmas Eve Service**

**December 24, 2025**

**3:00 pm**

**All ages welcome**

