



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS)
Central Illinois District (CID)

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(Announcements & Calendars can be found @ our Web Site:
www.trinitylutherantaylorville.org)

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lcms.org cidlcms.org

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Worship:

- Saturday: 6:15 p.m.
- Sunday: 9:15 a.m.
- Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. *(Located in the church basement)*
- Sunday Morning Fellowship: 10:30 a.m.
- Adult Bible Class: 10:45 a.m.

Office Hours:

- Monday: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.;
- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.; *(12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. – Lunch)*
- Friday, 9 a.m. – Noon

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From the Pastor

Grace, mercy and peace to you all from God our Father through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

I have been out of the office for the last two weeks due to a “mono-like” reaction to an infection. I am doing well now. I pray that you all are well and safe. Continue practicing patience during this confusing time. Keep watch over and stay in contact with family, friends and fellow workers. Simply stay busy doing that which is good and pleasing in the sight of God.

I am including activities and learning suggestions for you and your children of all ages. I hope this will deepen your appreciation and understand of the Divine Service.

For younger children

*Word Search: **Child***

[Underline or highlight this word or phrase throughout the Divine Service]

A Sunday School lesson can be found at our website: www.trinitylutherantaylorville.org

5th graders and older: Mark the service with directional arrows [↗] as to show what direction the interaction between God, us and with each other is taking place. Use these symbols to indicate our posture during the service [| - standing in respect; ⊔ - kneeling to receive a blessing or show respect; ⊞ - humbly sitting to receive from the Lord].

The coloring page can be saved in Paint 3D for your children and you to color on the computer screen.

Also, have those who can read, answer the questions found throughout the Divine Service. They can highlight or underline the answers usually found above the questions.

For older children especially those who are in or have in the past studied Luther’s Small Catechism

Where is this found in the Luther’s Small Catechism? Put *LSC* in the margin and the section [*Ten Commandments, Creed, Lord’s Prayer, Baptism, Office of the Keys, or the Lord’s Supper*] of the catechism where this teaching can be found. [*ex: LSC-Baptism*]

A Bible Study on one of the lessons can be found at our website: www.trinitylutherantaylorville.org

Adults/parents

You may find this helpful to do the above also, even the drawing and coloring.

For the youngest of your children, draw a cross or a picture, if your talent so allows, anywhere in the Divine Service and let your little ones color them.

Another exercise you can do is to journal your thoughts on the Word and the following service. Each day read through a section and journal your thoughts and/or insights you may have. If you know to insert and use “Text Box” that is a good way to do it. You may also go to “References” and use “Foot Note” to record your thoughts or insight.

Registering for afterschool Catechizing Classes

With public schools going to remote learning and Vision Way still offering full day classes, the afterschool catechizing classes are going to take on a new look. Remote learning without video capabilities will be offered for those who register for remote learning. Small group sessions can be arranged pending the students’ schedule. Once you know their schedules let me know.

Contact the church office to register or if you have any questions.

God bless, keep and increase your faith in Christ as you now read, mark and inwardly digest His Word.

Pass It On

From the office of the Central Illinois District LCMS

For Advent 4: December 20, 2020

A rocket took off from Cape Canaveral last month, transporting astronauts to the International Space Station. Before ignition, Mission Control called out the countdown: *Ten . . . nine . . . eight . . .*

In a passage to be read in our church on Sunday, an angel put a young girl named Mary on a countdown. He said, “You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.”

The importance of any countdown lies in the event at its end. You can say *three . . . two . . . one* before you fly a kite. Still, the countdown before a rocket liftoff is more important than the same numbers being called out on a windy day in the park.

At the end of Mary’s countdown would come the birth of the One “called the Son of the Most High,” the angel said. “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.” This was important.

But how? Mary was a virgin. Answer: “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you” (Luke 1:31, 32-33, 35). A countdown takes on high significance *for you* when you have a personal stake in the event at hand. The stakes ran high for Mary. She would be the Mother of God.

Yet the Christmas countdown also anticipates the greatest of all blessings for you, and for all people. The Savior of the nations comes!

Miraculously, Mary believed. Whenever people believe this message, that is also by the Holy Spirit’s power.

God bless *your* Christmas countdown!

WORSHIP FOLDER
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
The Mystery of the Word Made Flesh
December 19 & 20, 2020

As We Gather

God told King David by the prophet Nathan that He would build him a house. The mystery, however, was that He didn’t mean a structure of wood and stone but an inheritance and a kingdom—the house and lineage of David. The mystery of salvation is made known only and alone through “the prophetic writings” and living Word of God in the Holy Scriptures. As we prepare to celebrate the greatest mystery of the Word made flesh, the incarnation and birth of the Son of God, Jesus, the Savior of the world, the best mystery is that God through the very telling of this story in our ears gives, works, and builds the gift of faith in the heart so that we believe it. We believe that Jesus was born for us, for me. He came down from heaven to be the only acceptable sacrifice for my sin, to redeem me, and give me eternal life through the forgiveness of my sins. O come, Emmanuel, God with us. O come, let us adore Him.



Order of Divine Service III LSB 184

Opening Hymn “A Great and Mighty Wonder” LSB383

- 1 A great and mighty wonder,
 A full and holy cure:
 The virgin bears the infant
 With virgin honor pure!
- ref Proclaim the Savior’s birth:
 “To God on high be glory

And peace to all the earth!”

- 2 The Word becomes incarnate
And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems
To shepherds from the sky. Refrain
- 3 While thus they sing your Monarch,
Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, O vales and mountains,
And oceans, clap your hands. Refrain.
- 4 Since all He comes to ransom,
By all be He adored,
The infant born in Bethl’em,
The Savior and the Lord. Refrain.
- 5 All idols then shall perish
And Satan’s lying cease,
And Christ shall raise His scepter,
Decreeing endless peace. Refrain.

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The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C **Amen.**

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.

P 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 You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and**

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.

C **Amen.**

What does God use to lift off the weight of our sins?

Old Testament Reading 2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

¹Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” ³And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.” ⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’” ⁸Now, 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. ⁹And 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. ¹⁰And 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, ¹¹from 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. . . . ¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Where does God choose to dwell?

Psalm

P ¹I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

C ²**For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever;
in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.”**

P ³You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:

C ⁴**I will establish your offspring forever,
and build your throne for all generations.”**

P ⁵Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

How long does God's love for us last?

Epistle Romans 16:25–27

²⁵Now 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 ²⁶but 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— ²⁷to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

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

What can God's Word bring about in our lives?

Verse Matthew 1:23a

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

Alleluia LSB 190



Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel Luke 1:26–38

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name 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 father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵And 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. ³⁶And 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. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And 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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

What is the great announcement?

Highlight words and phrases that declare our salvation has come in the person of Christ?

Apostles' Creed

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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 T everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day “ Once in Royal David's City” *LSB 376*

- 1 Once in royal David's city
 Stood a lowly cattle shed,
 Where a mother laid her baby
 In a manger for His bed:
 Mary was that mother mild,
 Jesus Christ her little child.

- 2 He came down to earth from heaven,
 Who is God and Lord of all,
 And His shelter was a stable,
 And His cradle was a stall;
 With the poor and mean and lowly
 Lived on earth our Savior holy.

- 3 For He is our childhood's pattern,
 Day by day like us He grew;
 He was little, weak, and helpless,
 Tears and smiles like us He knew;
 And He feels for all our sadness,
 And He shares in all our gladness.

- 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him,
 Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle
 Is our Lord in heav'n above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.
- 5 Not in that poor, lowly stable
 With the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven,
 Set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned,
All in white, His praise will sound!

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Sermon *"The Most Precious Gift of All" Luke 1:26–38*

Introduction:

There is something very special and yet very common in the announcement to Mary that she would conceive a child. It was special because an angel brought her the message. Yet, there had been a number of other times an angel made such an announcement recorded throughout Scriptures.

It is common in that it was a young woman who was expecting. And this would still be exciting news to hear from an angel, or even from a doctor.

I. Life

The announcement of a pregnancy is still an announcement of life. God has given a precious gift, the gift of a new life. A person has been conceived. A living being has come into the world.

This is a most precious gift. It is a person. It has a soul and body even as tiny as an embryo is. It is someone created in the image of God through lost because of sin. It is someone for whom Christ died and rose again so that they can enjoy the forgiveness of sin and everlasting life.

It is a precious gift because God has given us another person in our life to love and offer care.

II. Salvation

But I mentioned this was a special announcement like none other. The announcement to Mary was that the child conceived within her womb is the Savior of the world, the long expected Messiah.

Centuries of waiting are now over. The Savior first promised to Adam and Eve is now here. The Son of God takes on flesh and blood within the womb of Mary. The fulfilling of the promise of salvation has begun. Christ has come. His beginning is no larger than an embryo. The divine nature of Christ is united to a human nature. He will develop into a full grown man. He will fulfill the law of God by living a perfect life. He will satisfy the wrath of God by suffering and dying on the cross. He will show Himself to be God and Savior by rising from the dead. He will ascend to His rightful place at the right hand of the Father as our King.

All this begins within the womb of Mary. God has given a precious gift to her and to the world.

Conclusion:

Announcing to love ones the joy of expecting a child is still met with joy and celebration in most cases. Sadly in many cases it is not received with joy and wonder. God protect and watch over these individuals.

But today, we rejoice in the announcement that a Virgin has conceived a child, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

T AMEN T

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C **Amen.**

Offertory *LSB 192*

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.**

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Almighty God, as we draw closer to the grand celebration of the incarnation and birth of Your beloved Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we thank You for making known the mystery of Your love from the very first promise to Adam and Eve, through the continued witness of the holy prophets, apostles, and evangelists, and finally through Your living voice through the ministers of Your Church to this day. Grant that Your living Word ever call us and all sinners to repentance and faith in Your only-begotten Son. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Keep all You have called to preach and teach and care for Your people in true faith, guard them against the attacks of the evil one, and give them health and joy in their ministry. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Send Your Spirit over the whole world that those who lead in the authority of government acknowledge Your laws and will, making for times of peace that we may live faithfully in safety. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P By Your Holy Word and Sacrament, strengthen us to obedient living. Send Your grace, mercy, peace, and love to surround our families, inspire those of various vocations in the world, comfort, defend, and heal all those in times of illness or distress. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

Individual petitions may be added here.

P By the mystery of our Lord's incarnation, His life of obedient faith, and His substitutionary death on the cross, establish us in the one true faith, and strengthen us in lives obedient to Your holy will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer *LSB 196*

P 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.

C **For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Hymns

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” *LSB 374*

1 Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undefined,
To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place,
Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race
Who have found His favor.

2 Angels sang about His birth,
Wise Men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth
Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night,
All the hills were ringing.

3 Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined
But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth,
Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth;
Hail the King of glory!

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“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” **LSB 380**

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the_angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

ref Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the_incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!

3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,

Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

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Nunc Dimittis *LSB 199*

**C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face
of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Thanksgiving *LSB 200*

**A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth forever.**

**A Let us pray.
O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness
sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have
given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your
children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be
enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives
and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.**

Benedicamus *LSB 202*

**A Bless we the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.**

Benediction *LSB 202*

**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 T give you peace.
C Amen, amen, amen.**

Closing Hymn "Joy to the World" *LSB 387*

**1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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Coloring Page "Mary and the Angel Gabrielle"

