

Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers.”

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

P: [Brief Commentary](#) – Today, and throughout all generations, we

*should call MARY blessed* – because God chose her and used her to bring the *SAVIOR OF ALL* into the world! Since Jesus has made the way for ALL – you, me, and others, even Mary, let us share the good news so that ALL may receive JESUS as their Savior!

**SONG:** “Mary, Did You Know?”

*Please LISTEN to the words!*

**CREED** (Apostles’ Creed, *Second Article – Redemption*, and Luther’s Explanation):

P: *What is the Second Article of the Apostles’ Creed?*

C: **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.**

P: *What does this mean?*

C: **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy,**

**precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

P: [Brief Commentary](#) – Jesus is true God – *from the Father*, and true Man – *from Mary*. Being BOTH *He alone is qualified to be our Savior! He saved us, redeemed us, purchased us* – “with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death...”

Now, BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH, we belong to Him; He owns us – *and that is good news!* So, *as Christians* – during Advent, Christmas, and throughout our lives – let us always seek, know, and do His will! And all God’s people said: *Amen!*

**HYMN:** “Let Us All with Gladsome Voice”

**LSB 390**

This and other sermons are available on Bethlehem’s website: [www.blc7500.com](http://www.blc7500.com)

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## The Virgin Mary and the Son of God

Every year on the *fourth Sunday in Advent* the Gospel reading focuses on *Mary and Jesus!*

May the following words clarify your understanding of Mary and strengthen your faith in Jesus!

The *Brief Commentary* focuses on the underlined words!

Let us say what the Bible says!  
*Never more, never less!*

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent – 2009

Sunday, December 20 → 8:15 & 10:45

Who has the halo? →



**Mary’s Pregnancy – from Mary’s perspective: Luke 1:26-38**  
8:15 Reader: **Dr. Giessler**      10:45 Reader: **Matt Cole**

<sup>NIV</sup> **Luke 1:26** 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.

R: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

P: [Brief Commentary](#) – Gabriel said to Mary: “...**you have found favor** [literally, “grace”] **with God.**” Favor or grace always flows DOWN ↓ – *from God to people!* God showed *grace or favor to Mary in that HE CHOSE HER to be the human mother of His Son.* God has also chosen us to be His holy children through Jesus!  
Since Mary understood about *the birds and the bees*, she said: “**How**

**will this be...since I am a virgin?”**

*She didn't doubt, she simply requested a further explanation. We may also ask – and God MAY answer; even when He doesn't, let us always trust in Him!*

Mary responded to the angel: “**May it be to me as you have said.**” *Let us be like Mary! May this be our prayer: “Dear Father in heaven, you are the Potter, help me to always be the clay!”*

**HYMN: “A Great and Mighty Wonder”**

**LSB 383**

**Mary's Pregnancy – from Joseph's perspective: Matthew 1:18-25**

**8:15 Reader: Dr. Giessler**

**10:45 Reader: Matt Cole**

<sup>NIV</sup> **Matthew 1:18** This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and

they will call him Immanuel”--which means, “God with us.”

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

R: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

P: [Brief Commentary](#) – In Joseph's time, *engagement was almost the same as marriage. Therefore, to end the relationship, divorce was required! Even though Joseph logically assumed she had been unfaithful – even though she had not – he still treated her kindly, by planning to “divorce her quietly.”*

Mary did remain a virgin UNTIL SHE GAVE BIRTH TO JESUS! Then Joseph knew her in the way that can lead to children – *and probably did!*

**HYMN: “It Came upon the Midnight Clear”**

**LSB 366**

**Mary's Visit to Elizabeth, the Mother of John the Baptizer: Luke 1:39-45**

**8:15 Reader: Jim Schabel**

**10:45 Reader: Jerry Huttner**

<sup>NIV</sup> **Luke 1:39** At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, <sup>40</sup> where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup> In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!” <sup>43</sup> But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!”

R: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

P: [Brief Commentary](#) – Is Mary blessed among all women? *BY ALL MEANS!* God chose her above every other woman of all time to be the human mother of Jesus! God chose her, she believed the angel, she was a willing participant, and we should honor her godly example of faith!

The child she bore is even MUCH MORE BLESSED! The Bible says this about Jesus, *who lived in our place and died for our sins: “God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”* (Philippians 2:9-11 NIV). Let us *confess JESUS as Lord* and do His will both now and forever!

**HYMN: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

**LSB 379, vv. 1-3**

**Mary's Song of Praise to the Lord: Luke 1:46-55**

**8:15 Reader: Jim Schabel**

**10:45 Reader: Jerry Huttner**

<sup>NIV</sup> **Luke 1:46** And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, <sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me-- holy is his name. <sup>50</sup> His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. <sup>52</sup> He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. <sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful <sup>55</sup> to