

*Readings, Sermon Notes, Prayers, Hymns
To Study and Share with those You Love.*

WEEK OF DEC. 18, 2022

CONCORDIA

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
725 Truxton Drive, Kingsport, TN.
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**With Holy Spirit
planted
courageous
faith,
Joseph moved
from reason to
revelation.
Matthew 1**

Hymn of Invocation. ***What Hope! An Eden Prophesied*** 342

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

Introit Psalm 130

Oh that you would rend the heavens | and come down,* that the mountains might quake at your | presence. **I wait for the LORD, my | soul waits,* and in his | word I hope;** my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the | morning,* more than watchmen for the | morning. **O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is | steadfast love,* and with him is plentiful re- | demption.** And he will redeem | Israel* from all his in- | iquities. **Glory to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit; as it was in the be- | ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.** Oh that you would rend the heavens | and come down,* that the mountains might quake at your | presence.

Collect of the Day

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.

PSALM 24

The earth is the LORD's and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein. **For He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.** Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? **He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.** He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation. **Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.** Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. **Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!** Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. **Who is this King of glory? The LORD of Armies, he is the King of glory! Glory to the Father and to the + Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever, Amen.**
he LORD of Armies, He is the King of glory!

APPOINTED READINGS DEC. 18, 2022

Old Testament/Isaiah 7:10–17. Epistle/Romans 1:1–7 Gospel/Matthew 1:18–25
God's Word Is Fulfilled for Us in the Flesh and Blood of Christ Jesus, the Son of Mary

- The Fourth Sunday in Advent turns our attention toward the Nativity of Our Lord. With the blessed Virgin Mary, we await the coming of the Christ, her Son, conceived in her womb by the Word and Spirit of God. This fulfillment of the sign once given to the house of David, that *“the virgin shall conceive and bear a son”* (Is. 7:14), is now given to us in the Gospel. It declares that salvation is by His grace alone, entirely His work and a free gift. It also is the way and means by which the Lord our God is Immanuel, “God with us.”
- The almighty and eternal Son of God is conceived and born of Mary, and is thus *“descended from David according to the flesh”* (Rom. 1:3–4). He comes in this way to save us with His own flesh and blood; wherefore, He is called *“Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins”* (Matt. 1:21).
- As Joseph received this sign in faith and immediately *“did as the angel of the Lord commanded him”* (Matt. 1:24), we also live by faith in this Holy Gospel.

Joseph her husband, being righteous and not wanting to disgrace her, intended to divorce her secretly. But as he was considering these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. And she will give birth to a son, and you will call his name 'Jesus,' because he will save his people from their sins."

By his response to the Word of God, Joseph, the humble carpenter from Nazareth shows us how the most unlikely and ordinary folk can be used by God to bring His Son into our hearts and homes with the gift of courageous faith.

1. In courageous faith, Joseph moved from reason to revelation

1. Being righteous and wanting the best for Mary, limited options
2. An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream

2. In courageous faith, Joseph completes the holy family

1. As husband: do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife
2. As father: you will call his name 'Jesus'

3. In courageous faith, Joseph brings God's Son into hearts and homes

1. Joseph brings Mary to Bethlehem where the Christ is born
2. Joseph raises Jesus to save His people from their sins

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH. FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT. 18 DEC. 2022

In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For faith and humility to receive the virgin-born Son of God in the signs where He is promised to be found: His Holy Word and Sacraments, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the apostolic Gospel and its ministers, that the name and resurrection of Jesus would be proclaimed among all the nations, including among us, to bring about the obedience of faith in every place, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all couples engaged to be married, that they may come to their wedding day chastely and without fear, shame or disgrace; that they may know that Immanuel is the one who saves His people from their sins; and that God would clothe all brides and grooms in the forgiveness of Christ, by which all can stand before Him cleansed and confident of His blessing, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our nation and its rulers, that the Lord would bear patiently with this land despite its tiresome flattery and unbelief; that God would clear away all empty shows of piety; and that He would renew genuine faith in the virgin's Son, that His return may not be a sign against us, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For penitent hearts, that God would preserve us from temptation and abuse of His name by seeking our own way, and instead move us to confess our sins and rejoice in Jesus, our salvation, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the sick and those in any need, [*especially* _____,] let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all the faithful, that they may celebrate the birth of Christ by hearing the Word, singing His praises, and receiving His body and blood, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord God, heavenly Father, we give You thanks for Your Son, Jesus Christ, who is truly Lord and ruler of the house of Israel. With the Holy Spirit, You spoke to Moses out of the burning bush and gave the law in terror to test Your ancient people, that the fear of You would be before them. As Moses stretched out his arm at Your Word to bring Israel out of bondage, and as he stood in the breach against Your wrath, so You have given Christ to redeem us with His arms outstretched on the wood of the cross. Grant that, as we recall with thanksgiving His advent in the flesh, we may always confess Him and remain watchful for His advent in glory at the Last Day; for You live and reign, ever one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**