

# Cross of Christ and Cannon River Lutheran Churches

*Faithful Through Generations*

December 20, 2020



God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

Welcome and Announcements

HYMN

*"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"*

ELW #240

## **BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

L: Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.

**C: Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"* (Verses 1, 2 & 4) ELW #257

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

L: Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

L: Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

L: Loving and forgiving God, **we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

L: People of God, hear this glad news: by God’s endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God’s love, comforted by Christ’s peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **GREETING**

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L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **THE FIRST READING**

**2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.”

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I 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 and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” <sup>8</sup>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 to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**THE SECOND READING****Romans 16:25-27**

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages<sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL****Luke 1:26-38**

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,<sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.<sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."<sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.<sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.<sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.<sup>32</sup>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 ancestor David.<sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."<sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"<sup>35</sup>The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God.<sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.<sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God."<sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

*The gospel of the Lord.* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

Deacon Todd Portinga

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *"The Annunciation and The Magnificat"*

Solo-Emma

\*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**)

\*The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER: 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.**

**\*BENEDICTION: May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine on you and be gracious to you. May God look on you with favor and give you peace. C: Amen.**

**\*L: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.**