



MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 2

VESPERS

THE CHILD WHO IS A VIRGIN'S GREAT SON

Throughout Holy Scripture, God brought forth important men from the wombs of barren women. One such woman was the wife of Manoah. Through her, God gave oppressed Israel a great deliverer named Samson. But the greatest son to come from an unlikely mother was the Child born of the Virgin Mary; He was the greatest gift this oppressed world will ever receive. Samson's greatness was evident in feats of incredible strength, but the greatness of Mary's Son was seen in His willingness to set aside His power to deliver us from sin, death, and the devil.

Invocation:

L O Lord, open my lips,
C **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

L Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C **make haste to help me, O Lord.**

C **Glory be 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.
Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.**

HYMN # 370 – What Child is This

+ READINGS +

OLD TESTAMENT

Judges 13:2–7

L A reading from Judges, the thirteenth chapter.

² 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. ³ 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. ⁴ Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, ⁵ 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.” ⁶ 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, ⁷ 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 O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Philippians 2:5–11

L A reading from Philippians, the second chapter.

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:26–38

L A reading from Luke, the first chapter.

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with

you!”²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.³⁰ And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus.³² 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,³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵ 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.³⁶ 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.³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.”³⁸ 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 O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT

LSB, p. 230

L Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

L In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

SERMON

Hymn # 356 - The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Stand

ANTIPHON

LSB, p. 231

- L Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
C **and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

MAGNIFICAT

- L My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God,
my Savior;
- 1 for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.
2 For behold, from this day all generations will call me
blessed.
- 1 For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is
His name;
2 and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to
generation.
- 1 He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the
proud in the imagination of their hearts.
2 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has
exalted the lowly.
- 1 He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He
has sent empty away.
2 He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His
mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his
seed forever.

C **Glory be 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.**

+ PRAYER +

Kneel/Stand

KYRIE

LSB, p. 233

C **Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.**

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.**

COLLECTS

L O Lord, hear my prayer.
C **And let my cry come to You.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P O God, by the hands of Samson, You delivered Your people from the Philistines; but in nail-scarred hands, You won for us deliverance from all evil. When trials and tribulations

come, remove all our fears and fix our eyes on Your Son,
whose hands are mighty to defend and save;

L O Lord, hear my prayer.

C **And let my cry come to You.**

COLLECT

P Loving Father, when the angel Gabriel proclaimed the good news of the incarnation, the Virgin Mary trusted Your Word and conceived the Christ Child. Help us to follow her example of hearing and believing Your Word so that Jesus is born in our hearts and we rejoice in His abiding presence both now and always; 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, p. 234

L Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

P The grace of our Lord T Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **Amen.**

HYMN # 349 – Hark the Glad Sound

Thank you to Arlie for leading us in Music

Acknowledgments

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