

**Hark the Glad Sound**  
Advent 2: The Song of Mary  
December 9, 2015

**As We Gather**

Mary, a virgin betrothed to Joseph, would receive an angelic visitation that would move her by God's Spirit to erupt in praise to God. So we continue to celebrate these ancient "songs" of Holy Scripture that share with us the good news of Jesus' birth. Tonight we join with Mary in singing a melody of remembrance for all the ways the Lord has remembered His covenant with us through His Son. Let the words, Scripture verses, hymns, litanies and prayers of our worship serve as music to your soul as you personally hearken to the glad sound of Jesus' birth.

**Order of Service**

**Welcome and Hymn Sing**

**Opening Hymn "Hark the Glad Sound"** *(special lyrics, sung to tune: LSB #349)*

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song.

Come, magnify his holy name, the God of Abraham;  
For as a sacrifice for sin, the Lord provides the Lamb.

The mighty crushed, the proud brought low, the humble lifted up;  
The hungry by his Body fed, his Blood, their precious cup.

All glory to the Father give, with glory to the Son,  
And glory to the Spirit sing, th'eternal Three in One!

(Rise)

**Litany**

Pastor: O God, we love Mary's melody of remembrance—

**People: recalling God's gracious covenant promises to Abraham and his seed forever.**

Pastor: Her voice is joyful as she remembers how magnificent God is to her;

**People: our voices also express our wonder at his goodness.**

Pastor: God will lift her up, and she is overwhelmed with joy. We join her in her words of praise:

**People: "My soul now magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name."**

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath*

Pastor: Let us light two candles. The first candle is the candle of repentance.

**People: The second is the candle of remembrance, for we know how much we have forgotten.**

(The first and second candles of the Advent Wreath are lit at this time.)

Pastor: With one voice we join Mary's song, remembering:

**People: "His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty."**

**Confession and Absolution**

Pastor: Mary was aware of her "humble estate." She knew she was unworthy of the Lord's gift to her. Our awareness is really no different. We remember our "humble estate." We regularly acknowledge our unworthiness through confessing our sins:

**People: Almighty God, I confess to you all of the sins by which I have offended you. I deserve to suffer for my sins, both now and in eternity. I am sorry for my sins and I pray that you will look on me in mercy and forgive me for the sake of Jesus my Savior, who suffered the punishment for my sins when he died on the cross.**

Pastor: Mary remembered the mercy of the God for Abraham and for his seed forever. We too remember the tender mercy of our God as his covenant people, the children of Abraham. So with confidence I announce unto you that your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen. With Mary we remember and say: "He has helped his servant Israel in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."**

**Hymn of Praise** (*sung to tune LSB #332 - Savior of the Nations, Come*)

Let the earth now praise the Lord, who hath truly kept his Word  
And the sinners' Help and Friend now at last to us doth send.

What the fathers most desired, what the prophet's heart inspired,  
What they longed for many a year, stands fulfilled in glory here.

Abram's promised great Reward, Zion's Helper, Jacob's Lord,  
Him of twofold race behold, truly came, as long foretold.

**Prayer of the Day**

Pastor: Let us pray. O Heavenly Father, we praise you for the melody of remembrance that is Mary's song. We praise you even more for the Son she would bear, who is for us and for all people the Savior of the world. Grant that we too may worship and adore him, and carry the message of your Son, our Lord, to all people. In Jesus' holy name we pray.

**People: Amen.**

(Be seated)

**Old Testament Reading: Genesis 12:1-3**

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

**Epistle Reading: Galatians 3:23-29**

Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

**6:00 Anthem**

*Children of God Are We*

Middle School Choir

(Rise)

**Gospel Reading: Luke 1:46-55**

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

(Be seated)

**Sermon Hymn #352 "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"**

Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has truly kept His word  
And at last to us did send Christ, the sinner's help and friend.

What the fathers most desired, What the prophets' heart inspired,  
What they longed for many a year Stands fulfilled in glory here.

Abram's promised great reward, Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord –  
Him of two-fold race behold – Truly came, as long foretold.

As Your coming was in peace, Quiet, full of gentleness,  
Let the same mind dwell in me Which is Yours eternally.

Bruise for me the serpent's head That, set free from doubt and dread,  
I may cling to You in faith, Safely kept through life and death.

Then when You will come again As the glorious king to reign,  
I with joy will see Your face, Freely ransomed by Your grace.

**Sermon**

**Mary's Song of Remembrance"**

**Luke 1:46-55**

**Advent Offerings** As your offering is collected, **please sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

**Prayers**

Pastor: O Heavenly Father, we are so grateful for Mary's melody of remembrance

**People: We bless you, O God of Israel!**

Pastor: We praise you that you have raised up a mighty Savior

**People: as you promised through the covenant with Abraham and with his seed forever.**

Pastor: We are so grateful for your blessings to Mary, for fulfilling your promises, and for the song she sang that helps us remember what a great God we have.

**People: Bless us that our lives may sing forth the truth of her praise, that we may pass on her melody of remembrance to the people you have placed in our lives.**

Pastor: We pray for all those who are rehearsing these days to express Mary's hymn of praise.

**People: Particularly we pray for our school children practicing in these days to bless us with the Light of Christ next week.**

Pastor: There are many faithful pastors and dedicated baptized members in faith communities around the world who desire to shine the Light of Christ and his salvation to our world filled with the darkness of sin.

**People: Give to them and to us the courage and boldness to sing a new song to you and spread the light and love of Christ wherever we go.**

Pastor: Bless our hearts, fill our souls, strengthen us for service and witness, and grant us in these days and throughout our lives, the joy of your salvation.

**People: Bless your whole Church these Advent days as we join in Mary's melody of remembrance. Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Benediction**

Pastor: Now may the God who sent an angel to a surprised Mary, announcing that she would give birth to the Savior of the world, bless you as you continue her melody of remembrance, sharing God's great covenant faithfulness to Abraham, to his descendants and to you forever!

**People: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn #331 "The Advent of our King"**

The advent of our King Our prayers must now employ,  
And we must hymns of welcome sing In strains of holy joy.

The everlasting Son Incarnate deigns to be,  
Himself a servant's form puts on To set His servants free.

O Zion's daughter, rise To meet your lowly King,  
Nor let your faithless heart despise The peace He comes to bring.

As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come again  
And His true members all unite With Him in heav'n to reign.

Before the dawning day Let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
The sinful self be put away, The new self now put on.

All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one Through all eternity.

Preacher & Liturgist

Lectors

Acolyte

Middle School Choir Director

Organist

Music Coordinator

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Laurel Privatt, Carri Wolcyk

Montana Wendt

Shannon Krueger

Roger Gottschalk

Kim Woller

By Vern Gundermann. © 2015 Creative Communications for the Parish, 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026. 800-325-9414. www.creativecommunications.com. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

*Our Advent Series Continues*

***The Song of the Light***

***(School Children's Program)***

*Wednesday, December 16, 2015*

***10:00 AM & 6:00 PM***

*Dinner served at 4:45*

*Slow cooker Chicken Tacos, Mexican Style Rice,  
Black Beans, Corn, Chocolate Lasagna,*

*Kids meals: hotdogs, chips, crunchy carrots*

