

**Announcing the Advent
Advent 2021**

**Announcing the Advent to Mary
Week 1**

Opening Hymn: LSB 341 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring;
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise
Your joyful songs of praise.

A righteous Helper comes to thee;
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings;
Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise
Your grateful hymns of praise.

How blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He
Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise
Your happy shouts of praise.

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in
And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise
For word and deed and grace!

Redeemer, come and open wide
 My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
 O enter with Thy grace divine;
 Thy face of mercy on me shine.
 Thy Holy Spirit guide us on
 Until our glorious goal is won.
 Eternal praise and fame
 We offer to Thy name.

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The Invocation

The Psalmody: Psalm 80

P: Restore us, O God;

C: Make Your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.

P: Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock;

**C: You who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim,
 Benjamin and Manasseh. Awaken Your might; come and save us.**

P: Restore us, O God Almighty;

C: Make Your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.

P: Let Your hand rest on the man at Your right hand,

C: The Son of Man You have raised up for Yourself.

P: Then we will not turn away from You;

C: Revive us, and we will call on Your name.

P: Restore us, O LORD God Almighty;

C: Make Your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.

An Advent Bible Reading

A Hymn: LSB 348, "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns"

The King shall come when morning dawns
 And light triumphant breaks,
 When beauty gilds the eastern hills
 And life to joy awakes.

Not as of old a little child,
 To bear and fight and die,
 But crowned with glory like the sun
 That lights the morning sky.

Oh, brighter than the rising morn
 When Christ, victorious, rose
 And left the lonesome place of death
 Despite the rage of foes.

Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
 Shall dawn upon our race
 The day when Christ in splendor comes
 And we shall see His face.

The King shall come when morning dawns
 And light and beauty brings.
 Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
 Come quickly, King of kings!

Text: Public domain

The Study: “*Announcing the Advent to Mary*” (Adapted from *Announcing the Advent* by Curtis Moermond, CPH, 1991)

A. Looking at the Announcement

Read Luke 1:26-38

It has been six months since the angel Gabriel visited Zechariah. Now, about seventy miles north-east of Jerusalem, in a little village surrounded by hills on three sides, Gabriel, makes a visit to a young maiden.

1. The Scriptures have scant information about Mary, yet at least three “*strokes*” of the painting may be found in this section. Look at verses 26-27. What do these verses tell us about Mary?
2. Read Isaiah 7:14. Not only does this passage tell us something about the mother-to-be, what does it tell us of her child?
3. Verses 31-35 are the heart of the announcement. Verse 31 describes the human nature of the child and verses 32-33 describe His divine nature. What do we learn about Him as:

True Man (verse 31)

True God (verses 32-35)

4. The angel tells Mary what the name of the Child will be. What does the angel tell Joseph the name means? (Matthew 1:21) The announcement Mary heard was one people had longed for since the Fall of Adam and Eve.

B. The Reaction

1. At first glance, Mary's reaction (34) was like Zechariah's (check Luke 1:18). However, on closer inspection, we see an important difference. How is Zechariah's reaction different from Mary's?
2. The words of the angel in verse 35 are reassuring to Mary. What are those words? What sign does he give to Mary? (36)
3. The third statement of the angel is perhaps the most important: "*For nothing is impossible with God.*" The same almighty power that sent this angel from before the very throne of God to announce the advent of His Son, is the God who stands behind the message the angel delivers. What is Mary's response to the angel's words? (38)
4. If, for a few minutes, you could put yourself into the place of Mary, imagine some of the thoughts that may have been going through her mind as she pondered the message. What times in your life can you think of when you approached the unknown with fear and/or hope?

C. The Response

Read Luke 1:39-56. Mary's true response to the announcement of the advent is found in the hymn of praise we know as the *Magnificat*. (46-55)

1. What other reason(s) may have prompted Mary's trip to Elizabeth?
2. What title did Elizabeth give to Mary? (43) _____
Elizabeth revealed something only she would have known. (41, 44) What was it? Why did Elizabeth say Mary is to be blessed? (45)
3. Look at Mary's song (46-55).
 - What reason does Mary give for rejoicing? What has God found in her? What is the result?

- In verses 49-50, Mary shifts the focus from herself to God. What do we learn about God?
- The climax of Mary's hymn comes in verses 51-53. Here she contrasts what a godless world reveres with what God has done. What are those contrasting points?

Verse 51: He has performed _____; He has scattered _____.

Verse 52: He has brought down _____ but He has _____.

Verse 53: He has filled _____ but _____.

4. *Read verses 54-55.* Quietly, Mary reviews the meaning of what she has stated in the rest of her hymn. What one attribute of God does she emphasize?

D. My Response

Mary took God at His Word when He announced the advent of His Son even though it was a great mystery as to how His Word would be fulfilled. For Mary, it meant personal involvement. It meant an opportunity to praise God for His faithfulness.

Think of a time when God changed the direction of your life? How might you describe your feelings at that time? Is there an area in your life currently, in which you simply need to place your trust in God and follow His direction?

The Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

P: Now to Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy ...

C: To the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power, and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

The Closing Hymn: LSB 357, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (verses 1, 2, 4, 5, 6)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. **Refrain**

Refrain

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!***

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord’rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. **Refrain**

O come, Thou Branch of Jesse’s tree,
Free them from Satan’s tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow’r to save,
And give them vict’ry o’er the grave. **Refrain**

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav’nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. **Refrain**

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death’s dark shadows put to flight. **Refrain**

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Join us next Wednesday evening for our next midweek Advent service. It begins at 7:00 p.m. We will discuss: Announcing the Advent to the Shepherds.