

Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

**A BIBLICAL, CONFESSIONAL AND TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION IN THE CHICAGO REGION
COMMITTED TO MINISTERING TO SINNERS
WITH THE FORGIVING PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST.**

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 20, 2020

✠ DIVINE SERVICE ✠

Setting 4



Fourth Sunday in Advent

A WELCOME IN JESUS' NAME to all who gather in the Lord's House today. You have joined with the seen and unseen host of God, around the throne of the Lamb, to be served by the Triune God through the preaching of His Word and the administration of the Holy Sacraments. Apart from these Means of Grace there are no Christians and there is no Church! Therefore the entire Liturgy places God at center stage as He acts towards His people through the Word and Sacraments to bring His gifts of life and salvation. That is why the Liturgy is called "Divine Service" - it is God's Service to His people! This service reaches its fulfillment in the Lord's Supper or Sacrament of the Altar.

When King David “lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies,” he piously supposed that he would build a house for God (2 Sam. 7:1–2). But the Lord would turn it around: He would establish a house for David and an everlasting throne. This He has done not only for David, but also for all His people, in the Son of David, Jesus Christ, “conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary” (Apostles’ Creed). That holy child, the incarnate “Son of the Most High,” receives “the throne of his father David” and begins to reign “over the house of Jacob forever” (Luke 1:32–33). Having given Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, His body is the true and eternal temple of God in which His people have their own place of peace and rest. That is “the mystery that was kept secret for long ages” but is now “made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God” in order that we may have faith and life in Christ (Rom. 16:25–26).

Prayer before Worship

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us perfectly to know Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the way, the truth, and the life, that following His steps we may steadfastly walk in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



- | | |
|----------|--|
| P | designates the parts of the liturgy spoken or chanted by the pastor |
| C | designates the parts of the liturgy spoken or chanted by the congregation |
| ✠ | designates the parts of the liturgy where the sign of the cross may be made |
| △ | designates a hymn that ends with a Trinitarian stanza; please stand for the final stanza |

Opening Hymn

As Angels Joyed with One Accord - *stanzas 1-4; tune: Puer Nobis (344)*

**As angels joyed with one accord
Upon the advent of our Lord,
So laud we all and bless the name
Of Him who from the Father came.**

**He came, not clothed in majesty
Nor pow'r that suits His deity.
In lowly state He walked till He
In dying set us captives free.**

**This done, He soared to God's right hand,
Yet orphaned not His chosen band,
For He, not bound in grace and pow'r,
Attends His own each day and hour.**

**In ev'ry age — let praise abound —
He comes; we hear His voice resound.
His glorious Gospel does not cease
To bring us comfort, joy, and peace.**



Invocation

Matthew 28:19b

Stand

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

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 124:8; Psalm 130:3-4; Luke 18:13 / John 20:19-23

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P



Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition.

Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit
C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

I O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Tune and text: Public domain



Kyrie - Lord, Have Mercy

Mark 10:47

C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

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.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11,16

Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ² the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." ³ And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you." ⁴ But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵ "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? ⁶ 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 for my dwelling. ⁷ In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' ⁸ 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, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ 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.

¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

L Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.*
Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.



Behold, your King is com- | ing to you;*
righteous and having sal- | vation.

Blessèd is He who comes in the name | of the Lord.*
From the house of the Lord we | bless You.

Epistle

Romans 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith- ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

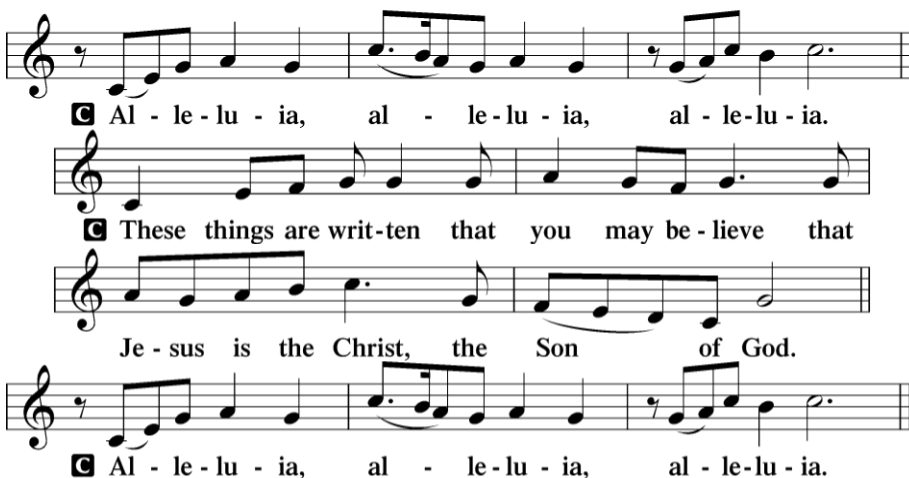
A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

John 20:31



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.



Apostles Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.**

Sit

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from
 5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen



all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
 tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y
 wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that



knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
 give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
 leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

6 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

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 In one the hearts of all mankind;
 Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
 And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

Tune and text: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

After the final petition:

... one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Offering

(You may place your offering in the plates in the back of the nave as you are leaving.)

Service of the Sacrament

Stand

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus – Holy, Holy, Holy

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near. With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

- 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.

The Words of Our Lord

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini – *The Peace of the Lord*

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei – *Lamb of God*

John 1:29

C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true us, Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Sit

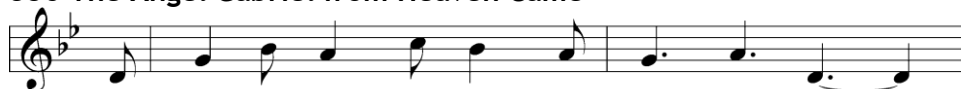
Dear Visitors and Friends: ADVENT means “coming”. Christ came in the flesh as Bethlehem. He comes now in Word and Sacrament, and He will come again in judgment. As we look forward to His final coming, we find our deepest joy and comfort in His present coming with His very own body and blood for our forgiveness. As we devote ourselves to the Lord’s Supper today, we also want to be faithful to the Apostles’ Doctrine.

For this reason, the congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have agreed to follow the Biblical and historical practice of “Closed Communion.” **If you desire to receive the Lord’s Supper and are not a communicant member of Divine Shepherd, or a sister congregation in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod we respectfully ask that you not commune this morning.** Rather, we would invite you to speak with Pastor Zimmer about Holy Communion and about becoming a communicant member of this congregation. It is the sincere prayer of this congregation that our careful practice of the administration of the Lord’s Supper will not be a hindrance to our fellowship with you but instead that it would lead you to appreciate the high regard we have for Christ and His Word concerning this precious gift. **Thank you for your understanding.**

Distribution

hymns are sung as needed

356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 “For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 “To me be as it pleas - eth God,” she said.
 In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



“All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 “My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God’s ho - ly name.”
 And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
 “Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!

Tune and text: Public domain

353 Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring



1 Je - sus came, the heav'n's a - dor - ing, Came with peace from
 2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are
 3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, Bring - ing news of
 4 Je - sus comes in joy and sor - row, Shares a - like our



realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,
 worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer
 sins for - giv'n; Je - sus comes with words of glad - ness,
 hopes and fears; Je - sus comes, what - e'er be - falls us,



Low - ly came on earth to die; Al - le - lu - ia!
 To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia!
 Lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Cheers our hearts and dries our tears; Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Com - forts us in fail - ing years.

Text and tune: Public domain

900 Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love



1 Je - sus! Name of won - drous love, Name all oth - er names a - bove,
 2 Je - sus! Name de - creed of old, To the maid - en moth - er told,
 3 Je - sus! Name of price - less worth To the fall - en of the earth
 4 Je - sus! Name of mer - cy mild, Giv - en to the ho - ly Child



Un - to which must ev - 'ry knee Bow in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
 Kneel - ing in her low - ly cell, By the an - gel Ga - bri - el.
 For the prom - ise that it gave, "Je - sus shall His peo - ple save."
 When the cup of hu - man woe First He tast - ed here be - low.

5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n
Under all the mighty heav'n
Whereby those to sin enslaved
Burst their fetters and are saved.

6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
Human name of God above;
Pleading only this, we flee
Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

Tune and text: Public domain

Stand

P The eating and drinking of your Savior's sacred body and blood strengthen and preserve you in the one true Christian faith unto life everlasting. Depart ✠ in the joy of His Peace.

C Amen.

Nunc Dimittis – The Song of Simeon

Luke 2:29-32

C 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; 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 & Benediction

Psalm 103:1; Numbers 6:24-26

A Let us bless the Lord.

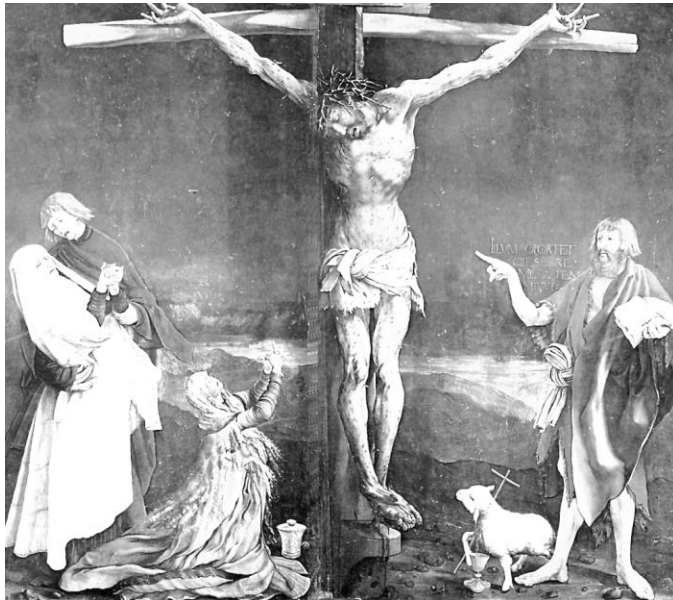
C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C Amen.



Closing Hymn

As Angels Joyed with One Accord - stanzas 5-7; tune: *Puer Nobis* (344)

**He comes in water to the child
And cleanses him, from birth defiled.
This washing seals His pard'ning grace
And shows the Father's kindly face.**

**He comes to us in bread and wine
To give Himself — and gifts divine.
Oh, praise Him for this Sacrament,
Redeeming love's great testament!**

**Lift up your heads! All grief and pain
Shall vanish when He comes again.
Where we shall see Him face to face,
There joy alone shall have a place.**

✠ SOLI DEO GLORIA ✠



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The Lutheran Church retains ceremonies that underscore and support the Gospel—the good news that we are saved by *grace alone* through *faith alone* in *Christ alone*. Such laudable ceremonies include making the sign of the cross in remembrance of Holy Baptism. Those places in the service where Lutherans have traditionally made the sign of the cross are marked with a cross (✠).



You should learn to come to this conclusion: “Although all things are done in great weakness and already seem lost, nevertheless, for God nothing is impossible.” For thus the angel says to Mary: “With God nothing is impossible”. For He once created all things out of nothing; He still retains this ability and in the same manner still preserves and governs all things. What is nothing for us is everything for God; and what is impossible for us is very easy for Him. By the same power, on the Last Day He will raise the dead who from the foundation of the earth have lain in the dust of the earth.

✠ Martin Luther ✠

Therefore, this is the chief article, which separates us from all the heathen, that you, O man, may not only learn that Christ, born of the virgin, is the Lord and Savior, but also accept the fact that he is your Lord and Savior, that you may be able to boast in your heart: I hear the Word that sounds from heaven and says: This child who is born of the virgin is not only his mother’s son. I have more than the mother’s estate, for he was born for me, for the angel said, “To you” is born the Savior. Then ought you to say, Amen, I thank thee, dear Lord.

But then reason says: Who knows? I believe that Christ, born of the virgin, is the Lord and Savior and he may perhaps help Peter and Paul, but for me, a sinner, he was not born. But even if you believed that much, it would still not be enough, unless there were added to it the faith that he was born for you. For he was not born merely in order that I should honor the mother, that she should be praised because he was born

of the virgin mother. This honor belongs to none except her and it is not to be despised, for the angel said, “Blessed are you among women!” [Luke 1:28]. But it must not be too highly esteemed lest one deny what is written here: “To you is born this day the Savior.” He was not merely concerned to be born of a virgin; it was infinitely more than that. It was this, as she herself sings in the Magnificat: “He has helped his servant Israel” [Luke 1:54]; not that he was born of me and my virginity, but born for you and for your benefit, not only for my honor.



Take yourself in hand, examine yourself and see whether you are a Christian! If you can sing: The Son, who is proclaimed to be a Lord and Savior, is my Savior; and if you can confirm the message of the angel and say yes to it and believe it in your heart, then your heart will be filled with assurance and joy and confidence, and you will not worry much about even the costliest

and best that this world has to offer. For when I can speak to the virgin from the bottom of my heart and say: O Mary, noble, tender virgin, you have borne a child; this I want more than robes and guldens, yea, more than my body and life; then you are closer to the treasure than everything else in heaven and earth, as Ps. 73 [:25] says, “There is nothing upon earth that I desire besides thee.” You see how a person rejoices when he receives a robe or ten guldens. But how many are there who shout and jump for joy when they hear the message of the angel: “To you is born this day the Savior?”

✠ Martin Luther ✠