

## “SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM”

Sunday, December 19, 2021

Minnesota Valley Church

Fourth Sunday in Advent

(We will pull the screen down on last song of ss prog...go tell it on the mountain.)

Prelude-Carol Gustafson

Hymn #25 “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

Welcome and Prayer

Sunday School Christmas Pageant: See Insert (Rebekah Olson will accompany this portion.)

Screen pulled down at the end of the SS prog.

Power point starts here

Hymn #28 (vss. 1&4) “I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve”

Reader:

Gospel Lesson: Luke 1:39-45

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle-Johnson Family

Special Music: Pillman Family “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Announcements and Prayer Concerns

Praise and Worship Songs

### **Message: “Mary’s Magnificent Message” Luke 1:46-56**

Pastor Tom Olson; December 19, 2021

If you remember a couple Sundays ago, we saw the encounter between the Angel Gabriel and Mary. Two things really jumped out of that text. One was Gabriel’s response to the Mary’s question about how this would be possible. He said in *Luke 1:37* “***For nothing is impossible with God!***” That is a phrase we should repeat until it becomes a very part of the fiber of our soul. The other was Mary’s response, “***I am the Lord’s servant, may it be to me as you have said.***” Mary believed the Word of the Lord, trusted the Lord and surrendered to her difficult and earthshaking roll as the mother of our Savior. One of my favorite Christmas card I have received is framed in my home office. It is a very Jewish looking young woman kissing her little baby she is holding and the title is this, “KISSING THE FACE OF GOD.” That photo says more to me than a whole shelf of theology books. I never can stop contemplating what it means for Mary, for Jesus, for me and for the world.

Mary went to see her cousin, Elizabeth, who was six months pregnant with “John the Baptist.” When she entered the room something amazing happened. Luke 1:41 “***When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.***” Note what Elizabeth said in verse 44: “***As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.***” As the supreme court of the United States considers the abortion issue again, it is good for us to note that the first human being to acknowledge the Son

of God in Mary's womb was the unborn baby in Elizabeth's womb. If that doesn't settle the issue, I don't know what does.

Elizabeth and John the baby were both filled with the Holy Spirit. Then Mary is filled with the Holy Spirit and declares a great poetic and prophetic word:

***46 And Mary said:***

***"My soul glorifies the Lord***

***47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,***

***48 for he has been mindful***

***of the humble state of his servant.***

***From now on all generations will call me blessed,***

***49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me-  
holy is his name.***

***50 His mercy extends to those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.***

***51 He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;  
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.***

***52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
but has lifted up the humble.***

***53 He has filled the hungry with good things  
but has sent the rich away empty.***

***54 He has helped his servant Israel,  
remembering to be merciful***

***55 to Abraham and his descendants forever,  
even as he said to our fathers."***

***56 Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.***

The Sunday school children, musicians and Scripture readers have all proclaimed the gospel to us today so I don't need to say too much. But I want to look at one phrase of Mary's "Magnificat" with you in verse 47 where Mary says, "***...my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.***"

Three things:

**JESUS MAKES OUR SPIRITS REJOICE**

**JESUS IS GOD IN HUMAN FLESH**

**JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR**

## **I. JESUS MAKES OUR SPIRITS REJOICE**

We all know that life can be tough and we will have many days of crying and heartache over the years. But one thing that is the great possession of the Christian is a general JOY OF OUR

SPIRIT. Reciting the great truths of the Apostles' Creed alone should turn our sorrow for sin to torrents of Joy. *"I believe in the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting."* When I get to that part of the creed I feel like shouting and I do sometimes. Kind of like this... "I believe in the forgiveness of sins, **THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY AND THE LIFE EVERLASTING. AMEN!**" I can't do that without bursting out in joy of spirit! When Satan comes my way to accuse and condemn me I picture myself looking him straight in the eyes and saying those words... "I believe in Jesus Christ, His only son, our Lord...the forgiveness of sins...the life everlasting!!!" And PS Devil...you will be burning in the lake of fire when I am in heaven with my Savior so flee.

I love the way the ancient Christmas carol describes this joy as our great weapon against our foes with these words "If thou wilt foil thy foes with joy, then flit not from this heavenly boy." Joy comes from focusing on Jesus crucified, risen and coming again with life and liberty for all who believe.

How is this possible? Point two:

## **II. JESUS IS GOD IN HUMAN FLESH**

Mary said my soul rejoices in GOD MY SAVIOR. Jesus is God. She would kiss the face of God. She would nurse Almighty God. She would change God's diapers. She would teach God to walk. She would watch God die on the cross. She would meet God, risen from the dead in Gethsemane.

## **III. JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR**

We would join the ancient church and honor Mary as a very great person worthy of high praise and respect. She even says here that *"all generations will call her blessed."* She was pure. She was a virgin. She believed the Word that Gabriel brought her. She fully surrendered to and obeyed the will of God. But even in her exemplary state, she called the baby "MY SAVIOR." I love the way Mark Lawry put it in his famous song, "Mary Did You Know" ... *"Mary did you know that the one you would deliver would soon deliver you?"*

This is the point of the first several chapters of the book of Romans. ***Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*** That includes the virgin Mary by her own admission. Some of the hardest people to get saved are good people who live good lives because they don't see their need of salvation. But the virgin Mary blows that out of the water. This pure, undefiled virgin, calls her baby "God my Savior."

No sin is too big that it can't be forgiven and no sin is too small that it doesn't separate us from our Holy God in heaven. But Jesus has taken care of that.

***John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that WHOSOEVER believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”***

Beloved, God loves you, He died in your place and mine on the cross, He wants to forgive your sins and save your soul. Won't you be that WHOSOEVER BELIEVES person today and call upon the Lord for salvation? And those of us who know Jesus personally can join Mary in rejoicing in the salvation we already possess in Christ. Joy to the Word, the Lord has come, Let earth receive her King, let every heart prepare him room...

Let us pray: God I know I am a sinner and need forgiveness and the gift of everlasting life. I believe Jesus died for me and I now invite Him into my heart to be my Savior and Lord. I rejoice in your love for the world, including me. In Jesus's Name. Amen

Hymn #336 (vss 1-4, 8) “Thy Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We”

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Closing Song

Postlude: Carol Gustafson