

Fourth Sunday in Advent – 2023

Saturday, 12/23 at 4:00 & Sunday, 12/24 at 9:00

Your Best Ever Advent and Christmas
**Part 6: The Word; Mary's Son;
Holy Son of God**

*It's Not Too Late!
Get a Booklet
Use It Every Day*



Text: NAS 1995

Celebrate Christmas: 12/24 at 4:00; 12/25 at 10:00

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Today, *as we continue in the Advent-Christmas booklet*, we are beginning the section of Gospel passages that tell us about our Savior.

Day 16 – Monday, 12/18 – The Word and Source of Life

Read and Think: **John 1:1-5** In the beginning was **the Word**, and **the Word** was with God, and **the Word** was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. **In Him was life**, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

Answer and Pray:

- Who is “the Word” who was with God? The Word is the Son of God; *He was with God before creation!*
- What did “the Word” do in the beginning? The Word created all things *out of nothing* (Jn. 1:3; Rom. 4:17; Heb. 11:3).

- Who is the source of your life? The Son of God: **“In Him was life...”** (Jn. 1:4); *He gave us the gift of life!*

Hymn: Creator of the Stars of Night, LSB 351 (tune: 344), vv. 1-2

Day 17 – Tues, 12/19 – Mary’s Son, the Son of the Most High

Read and Think: **Luke 1:30-33** The angel [Gabriel] said to [Mary], “Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have **found favor with God**. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus [*which means “the Lord saves”*]. **He will be great** and will be called **the Son of the Most High**; and **the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David**; and **He will reign over the house of Jacob forever**, and His kingdom will have no end.”

Answer and Pray:

- What does it mean that Mary “found favor with God”?
 - “The special grace on account of which the angel greets Mary is **God’s selection of her to be the mother of his Son** (Lenski, 62).”
 - She is NOT special of herself, *but because God chose to bring His Son into the world through her!*
- Note the amazing realities of Mary’s son:
 - **“He will be great”** – *the greatest of all!*
 - **“the Son of the Most High”** – *the very Son of God wearing the human flesh of Mary!*
 - **“the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David”** –
 - **David** ruled over the earthly nation of Israel – *over the blood relatives of Israel.*

- **Jesus is now ruling** over the eternal nation of Israel – *over all the people who have the faith of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Israel)!*
- **“He will reign over the house of Jacob forever”** – His kingdom is **not temporal** **BUT eternal!**

Hymn: Savior of the Nations, Come, LSB 332, vv. 1-3

Day 18 – Wed, 12/20 – Mary’s Son, the Holy Son of God

Read and Think: **Luke 1:34-37** Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. For nothing will be impossible with God.” And Mary said, “Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; **may it be done to me according to your word.**” And the angel departed from her.

Answer and Pray:

- Nothing in the Bible indicates that Mary was holy, but the Bible makes it clear that her child would be holy.
- The RCC declares Mary to be holy to explain Jesus being holy,¹ but they contradict God’s word. The Bible says: **all have sinned** (Rom. 3:23) **except Jesus** (Heb. 4:15).
- We let God be God and believe the Bible: In a way unknown to us, **God, by the Holy Spirit**, brought His holy Son into this world through Mary.

¹ The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that by the grace of God “Mary remained free of every personal sin her whole life long.” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinlessness_of_Mary

- With God it's possible: God CAN (*He is almighty*) and God MUST (*He is holy*) keep all His promises!
 - Elizabeth was pregnant – *in her old age!*
 - Mary was pregnant – *as a virgin!*
 - Mary *became pregnant* when she said, “**may it be done to me according to your word**”
- Are you fully open to God's will for your life? When we are saved through Jesus, *we should be!*
 - What made it **difficult** for Mary to say, “Yes”?
 - She was engaged, *but not yet married!*
 - Joseph would at least *be very disappointed!*
 - She would *be mocked by her neighbors!*
 - Being pregnant without being married, *she could have been stoned to death (Lev. 20:10)!*
 - In the face of **great difficulties**, Mary said, “Yes!”
Therefore, let us **be** open to God's will for our lives and **honor** Him by doing whatever He desires!

Let Us Pray: Dear Father, we are in awe: You made all things through Your Son, You even gave us life through Him!

Then, at the right time, Your Son put on Mary's flesh – *to live and die and be raised for our salvation!*

As Mary was open to Your will for her life, make us open to Your will for our lives!

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