

Blessed Savior Lutheran Church

1205 North Lincoln Ave
O'Fallon, IL
(618) 632-0126
www.mybslc.org
Worship –9:30 am

Pastor Tony Troup (618-340-8375), Vacancy Pastor
Pastor Perry Schefelker (618-322-7498), Vacancy Pastor
Cody Krueger, Seminary Field Worker
Cheryl Vohlken, Organist
Sunday School & Bible Class: 10:45am

ADVENT MIDWEEK 1

December 3, 2025

All About Mary: Introducing Mary

AS WE GATHER

During Advent, we wait *for* Jesus, *with* Jesus. The darkest part of the year is brightened by the assurance that the Savior who came for the world once is coming again. And we do not wait alone. Together, the whole Christian Church is accompanied in this waiting by the Christ who promises to be with His people always. Jesus' mother, the virgin Mary, knows a lot about waiting. With pregnant anticipation, Mary waited *for* Jesus, the promised Messiah who would reign from David's throne forever. But Mary was always waiting *with* Jesus, the Son of the Most High nestled within her womb. Throughout this Advent, we will listen with Mary, sing with Mary, and wait with Mary. Because, on darkest days, the Christ comes as near to you as He did to Mary to wait *with* you for the glorious sunrise that's coming.



Today we shall remember Mary as God reveals who she is through His Word, not how the world and many churches describe her. And in considering Mary, we look to the One who is the reason the Bible teaches us about Mary—Jesus Christ, her Son and our Lord.

OPENING SENTENCES *Isaiah 7:14; Jeremiah 33:16*

- P: The Lord Himself will give you a sign.
C: **Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.**
- P: In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely.
C: **And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."**

INVOCATION

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

During the hymn, the Advent candle may be lit.

HYMN LSB 338 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

**Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.**

**Born Thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

PSALM *Psalm 98:1–4, 8–9; antiphon: v. 1*

P: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

C: **His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.**

P: The LORD has made known His salvation;

C: **He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

P: He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

C: **All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

P: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;

C: **break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

P: Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the LORD,

C: **for He comes to judge the earth.**

P: He will judge the world with righteousness,

C: **and the peoples with equity.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

C: **His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.**

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O light beyond all praising, You bring hope into our darkness through the promised arrival of Mary's Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Brighten our days and warm our nights, that our work, our worship, and our waiting might be preserved from sin and saturated in holy anticipation for Christ's return; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

FIRST READING *Jeremiah 33:14–18* (As a hope to His people, the Lord reiterates His promise to give them an eternal Priest and King.)

Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

“For thus says the LORD: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel, and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to make sacrifices forever.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING *Luke 1:26–38* (Without warning, the Lord’s messenger alerts a young maiden that she is part of God’s plan of salvation.)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, “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 call his name Jesus. 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, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”^[c]

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. 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. For nothing will be impossible with God.” 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN LSB 356 “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
“All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!

“For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee;
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.
“My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name.”
Most highly favored lady. Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!

SERMON

MAGNIFICAT LSB 934 “My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord”

**My soul now magnifies the Lord;
My spirit leaps for joy in Him.
He keeps me in His Kind regard,
And I am blest for time to come.**

**For He alone who shows such might
Has done amazing things to me.
His mercy flows; His name like light
Remains in time perpetually.**

**His arm is strong; His strength is great.
He scatters those of proud intent
And casts them down from high estate,
Then gives the low His nourishment.**

**He feeds the hungry as His own;
The wealthy leave with empty hands.
He gives His help to Israel;
His gracious promise always stands.**

OFFERING

HYMN LSB 341 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” Verse 5

**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.**

PRAYERS

P: Son of Mary and Son of God, we trust that in Your humanity, You know the burdens we bear, and in Your divinity, You hear and answer our prayers. So we kneel before You, just as Your mother knelt beside Your manger, to praise You for Your grace and to look to You for light.

O holy Child of Mary, we pray for all mothers, that they might know the honor of being called by You to lead and serve their children. Bless all who became mothers unexpectedly; protect them from discouragement and supply them with peace and patience. Send safety particularly to mothers in the middle of pregnancy; grant them equal measures of joyful anticipation and good health. Son of Mary,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: O holy Child of Bethlehem, we pray for the hearts of Your people during this season of distraction. Give Your faithful an unwavering joy for this season and an eagerness to greet You when You come again. Make all believers lights in a dark world, that they might shine like stars with purity and hope, and in so doing, win others for Your kingdom through the power of Your Gospel. Son of David,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Only-begotten Son of the Father, You came as a light for all nations. Restrain evil leaders, bring an end to violence and discord, and kindle in all people a pursuit of peace and righteousness. Make us believers the first to help rather than hurt, meeting the needs of our neighbors as we have been equipped to do, so that all people might come to Your light and praise the brightness of Your rising. Son of God,

C: hear our prayer.

LORD’S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People: 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.**

LUTHER’S EVENING PRAYER

C: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING SENTENCES *Luke 1:49, alt.*

P: He who is mighty has done great things for me.

C: Holy is His name.

P: To God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—be all honor and glory in His holy church, forever and ever.

C: Amen. Christ died! Christ is risen! Christ shall come again!

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

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.

HYMN LSB 374 “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

**Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undefined,
To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place,
Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race
Who have found His favor.**

**“Favored One,” spake Gabriel
To the maiden Mary,
“The true King of Israel
Shall be of your bearing.
Nothing is impossible;
The Most High declares it!”
“As His Word says, let it be;
I am but His servant.”**

**Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined
But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth,
Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth;
Hail the King of glory!**

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THE SENDING

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!
C: Thanks be to God!

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1.

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