

The Festival of the Annunciation of our Lord
St. Luke 1:26-38
March 25th, 2020
Sts. Peter & Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, UAC
Simpsonville, SC
Pastor Jerald Dulas

The Son of God

In Nomine Iesu!

In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer in Pulpit before Sermon:

O Almighty God, Who of Thy great mercy didst cause Thy Son to be conceived by the Holy Ghost, and to become incarnate of the Blessed Virgin Mary according to the angel's annunciation: Grant us by Thy grace, that our sinful conception may be purified by His holy conception, through the same, Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one true God, world without end. Amen.

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior + Jesus Christ. Amen.

In the third chapter of the Gospel of the Evangelist St. Luke, the Evangelist records for us the genealogy of our Lord + Jesus Christ. The Evangelist St. Luke begins his genealogy at the beginning of our Lord's ministry, and works back in time through the history of all the descendants of our Lord, including the Kings of Judah, the Patriarchs of Jacob, Isaac, and Abraham, and our very first ancestors all the way back to our first father, Adam. The Evangelist St. Luke ends the third chapter with whom our first father's Father is. Adam is the Son of God. This is not mere information and history of our Lord's ancestry. The Evangelist St. Luke is making a statement about Who the Lord + Jesus is. He is making a statement about Who His Father is. Our Lord + Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

But our Lord + Jesus, the Christ, is not like any other person in His family tree. All of His ancestor's were children of God; they were all sons of the Triune Lord God. What separates our Lord + Jesus from the rest of His family tree is His conception. These facts are established for us in the Gospel for this Festival that we celebrate today—the Festival of the Annunciation of our Lord. The genealogy of the Evangelist St. Luke establishes that our Lord + Jesus is True Man. His lineage comes from King David, the Patriarchs, and Adam. He is a Man of the house and lineage of King David, just as the prophets foretold. He is a Rod from the stem of Jesse and a Branch from his roots. He is a man just like us. He eats, sleeps, breathes, cries, laughs, lives and died just like everyone of us; just like all of His creation; just like all the sons of God who are from the seed of Adam.

He is a man Who is born of the Blessed Virgin Mary, just as the Angel Gabriel announces to us today. But what makes our Lord + Jesus different is His conception. He was conceived by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary. He was incarnate, that is, made flesh, by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary. In other words, this Man Who is of the house and lineage of King David, whose mother is the Blessed Virgin Mary, whose Father through His lineage to Adam was God, also has as His Father through the conception and incarnation by the Holy Ghost, the heavenly Father of us all. He is both God and Man. He is True God begotten of His Father before all worlds—He is the Son of God; the Son of the heavenly Father. But He is also True Man born of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

This Son of God, the Lord + Jesus, is *our* Lord + Jesus. All those who cling to Him in faith are

made co-heirs with the Lord + Jesus. We are His brothers and share in the inheritance that He won for us by His perfect obedience to the Law and will of His heavenly Father, and by His innocent suffering and death on our behalf. Through the faith implanted in us by the Holy Ghost through the means of grace—the preaching of the Gospel and the Administration of the Blessed Sacraments—we have been adopted as sons of God.

Our Lord + Jesus was conceived in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He became a man; took upon Himself our flesh without sin, so that He might fulfill the Law which we break daily and often. He took upon Himself our flesh so that He might win for us forgiveness of our sins, and grant us eternal life and salvation. He has atoned for the sins of the whole world, so that all those who believe on Him; who have been gifted with faith through the work of the Holy Ghost might enjoy and share in the inheritance that He won on the tree of the holy cross.

He was born into our flesh and did all of the His wonderful works on our behalf all so that we might also be called sons of God. He was conceived in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, but we have all been conceived in the womb of the holy Mother Church through the working of the Holy Ghost through the means of grace. We have been conceived through the work of the Holy Ghost, so that we too might be called sons of God. Our heavenly Father has adopted us as sons on account of the works and merits of our Brother, our Lord + Jesus Christ. He has won for us the right to be called son of God—sons of the heavenly Father.

Our Lord's mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, confessed after hearing the good news of her Savior, and Son, that these things might be granted to her. "Let it be to me according to your word." This is the statement of faith. It is the statement of one who hears the promise and believes and makes it his own. She has made the promise her own through faith. The same needs to be said of us poor, miserable sinners. When we hear the promises of our Lord + Jesus: that He has suffered and died for us on the tree of the holy cross to win for us salvation, we can in all faith cast away the seeds of doubt and know that our sins are forgiven, because our Lord and Savior, our Brother and fellow Son of the heavenly Father, as declared it so on account of His work on the holy cross.

Our Triune Lord God did not consider the lowly state of the handmaiden named Mary. Even though by all earthly, outward appearances she was not from a grand and glorious family, our Lord God chose her as mother, so that He might make us all a part of the family of God. Even though to the rest of the world at that time would only see a handmaiden, we learn from holy Scripture that she comes from a family of kings. She was of the house and lineage of King David, too. Even though patronage was established by the father of the family, her patronage also comes from the line of King David.

In the same way that our Lord God did not consider the outward appearances of the Blessed Virgin Mary, He does not consider our lowly estate, either. And it is even greater for us than it was for the Virgin Mary. For she was of the house and lineage of King David, even though it seems that this kingly family has lost all of its former glory it enjoyed in the days of King David and King Solomon. We on the other hand, have no such patronage. We do not come from the house of King David. We do not have the lineage that our Lord + Jesus does. In our Lord's ancestry we can only claim as ancestors those born from the time of Adam to Noah. For after the Flood, the descendants of the three sons of Noah spread throughout all the world.

But even in our supposed lowly estate; even though we are not from the line of King David, we too have been made sons of God. We have been adopted into the family of the Triune Lord God all because our Brother chose to be conceived by the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary in order that He might be our Savior. He has come down from Heaven—left His throne and humbled Himself to be born of the Blessed Virgin Mary—in order that all the blessings of Heaven might rain down upon us. His righteousness has poured down upon us. He has suffered and died on the tree of the holy cross

our punishment so that we might be credited with His righteousness through faith. He has lived in our flesh so that He might fulfill the whole Law and will of God for us. He has died on the tree of the holy cross so that by His death we might have life. The earth has opened and brought forth salvation for us. His tomb has opened our graves, so that we will not know eternal death.

All of this He does for His creation out of His great love for His creation. All we who cling to these promises in faith have exactly what He promises. He has been conceived of the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary, so that He might be called the Son of God, just like His father Adam. The Holy Ghost also conceives us in the womb of the Church, so that all of us who come to this holy house may believe that we too are sons of God. We have been adopted into the family of God through the work of the Holy Ghost. Our sins have been forgiven, we have been granted eternal life, and we have been saved from the eternal wrath and displeasure of the heavenly Father, all because our Brother came down from Heaven to take upon Himself our flesh.

Let us rejoice that we can hear the Angel Gabriel announce this wonderful birth of our Brother, the Lord + Jesus Christ to the Blessed Virgin Mary. For this announcement is an announcement of our salvation; it is an announcement that our Lord + Jesus, the Son of God, has come to make us fellow sons of God with Him. In the Name of our Lord + Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer in Pulpit after Sermon:

Merciful God, heavenly Father, Whom it hath pleased that Thy dear Son by the message of an angel should assume our flesh from the body of the Blessed Virgin, grant, we beseech Thee, that by firm faith in this divine mystery we may obtain the blessed fruits of His holy Incarnation, pardon for our guilt, and the renewal of our minds unto life everlasting; through the same Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

The Votum:

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Soli Deo Gloria!