

The Festival of the Annunciation of our Lord  
St. Luke 1:26-38  
March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, UAC  
Simpsonville, SC  
Pastor Jerald Dulas

Let It Be to Me According to Your Word

*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 Lord, send out Thy Light and Thy Truth, let them lead us. O Lord, open Thou my lips, that my mouth may show forth Thy praise. O Lord, graciously preserve me, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be rejected. Amen.

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

The first announcement of the birth of a Savior for mankind from his sin was given by the Lord God to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden after they were deceived by the serpent—the devil—and brought sin and death to all mankind—to all their offspring, including us. The announcement that this would be fulfilled is given to us tonight as we celebrate the Annunciation of our Lord + Jesus Christ. This announcement of a Savior being born was also given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Patriarchs. From their seed the Savior would be born. Jacob prophesied at his death that from his son Judah would be born the Messiah. When David became king the promise of an everlasting kingdom established through one of his sons was given to him. The Messiah, first promised in the Garden of Eden, would be born to one of King David's descendants.

In the Epistle reading for today, King Ahaz is also given a promise from the Lord God. The kings of Judah, unlike the kings of Israel—the Northern Kingdom—were for the most part obedient to the Lord God. There were, however, a few corrupt kings in Judah that led the people of Judah away from the true worship of the Lord God. King Ahaz was one of those wicked and evil kings. On account of this wickedness, and in order that King Ahaz might be led into repentance, the kings of Syria and Israel, went up to Jerusalem to make war against it. The Prophet Isaiah was sent by the Lord to promise King Ahaz that Israel and Syria would not prevail. He was told to ask for a sign from the Lord God that would show this was the case. King Ahaz in his rebellion and corruption refused.

The Lord therefore provided His own sign through the Prophet Isaiah. A virgin would conceive and bear a Son. This Son would be called "Immanuel." Immanuel means "God with us." The Lord God would dwell within His people as one of His people. The Lord God would come down from Heaven Himself and take upon Himself our flesh in order to redeem us. Mankind would not just be rescued from earthly threats that sought to conquer and destroy, but they would be saved from all spiritual forces of darkness that threatened and attacked them on a daily basis. This Son would be born to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The angel Gabriel would be sent to virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph from the house and lineage of King David to tell her that the promise given first in the Garden of Eden would be fulfilled in her.

King Ahaz in his self-righteous pride—his pride that deceived him into thinking that he could defeat his enemies on his own—had no need for the Prophet Isaiah who was sent by the Lord God to

the house of David to tell it that the promise first given in the Garden of Eden would be fulfilled. The Blessed Virgin Mary, being a descendant of Eve, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, King David, and his descendant King Ahaz, did not reject the good news that she would bear the Savior of the world. She was unlike her rebellious ancestor. She gladly told the angel Gabriel, when the good news was given to her, "Let it be to me according to your word." In this she was like so many of her ancestors before her who heard the promise and believe on the Lord God that their salvation would come. But sin still inhered in all those born of Adam and Eve, and they still did sinful and rebellious things. Just consider the Virgin Mary's first parent, Eve.

The similarities between Eve, the mother of all, and the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of our Lord and God are striking. Eve was given to her husband, Adam, by the Lord God. The Blessed Virgin Mary was betrothed to her husband, St. Joseph. We are told by Moses in his first book called Genesis that it was after Adam and Eve had been cast out of the Garden that "Adam knew Eve." Therefore, Eve was a virgin in the Garden of Eden. The Blessed Virgin Mary had been betrothed to St. Joseph but he did not know her until after she gave birth to the Savior of the world, our Lord + Jesus Christ.

The difference between Eve and St. Mary is that Eve is disobedient to the Lord God and ate from the tree of which she was forbidden to eat. St. Mary, who being Eve's daughter is not without sin, hears the Word of the Lord God from the angel Gabriel, and believes and obeys that word. The Blessed Virgin Mary is a picture of all those who would come after her; all those who would hear the Word of God and believe and obey that Word. She is a picture of the Church. The Church gives birth to new Christians through the working of the Holy Ghost through the means of grace. These new creations hear and believe the Word of God. They obey Him. Not because they are without sin, but because on account of their faith, they are clothed in the righteousness and purity of the Son of the Virgin Mary—our Lord + Jesus Christ.

Eve also heard the promise of a Savior to be born after she and her husband Adam led all of mankind into sin and death, and believed the promise. She hoped that the Lord God would fulfill His promise right away. When she gave birth to her firstborn son, she named him Cain. Cain means "possession." She thought Cain was the one the Lord God had promised who would be the Messiah. She even said as much when she declared, "I have acquired a man from the Lord." Well, we all know how that turned out. Cain in jealousy of his brother Abel, killed him, and was cast away from everyone else to live in solitude.

Even Isaac born from Abraham and Sarah was not to be the Messiah, even though he was a child of promise. Abraham proved his faith in the Lord God, however, by being willing to offer up his son as a sacrifice on Mount Moriah. This was a foreshadowing of the sacrifice of the Lord + Jesus. His Father—the heavenly Father—would offer up His One and Only-Begotten Son on the tree of the holy cross to atone for the sins of the whole world. The heavenly Father willingly sacrificed His only Son for our sins. This sacrifice atones for the sins of all mankind, because this sacrifice is made by the only One Who is perfect and sinless. Therefore, all those who cling to His works and merits in faith have the salvation that He won for them.

From Eve to the Blessed Virgin Mary, there were many sons born. There were many sons born in the world. There were many sons born among the people of Israel. There were many firstborn sons. All of them were filled with sin and depravity. Most of them reveled in their sin and depravity, having no use for any god, let alone the One, True Lord and God. Some, however, hated the sin that dwelt in them. They cried out daily and often for a rescue from their sins. They sought diligently for a Savior. They prayed to the Lord God that He would send to them the Messiah—the Anointed One; the Christ. After many firstborn sons had been born that could not ever be the Messiah, the Lord God heavenly Father heard the cries of mankind and sent His Only-Begotten and Beloved Son to be born of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

St. Mary heard the promise of the angel Gabriel and rejoiced that she was the highly favored one. She rejoiced that the promise of a Savior first made to her ancestors Adam and Eve was finally going to be fulfilled. She rejoiced that even though she was only a lowly handmaiden, the Creator of the world chose her to bear the Savior of the world. In the sixth month after St. John the Baptist was conceived within Elizabeth her relative, the angel Gabriel was sent by the Lord God to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph who was of the house and lineage of King David, this virgin's name was Mary.

She was the first to hear that the long-promised Messiah, would finally be born. In her faithfulness to the Lord God, she could not answer the angel Gabriel in any other way. "Let it be to me according to your word." Where others had disobeyed—Eve, King Ahaz—this lowly handmaiden of the Lord heard and confessed her faith in the promise of the Messiah. Her firstborn Son would fulfill the Law of God perfectly, and suffer and die for the sins of the whole world. All those who hear of this great loving act of the Lord + Jesus also cling to Him in faith, and say along with St. Mary, "Let it be to me according to Your word."

For, my dear friends, this Son of God, the Firstborn Son of Mary has come down from Heaven and taken upon Himself our flesh all so that He might redeem us from sin, death, and the power of the devil. Let us therefore cling to Him in faith, the faith created in us by the working of the Holy Ghost through the means of grace, for He is our Savior. He is "God with us." He is our Immanuel conceived and born of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He has come to rescue us from our sins, and to clothe us with His righteousness and purity, so that our sins may be covered over, and we may live with Him and all the saints and angels in Heaven for all eternity. Thanks be to God! In the Name of our Lord + Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Prayer in Pulpit after Sermon:**

Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy Name give glory! I will extol Thee, O Lord, and I will praise Thy Name forever and ever. Amen.

**The Votum:**

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

*Soli Deo Gloria!*