

Midweek Advent Vespers #3  
St. Luke 1:39-56  
December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Sts. Peter and Paul Ev. Lutheran Church, UAC  
Simpsonville, SC  
Pastor Jerald Dulas

## The Fruit of Thy Womb

*In Nomine Iesu!*

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

### **Sermon Text:**

“And it came to pass, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit; and she lifted up her voice with a loud cry, and said, ‘Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.’”

### **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.

My dear friends, as I mentioned in the sermon this past Sunday, the season of Advent is sometimes referred to as the season of St. John the Baptist, because he is the forerunner of the Christ. He is the one sent by the Lord God to prepare the way of the Lord. In today’s Gospel reading from the Evangelist St. Luke, he is already doing this from the womb of his mother Elisabeth. He is not doing it with his voice. Rather, he is doing it with his movements in his mother’s womb. He is leaping for joy at the appearance of the Messiah.

This is a testament not only to St. John’s preaching, but it is also a testament that the Lord + Jesus has already taken up a room in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He is the fruit of her womb. As the angel Gabriel pronounced in last Wednesday’s Gospel reading, the Holy Ghost has already come upon her, and the Most High has already overshadowed her. Already the fruit of her womb is the Lord God in our flesh. The incarnation has already taken place. He is incarnate of the Holy Ghost. Our Lord + Jesus has been conceived by the Holy Ghost in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Lord God now dwells in our flesh. God and man have become One Person in the Lord + Jesus, the Christ. The fruit of the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary is the best of all fruits. For this fruit will bring to mankind redemption from all their sins.

It is certainly a cause for leaping. We see many instances of children and animals leaping in this world, but none of them are leaping in recognition of someone coming. The Blessed Virgin Mary is blessed among women, not because of who she is, but because of Who she carries in her womb. The fruit of her womb, the Lord + Jesus, the Christ, is the reason she is greatly blessed among women. The fruit of her womb, the Incarnated Christ, is the reason and cause for leaping. St. John the Baptist, still in the womb of his mother Elisabeth, recognizes who she is, and Who she carries in her womb. He knows from the sound of the voice of her greeting to Elisabeth, that the mother of his Lord was present among them. Even more so, he recognizes that the Lord God in our flesh is present among us. And so, because he has no voice to give to the occasion; because he cannot proclaim that the Lord God is

among us with his voice, he proclaims the Messiah is among us by his leaping.

The leaping in the womb of Elisabeth at the sound of St. Mary's voice by St. John the Baptist is his first act of preparing the way for the Lord. He prepares for the Lord's way by proclaiming His coming, as we shall hear about more in-depth this coming Sunday. He recognizes his Lord in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He recognizes the fruit of her womb. And is this not what our Lord God says about all of us in Psalm 139, that we are fearfully and wonderfully made; that He has known us from the womb. He knew us when our substance was hidden, and we were made in secret. He knew us when we were curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

Well, St. John the Baptist, still in the womb of his mother, is aware of the Lord + Jesus in the womb of His mother. Psalm 139 is a prophecy of the Messiah. He is the One Who is referred to in the Psalm as being fearfully and wonderfully made. He is the fulfillment of that Psalm of David. That Psalm is also proclaimed in the superscription to be for the Chief Musician. It is a psalm that is meant to sung with musical accompaniment. It is a "Psalm." A "Psalm" is a specific liturgical term. The Hebrew word is "mizmor," a song sung with musical accompaniment, which is different from a "shir," a song sung without musical instrumentation, that is, a Capella. This Psalm is all about the fruit in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. As St. John the Baptist leaps in the womb of his mother. The Psalmist pulls out all the stops with singing and musical accompaniment at the arrival of the Lord + Jesus.

This is how we celebrate the arrival of our Lord + Jesus. We celebrate with singing and playing of instruments. And this is how we will celebrate in exactly one week. We will sing, and play instruments in honor and thanksgiving that our Lord God has become man for us. St. John the Baptist is doing it for us tonight by leaping in his mother's womb. He is preparing the way of the Lord + Jesus by pointing out to us Who this Child is. His leaping shows that the importance of the fruit in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He is not just another Jewish Baby Boy born. He is the Lord God incarnate. He is the Lord God in our flesh. He has come to be our Savior. And be clear, my dear friends, to clarify from what our Lord + Jesus saves us.

The world is all too quick in this season to say that the Lord + Jesus is God's Son, but they do not always associate that with Him being the Lord God. For them the Lord + Jesus is God's Son, just like we are God's sons. No, our Lord + Jesus is the Son of God, fully God, begotten before the world began, and He is fully man, born of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He has come to redeem mankind from their sins. He is our Savior from sin and death. Sin and death are not something this world readily wants to talk about in this joyous time. They would say, "Why do you have to bring that up now?" Why? Because it is the sole purpose for why our Lord + Jesus came. He came because we were trapped in our sins. We are unable to redeem ourselves by our own works and merits. Even our righteousness, as the Prophet Isaiah declares, is as filthy rags. This, too, is why we celebrate with singing and playing of instruments. It is why St. John the Baptist leaps for joy in his mother's womb.

The One Who can redeem us from sin and death is now in the world. The prophecy that has been foretold ever since our first parents, Adam and Eve, sinned in the Garden of Eden, has now been fulfilled. The virgin has conceived and bears in her womb the Savior of mankind from sin and death. It is a cause for leaping. It is a cause for playing of musical instruments. It is a cause for singing. And that is exactly what St. Mary does. She sings. We sang a versified version of her song in the hymn just before the sermon. She sings for us tonight the Magnificat. We will also sing her song tonight. We will even add a special antiphon to be sung before and after the Magnificat, the "O" antiphon for this day, *O Sapientia*, O Wisdom, from on High."

The Vigil of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord + Jesus, the Christ, is only a week away, and already we are preparing for that great night in which our Lord God is born in our flesh. In the Gospel of the Evangelist St. Luke, they are preparing for His arrival, too. St. Elisabeth cries out in a loud voice,

the Baby St. John the Baptist leaps in her womb, and St. Mary sings the Magnificat for the first time. We join our voices to theirs and sing our Lord's praises for taking upon Himself our flesh, and coming to us to redeem us from sin and death. In this way, we prepare the way of the Lord. We prepare for the day when we will celebrate the fruit of the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary being born in Bethlehem of Judea, and being wrapped up in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger.

The Lord of Heaven and Earth, the Maker and Creator of all things, has come to us poor, miserable sinners. He has humbled Himself to be born in our flesh, so that He might redeem us from the powers of Satan. Our Redeemer has come. Our Redemption draws nigh. Let us then, my dear friends, give Him thanks and praise for His coming to us. For He comes to win for us forgiveness of our sins, eternal life with Him, and rescue and salvation from our enemies, the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh.

Let us then sing and play musical instruments, and welcome our Lord and Savior into this world. For St. John the Baptist prepares the way of the Lord in the right way. He leaps for joy. He recognizes the significance of the events happening in His midst. Let us also recognize the significance of why our Lord + Jesus, the Christ chooses to be the fruit of the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She is proclaimed to be blessed among women, and she is, but not because of anything of her own person, but because of Who she carries in her womb. She is great because she brings forth her Firstborn Son, Who is the Lord of all the Earth. She brings forth the fruit of her womb. She brings forth the Savior of mankind from sin and death. She brings forth the fruit of her womb Who is the Lord God in our flesh. In our flesh, He will redeem us from all our transgressions. Let us sing and give thanks to the Lord God for His fearfully and wonderfully made gift. In the Name of our Lord + Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

**Prayer in Pulpit after Sermon:**

Almighty God, be pleased to accompany Thy Word with Thy Holy Spirit and grant that Thy Word would increase faith in us; bring into the Way of Truth all such as have erred; turn the hearts of the unrepentant; and for sake of Thy Name grant succor to all heavy hearts and those who are heavy-laden, that they may through the mercy of the Lord + Jesus Christ be relieved and preserved so that they succumb not to the temptation of despair but rather that they gain the victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil; through the same + Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with the 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!*