

Angels: The Ultimate Divine Messengers of Hope



As We Gather

Advent 1 Midweek

Nov. 30, 2022

The Angel Gabriel Brings a Message of Hope in the Midst of Unbelieving Doubt

“And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense” (Luke 1:11). The angel Gabriel appeared to an old priest named Zechariah. He and his wife, Elizabeth, had been childless into their old age. The angel told them that they would have a son named John and that he would prepare the people of God for someone even greater. Terrified, Zechariah doubted Gabriel and was struck dumb. But Elizabeth did conceive a son. And when the baby was born, Zechariah wrote on a tablet that his name should be John, and his speech was restored. The appearance of Gabriel was a clue that God was up to something never before seen in human history: He was sending His Son to redeem the world. Advent gives us time to ponder the mystery of God’s plan of redemption—quiet, contemplative time like dumbstruck Zechariah had as he awaited the birth of John. As we await the celebration of Jesus’ birth, we listen to the message of hope that God comes even now to save us.

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PRELUDE WELCOME

SERVICE OF LIGHT

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES

- P** Jesus Christ is the light of the world,
C **the light no darkness can overcome.**
P By the Holy Spirit we cry out with the whole Church,
C **“Prepare the way of the Lord.”**
P All who wait for Jesus to return pray,
C **Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

OPENING HYMN #891 “O Light Whose Splendor”

THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

- P** God of all creation, You spoke and there was light and the universe began. For the sun, moon, and stars, we give You thanks. For electricity that provides lights in our homes, schools, places of work, and along our streets, we give thanks. Most of all we thank You for Christ, the light of the world, who overcomes all the shadowy places of our lives through His death and resurrection. Illumine our hearts and enlighten our paths according to Your will, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

PSALMODY

PSALM *Psalms 141*

- P** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
C **the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**
P O Lord, I call to You; come to me quickly; hear my voice when I cry to You.
C **Let my prayer rise before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

- P** Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips. Let not my heart incline to any evil thing;
- C** **let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.**
- P** But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take refuge.
- C** **Strip me not of my life.**
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** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
- C** **the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

PRAYER

- P** Let us pray. Mighty God, You graciously invite us to pray to You as dear children pray to their dear Father. We cry out to You, Lord, trusting in Your never-failing goodness and mercy. Fill our hearts with hope and give us voices to sing Your praises with all the angels; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

PSALM *Psalms 24:7–10*

- P** Lift up your heads, O gates!
- C** **And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.**
- P** Who is this King of glory?
- C** **The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!**
- P** Lift up your heads, O gates!
- C** **And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.**
- P** Who is this King of glory?
- C** **The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!**

PRAYER

- P** Let us pray.
 To You, O Lord, we lift up our heads to see the King of glory coming. Your angels declared His coming long ago in the age of the prophets. Your angel Gabriel, and a whole heavenly host, rejoiced and sang His glory at His birth. The two angels sitting in the empty tomb declared, “He is risen from the dead.” The apostle John saw a vision with seven angels at Christ’s coming again to wipe

away every tear from our eyes. Lift up our heads and our hearts to see and rejoice: The King of glory comes!

C Amen.

HYMN # 344 “On Jordan’s Bank The Baptist’s Cry”

READING Isaiah 43:16–21

“Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: “Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

READING Luke 1:5–25

“In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.” And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an

old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.” And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, “Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

SERMON “The Angel Gabriel Brings a Message of Hope in the Midst of Unbelieving Doubt” Luke 1:5-25

HYMN #933 “My Soul Rejoices”

OFFERING

PRAYER

PRAYERS

P As we wait for You, O Lord, we pray for peace among nations, peace across the factions in our nation, peace in our households, and peace that surpasses human understanding in our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P [*Petitions...*] Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O God, as You called Zechariah and Elizabeth, so You call us to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go,

but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN # 357 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Sts. 1-3

POSTLUDE

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ADVENT SOUP SUPPERS Nov. 30th, Dec. 7th, 14th are the dates for our Advent Midweek worship at 4:00 p.m. with soup supper following at 4:45 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Sign up sheet for soups etc. is on the signup table in the narthex.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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