

Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.”

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Sermon Hymn: 23 O Come, O Come Emanuel

Sermon: In the Fullness of Time

Offering: *(Please remember to sign the Friendship Register.)*

Choir: Born This Night, Light of Light

Hymn: *Saturday: 11 v 2 Comfort, Comfort All My People*

Sunday: While Shepherds

Benediction

Closing Hymn: *Saturday: 11 v 4 Comfort, Comfort All My People*

Sunday: Silent Night

We give thanks to God that Kasen Cole Westenberg was welcomed into God’s family through baptism. His sponsors are Amanda Lemke, Chris Shanafelt, Thomas Zastrow & Michelle Zastrow.

Ushers: This Week – Richard Engelhart & Mark Genz
Christmas Eve – Please Volunteer to Help
Christmas Day - Please Volunteer to Help
Next Week – Paul Milbrath & Lucas Zuehlke

Greeters: This Week – Sharon Waldmann & Katie Zuehlke
Christmas Eve – Please Volunteer to Help
Christmas Day - Please Volunteer to Help
Next Week – Frank & Sue Kramer

The new greeter and usher schedules are done. They are on the back table in the church narthex.

4th Week of Advent – Dec. 21 & 22

P.O. Box 86, Helenville, Wisconsin

Pastor: Mark Swanson Church Tel: 920-674-3307

Principal: Craig Winkler School Tel: 262-582-3010

Organist: Judy Acker

We Welcome You!

Order of Worship: Saturday: Pg. 38

Sunday: Pg. 12 (then pg. 40)

Opening Hymn: Saturday: 11 v 1 Comfort, Comfort All My People

Sunday: Choir – Still, Still, Still

Prayer of the Day:

M: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Lesson - Isaiah 7:10-14

Such grace that God would even speak to a wicked king like Ahaz! What God said is even more surprising. He didn't just promise deliverance and ask that Ahaz blindly trust him. God offered a sign to an unbelieving king to prove that he would keep his promise and save his people. How foolish of Ahaz to refuse! How sinful to make a pretense of piety! God, however, would let no sinful king stand in the way of deliverance for his PLANNING CHRISTIAN WORSHIP – Year A Page | 15 people. So God chose the sign. Not merely a sign of Judah's physical safety, God chose a sign that would prophesy the deliverance of the whole world from sin and death. A virgin would give birth to God in the flesh for the salvation of his people. In Christ Jesus, God kept every promise made.

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹ “Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.”

¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Antem: Sunday: Star of the East

Second Lesson - Romans 1:1-7

After thousands of years of God's promises, Paul looks back and sees every one of them kept in Christ. All of Scripture promised the gospel message summarized in the name: Jesus Christ our Lord. Jesus, the man born of Mary, is also our Lord, God himself. This God-man was anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power to be the Christ who would save God's people from their sins.

Any doubts about Jesus of Nazareth evaporated with the Easter morning dew: the resurrection declared to the world he was Immanuel, God with us. God kept every promise in Christ to give us what we so desperately needed: Grace and peace to you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God - ² the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³ regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, ⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. ⁵ Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith. ⁶ And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. ⁷ To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. Alleluia. (Matthew 1:23).

Gospel - Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph found himself in the middle of an unwelcome nightmare: his bride to be was pregnant, and he was not the father. As a righteous man, he could not go forward with the marriage; as a merciful man, he could not expose Mary to public disgrace. How long did it take for him to fall asleep with broken betrothal promises on his mind? During the night, Joseph sees an angel who calls him “the son of David.” Joseph's father was Jacob, but the angel reminded Joseph that he was a descendant of kings. Starting this night, he would act as one of David's line again: he would care for the promised Son who would reign on David's throne. God had come to save his people, just as he promised. He would do it through the child in Mary's womb. Joseph believed the promises of God kept in Christ and named the child, “The LORD saves,” knowing full well he was Immanuel.

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the