



# Welcome to Good Shepherd

Called by God to: Grow; Serve; Love; Care and Worship

Today's Worship

December 13, 2015

## “Zechariah's Song”

Today's story is about Zechariah and Elizabeth, an older couple unable to conceive. An angelic messenger brings them surprising news about a baby to be born to them. Zechariah was overwhelmed with fear and because he did not believe, the angel told him he wouldn't be able to speak until the promise was fulfilled by God. The child born to this couple was John, who became the prophet to announce the coming of Jesus.

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

**Advent Candle Lighting** . . “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” vs 1,2,3. . ELW 240

### Confession and Forgiveness

P: Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

*Pause for silence and reflection*

P: Let us pray: God Most High,

**C: We are creatures with limited vision and failure to walk faithfully. Forgive our failed attempts to be faithful Children of God. Forgive us when we mistrust your promises. Forgive us when we seek evidence that your promises are true. Help us trust in you. Amen.**

P: Children of God, as we struggle and as we falter, I encourage you to try again. Know the forgiveness of the One who created you. Know the grace-filled promise of our Savior who forgives again and again.

**C: Amen.**

**Hymn** . . . . . “Prepare the Royal Highway” . . . . . ELW 264

### Prayer of the Day

**C: God of the prophets, you sent John into the world to proclaim the coming of your son. Give us ears to hear the proclamation of your promises and eyes to see your presence in this world. Amen.**

### Children's Message

**Choir Anthem** . . . . . “My Soul Does Magnify the Lord” . . . . . Adult Choir

**Psalm:** 113 (read responsively)

- <sup>1</sup>Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord; praise the name of the Lord.
- <sup>2</sup>**Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and forevermore.**
- <sup>3</sup>From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- <sup>4</sup>**The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.**
- <sup>5</sup>Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high,
- <sup>6</sup>**who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?**
- <sup>7</sup>He raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

<sup>8</sup>**to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.**

<sup>9</sup>He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children. Praise the Lord!

### \*Announcement of Scripture Reading:

P: A reading from the book of Luke chapter 1.

**C: Praise to you, O Lord.**

### Bible Story . . . . Luke 1:5-20,57-80

<sup>5</sup>In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.

<sup>6</sup>Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. <sup>7</sup>But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. <sup>8</sup>Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, <sup>9</sup>he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. <sup>10</sup>Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. <sup>11</sup>Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup>When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. <sup>13</sup>But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. <sup>14</sup>You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, <sup>15</sup>for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>16</sup>He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup>With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." <sup>18</sup>Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." <sup>19</sup>The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. <sup>20</sup>But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur." <sup>57</sup>Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. <sup>58</sup>Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. <sup>59</sup>On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. <sup>60</sup>But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." <sup>61</sup>They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." <sup>62</sup>Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. <sup>63</sup>He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. <sup>64</sup>Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. <sup>65</sup>Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. <sup>66</sup>All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him. <sup>67</sup>Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: <sup>68</sup>"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. <sup>69</sup>He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, <sup>70</sup>as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, <sup>71</sup>that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. <sup>72</sup>Thus he has shown

the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant,<sup>73</sup>the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us <sup>74</sup>that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, <sup>75</sup>in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. <sup>76</sup>And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, <sup>77</sup>to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. <sup>78</sup>By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, <sup>79</sup>to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." <sup>80</sup>The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

P: Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

**Song** . . . . . "Christ, Be Our Light" . . . . . ELW 715

**\*Apostles' Creed.** . . . . . page 105

**\*Sharing the Peace**

**Offering**

**Offertory** . . . . . "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" vs 1 & 2. . . . . ELW 257

**Prayers of the Church**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Sending Hymn** . . . . . "He Came Down" . . . . . ELW 253

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace and share God's abundance.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Preaching & Presiding:** Rev. Mary Iverson    **Scripture Reader:** Jim Stern

**Birthdays-Dec 13-19** (If your birthday is not listed please contact the church office with mm/dd/yy.)

14-Tina Lutteke	Lisa Ulferts,	16-Jackie Ramaker	17-Kathy Ayers
15-Albert Quade	Brian Vedders	Dave Tatge	18-Maurine Lutteke

**In Memory** of Richard Niebuhr & Bill Niebuhr memorials have been received towards the Driveway Fund, Food Shelf, Kitchen Fund and Adult Choir.

**Senior Saints** - Join us for a Christmas gathering with special guests entertaining us with their Christmas music selections. We will join in the celebration of Jesus' birth on Wednesday, December 16, at 11:00 a.m. at the Broadway Apartments. Everyone 55 and older is invited to come and share in the fellowship and enjoy the food provided by the December service group.

**December Food Collection** - During the month of December, a grocery cart near the pulpit in the sanctuary will collect donations of peanut butter. All items collected this month will go to the Wells Area Food Shelf. A special thanks to Ruth Heggen who is leading the food collection this month as a part of her Thrivent Action Team project. Thanks for the generous donations of paper goods (toilet paper and tissue) during November!

**Children's Christmas Programs** -Both Sunday School and Wednesday School children will present programs during 6:15pm worship on Wed., Dec.16. A special thanks to Sandi Hartman who is coordinating the Christmas programs this year! The Wednesday dinner menu that night (5-6 pm) will be sloppy joes.

**Blue Christmas Worship Service** - Grace Lutheran Church will host a Blue Christmas Service on Wed., Dec. 16, at 5:30. This service recognizes that the holiday season can be a difficult time for some of our people. Life changes such as grief, unemployment, divorce, illness, of financial difficulties can make it difficult to be joyful at Christmas. This will be a service of hope and remembering that proclaims Christ as the light who cannot be overcome by the darkness of this world. All are welcome at this simple and intimate worship service. A light supper will be served following the service. Welcome!

**Wanted: Winter Boots** - A much needed item during the winter months are winter boots. USC teachers have many students who are without winter boots. Amy Anderson of Good Shepherd is leading a collection of new or gently used winter boots for both children through adult sizes that will then be available to teachers and the school social worker for distribution to students in need. Any remaining boots will then go to the Clothing Closet. A box for boot donations will be under the table by the church office door. Thanks for your help!

**You are invited to Lessons & Carols** - A Live Nativity at St. Casimir's Church on Tues., Dec. 22, at 7:00 p.m. Free will donations accepted for Wells Area Food Shelf.

**Harmony Junction Christmas Concert** - Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 p.m. at the Untied Methodist Church and 7:00 p.m. at St. Theodore Church, both in Albert Lea.

**Daily Scripture Readings**

Dec 14 - Psalm 126	Isaiah 40:1-11
Romans 8:22-25	
Dec 15 - Psalm 126	Isaiah 19:18-25
2 Peter 1:2-15	
Dec 16 - Psalm 126	Isaiah 35:3-7
Luke 7:18-30	
Dec 17- Isaiah 12:2-6	Amos 6:1-8
2 Corinthians 8:1-15	
Dec 18 - Isaiah 12:2-6	Amos 8:4-12
2 Corinthians 9:1-15	
Dec 19 - Isaiah 12:2-6	Amos 9:8-15
Luke 1:57-66	

## *December 2015 Advent and Christmas Schedule*

Dec 13 9:00 am - Worship & Sunday School  
10:00 am - Adult Choir

Dec 16 5:00 pm - Wed Meal  
6:15 pm - Children's Program  
7:00 pm - NO PB&J Class  
7:00 pm - Confirmation  
7:00 pm Adult Choir

Dec 19 6:00 pm - Adult Choir Potluck at John Degner's

Dec 20 9:00 am - Adult Choir Cantata

Dec 23 5:00 pm NO Wed Meal or Worship

**Dec 24 5:00 pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion**  
**11:00 pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion**

**Dec 25 Christmas Day**

Dec 27 9:00 am - Worship

Dec. 30 No Wed Meal  
6:15 pm - Worship

Dec 31 9:00 am Financial Cut off for 2015  
Church Office closes at 12:00 pm

Jan 1, 2016 Observing the New Year's Holiday

Jan 3, 2016 9:00 am Holy Communion

