

December 9, 2020

A stylized, painterly illustration of the Virgin Mary holding the infant Jesus. Mary is depicted with long, flowing hair and a serene expression, looking down at the child. The infant Jesus is wrapped in swaddling clothes and has a small cross on his forehead. The background is a warm, golden-yellow color with faint star patterns.

# Unto YOU

A Series of  
Special Services for  
Advent and Christmas



## MT. ZION

Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Madison Heights, MI

Pastor Tom Naumann  
(248) 677-7242

[mtzionlutheran.info](http://mtzionlutheran.info)



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Midweek Advent Service

Welcome to our Midweek Advent worship series, *Unto You*. Each week in this series focuses on a different word as we walk through the key verses of Luke 2 that remind us that Christ has come to each one of us. In our worship for tonight we celebrate that we are registered as children of God through Christ.

### Tonight's Worship

#### Greeting and Prayer

Hymn 66 (TLH): *Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes*

#### The Invocation and Opening Response *(Psalm 87)*

- P** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen!
- P** Tonight we remember that our Savior was born in humble circumstances, the subject of an emperor who wished to take a census of his people.
- C** **Through faith in Jesus, we are subjects of the kingdom of God, counted as citizens of heaven. Our names are written in the Lamb's book of life!**
- P** "On the holy mount stands the city he founded;
- C** **The Lord loves the gates of Zion more that all the dwelling places of Jacob.**
- P** Glorious things of you are spoken, O city of God ...
- C** **And of Zion it shall be said, 'This one and that one were born in her';**
- P** For the Most High himself will establish her.
- C** **The Lord records as he registers the peoples, 'This one was born there.'"**

#### The Confession and Absolution of Sins

*We come before our Holy God admitting that we are sinful and need His forgiveness.*

- P** We come before our Holy God admitting that we are sinful and need His forgiveness. Let us confess our sins to God and ask His forgiveness.
- C** **Almighty God, we have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and actions. We turn from your will to follow our own sinful desires. Instead of keeping your Word, we listen to the**

**temptations of the world around us. Have mercy on us and forgive us for the sake of Jesus our Savior.**

**P** God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son, born of Mary, born in Bethlehem, to be our Savior. Jesus, the Lamb of God, offered up his life as a sacrifice for our sins. His blood washes our sins away. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### **First Scripture Reading: *Numbers 1:1-4,17-19***

The LORD spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying, <sup>2</sup> "Take a census of all the congregation of the people of Israel, by clans, by fathers' houses, according to the number of names, every male, head by head. <sup>3</sup> From twenty years old and upward, all in Israel who are able to go to war, you and Aaron shall list them, company by company. <sup>4</sup> And there shall be with you a man from each tribe, each man being the head of the house of his fathers.

<sup>17</sup> Moses and Aaron took these men who had been named, <sup>18</sup> and on the first day of the second month, they assembled the whole congregation together, who registered themselves by clans, by fathers' houses, according to the number of names from twenty years old and upward, head by head, <sup>19</sup> as the LORD commanded Moses. So he listed them in the wilderness of Sinai.

### **Second Scripture Reading: *Revelation 7:9-12***

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup> and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

<sup>11</sup> And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

## Advent Confession of Faith Luther's Explanation to the 2nd Article of the Apostles Creed

**C** I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.

He did this that I should be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity. This is most certainly true.

**Hymn 102 (TLH):** *Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful*

**The Sermon:** *Luke 2:1-3*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

**THEME: Unto You... You are Registered**

## Advent Litany Prayer + The Lord's Prayer

The word litany means "supplication" and is a series of short petitions (by the pastor) each followed by a congregational response.

**P** As the days of Advent hasten on and we draw nearer to the day of Christ's coming, we pray:

**C** Come, Lord Jesus.

**P** . . .

**C** Come, Lord Jesus.

**P** . . . And now we join together to pray as you have taught...

**C** Our Father who art in heaven...

## The Benediction

**Closing Hymn 552:1,6-8 (TLH):** *Abide With Me*

-----  
*We welcome our worshipers in the name of Jesus, through Whose advent we have obtained forgiveness of sins and eternal life, and Whose return we await with joyous anticipation!*

Offering Announcement: *The normal collection of the offering has been omitted from this service. If you have a special Advent offering that you wish to contribute, please deposit it in the gold plate on the hymnal rack or use the \$CashApp on your mobile device. The church's \$cashtag is "\$clcmztzion".*

Hymns and liturgical settings under copyright are used by permission through Concordia Publishing House License #000014224 or OneLicense.net #A-732884. All Rights reserved. Used by permission. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.