

“Jesus, the Son of God, the Son of Man”

St. Luke 1.31-32b, 35

4th Sunday in Advent 2005
Hymn-Sing Sermon

(keyed to [The Lutheran Hymnal](#))

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Today we stand a week away from celebrating the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. As we have done in the past we will continue our spiritual preparation today pondering in word and in song the mystery which Gabriel spoke to Mary in our Gospel reading for today saying "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest... *The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.*"

Great is this mystery of godliness as St. Paul says. Here in the person of Jesus we have He who is the Son of God and the Son of Man. Our Savior had to be such the Holy Spirit teaches for when Adam rebelled and sinned all of us became captive to sin and subject to the condemnation of the Law. The yoke of the Law hanged over us afflicting us with misery and torment, misery and torment that we feel today when we sin and do great wrong in the sight of God and of men.

Although many have tried, no man born of a human father and mother can satisfy the demands of the Law for release from sin and its torment. According to the Law man must be holy just as God is holy. Man must be blameless, pure, and undefiled in thought, word, and deed before the righteousness and flawless Lord of heaven and earth. Man must be perfect and keep the Law down to the very last jot and tittle, down to the last comma and period in order to escape sin and its curse.

As we well know, as our consciences testify each and every time we sin and transgress God's will, no son or daughter of Adam can accomplish this feat. The Scriptures teach this very truth proclaiming "there is not a just man on earth who does good and does not sin." Again the Spirit of truth declares "The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not one." Again we hear from Isaiah the prophet "all we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned, every one, to his own way."

This is the inclination and tendency of our hearts from the moment of conception onward. Every desire and intent of our nature is sinful and has turned us away from God. In sin we have rebelled against God but in the process became prisoners of sin, captives of death and made ourselves subject to damnation as the Law decrees for all who sin and fall short of the glory of God. Surely we are in need of rescue, in need of deliverance for no man born of natural man could supply us the salvation we need.

Hymn #369, 1-4

As the final stanza of the hymn teaches us, God's heart is different than ours. God would see us all saved and delivered from the captivity of our sin. He wants all of us released from the Law's terrible curse so that we can be spared the judgment and punishment due every sinner. He wants us to be free of sin's misery and torments. He wants us to be holy and perfect in His sight so that we never have to see the agonies of hell.

To this end God promised our first parents a Savior who would be born of a woman to save us from our sins, who would put us out of the dangers, death and damnation, that our sin brought upon us. This promised Savior is from the lineage of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Judah. The Savior would be one who, though foreshadowed by Moses and Joshua, would be greater than they for He would lead us from the captivity of our sin and open to us the everlasting Promised Land.

This promised Deliverer would bring us to the land where there is true and lasting rest and peace from the curse of sin, to a kingdom where there are no more tears, sorrows, not even death. This Savior would be more than a mere Man, more than the Seed of the woman, of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David. He would be the very Son of God as Gabriel told Mary saying "that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."

He who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit is true God with the Father and the Spirit, whose goings forth have been from everlasting to everlasting. Jesus, our Savior, is the Father's only-begotten of whom the Lord said "I will be His Father and He shall be My Son" and again of whom the Father spoke saying "You are My Son, today I have begotten You" and again of whom the

Father declared "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." The promised Deliverer is not just the Son of Mary, He is also the Son of God, who left His heavenly home to rescue us from our captivity, to set us free from our sin.

Hymn #68, 1-2, 6

The Son of God who would be born of the Virgin was known as the Messiah in the Old Testament and as the Christ in the New. He is the Anointed, the Chosen One of God, the One set apart as the only means of salvation, of rescue from sin and its curse. Jesus and Jesus alone is the One to return the lost and erring to His Father in heaven by His own sufferings and death on the cross. By His blood shed at Calvary's altar Jesus would bring forgiveness to all of us, rescue from sin and its curse by washing us clean of sin, by purifying and sanctifying us in His blood, by making us holy and perfect through faith in His name.

So speaks the Spirit of God saying "The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to *those who are bound.*" The Apostles of our Lord declared in the Book of Acts "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power." Jesus, this Babe born of Mary in Bethlehem was anointed without measure to accomplish the work of delivering us from sin and its power.

From eternity the Father anointed Him, ordained Him as our Savior, the Rescuer of the human race, as the only One who would deliver us from the bonds of our iniquity. To be our Savior, Jesus, in the words of St. Paul "made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant, and coming in the likeness of men, and being found in appearance as a Man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross." He became our flesh and blood Brother for the purpose of delivering us from death and destruction to life and glory as the writer to the Hebrews declares "Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same that He might bring many sons to glory."

It was necessary for God's own Son to be born of Mary. He came to be the Obedient Son so that by His perfect fulfillment of the Law, we would be saved through faith in His name. He had to be true Man so that He could take our place before the Law and under the Law to fulfill it in every way for our salvation. He became our holy Substitute when He was conceived in Mary and born of her the first Christmas. He stepped in, pushing us to the side, one might say taking on Himself the punishment and judgment of our sins on our behalf.

As the Son of Mary and the Son of God Jesus' fulfillment of the Law provided the payment required for the sins of mankind, of every man, woman, and child. His life and death fully paid the debt of our sin and ransomed us from the curse of sin. The wrath and anger of God was turned away from us in Jesus and now in Jesus we enjoy God's good will and favor. Reconciled to God by He who is our Heavenly Brother, Mary's Son, we have the promise that once lost, we are now found; once captive to death we now have the promise of life; once dead in sin and iniquity we now by faith are reborn, given the second birth when we were washed in His saving blood in Baptism's holy waters.

Hymn #94, 1-4

"Blessed *is* the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people, and has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of His servant David, As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, Who *have been* since the world began, That we should be saved from our enemies And from the hand of all who hate us, To perform the mercy *promised* to our fathers And to remember His holy covenant, The oath which He swore to our father Abraham: To grant us that we, Being delivered from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life."

So spoke Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, praising God for sending the Author of our salvation into the world whom his son would precede. In the blessed Child Jesus came the salvation of Israel, the deliverance that she had yearned for from the enemies of sin, death, and the power of the devil. No longer does sin hold God's people captive but through faith in Jesus we have been freed from its power, freed from its curse to live and to

serve our Savior all the days of our lives in holiness and righteousness, as His obedient children of faith.

We no longer have to give in to sin and follow its wicked ways. We no longer have to let the Devil push our buttons and taunt us about our sins and failures. We no longer have to fear death and wonder what lies in wait for us beyond this world. We no longer are enslaved in this bondage and curse of sin because of all that Jesus accomplished for us when He was born, lived, suffered, died, and rose again. Through faith in Him we are forgiven, our salvation is secure. Through faith in Him we can tell Satan to take a hike and we can greet death with joy knowing that our Lord awaits us where we will see Him face to face. Yes, this is all ours by faith in Jesus, the Son of God, the Son of Mary.

Hymn #91, 1-3, 8-9

Thus our Savior came, He who is no less than the Almighty Lord of heaven and earth to visit His people to release us from the prison house of sin and the bonds of sin's curse. He is indeed God with us because He took to Himself our nature to purify us heart and soul, to make us holy and perfect through faith, justified freely by His grace and goodness. He came to rescue us from a curse and captivity that we could never free ourselves. He came born of Mary, dwelling among us to set us free to be His people forever and ever.

He has made us perfect, holy, and blameless in the sight of the holy, blameless, and perfect Lord of heaven and earth so that we may enter into His presence with joy and thanksgiving. He came seeking every child of the first Adam so that by faith in Him, the Second Adam, we might have life in His name now and for eternity. He came and was cursed on the tree so that as far as the curse is found there may be forgiveness, life, and salvation to all who believe.

"Joy to the world, the Lord is come!" How great is our joy that the Lord is come for on account of Him we are reconciled to God, we have peace and pardon with God, we have a place in the heavenly Promised Land, we have life, we have salvation, rescue and deliverance from sin and its curse for, as our Lord proclaimed, "if the Son sets you free, you shall be free indeed." Let us sing the

praises of Jesus, the Son of God and the Son of Mary and tell of the glories of His love for the world, for you, for me, for all as His birth into the world the first Christmas reveals as the Scriptures teach "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." Amen.

Hymn 87, 1-4.

+Soli Deo Gloria+