



2nd Week of Advent: Love

Love in Action

(Luke 1:26-38)

Luke 1:26-38

(An Angel Visits Mary)

- ²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed [that is, legally pledged to be married] to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.
- ²⁸ And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you! Blessed are you among women.” ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.

Luke 1:26-38

(An Angel Visits Mary)

- ³⁰ And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”
- ³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

Luke 1:26-38

(An Angel Visits Mary)

- ³⁵ And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.”
- ³⁸ And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Introduction: Awestruck

- **Awestruck:** “Filled with awe”
- **Awe:** an emotion variously combining dread [fear], veneration [worship], and **wonder** [Wow!] that is **inspired by overwhelming greatness** (as in beauty, power, or size)
- **Luke 1:35**
- ³⁵ And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

Love in Action: Mary Risks Condemnation

- “**Betrothed**”:
- “In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin **betrothed** [that is, legally pledged to be married] to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary” (Luke 1:26-27)
- “The Jewish law held spousal or engagement to be as binding as marriage. An engagement was completed after negotiations had been carried on by the groom’s representative and the dowry money had been paid to the girl’s father. After the betrothal, the groom could claim the bride at any time. The legal aspect of marriage was included in the betrothal; the wedding was merely a recognition of the agreement that had already been established” (*Wycliffe Bible Commentary*).

Love in Action: Mary Risks Condemnation

- **Betrothed:**
- And the angel said to her, “**Do not be afraid, Mary**, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son” (Luke 1:30-31)
- And Mary said, “Behold, **I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word**” (Luke 1:38).

Matthew 1:18-25

(An Angel Visits Joseph)

- Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed [legally pledged to be married] to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.
- ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, **being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.**
- ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord **appeared to him in a dream**, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.
- ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall **call his name Jesus**, for he will save his people from their sins.”

The Name of “Jesus”

- **Jesus:** English spelling of . . .
- **Iesous:** Greek transliteration of . . .
- **Joshua:** Hebrew name meaning “Jehovah (or *the Lord*) is salvation”
- Jehovah is from the German mispronunciation of YHWH (“I AM”)
- **Yeshua:** Hebrew pronunciation of Joshua
- “Jesus Saves”:

²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall **call his name Jesus**, for he will save his people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21)

Matthew 1:18-25

(An Angel Visits Joseph)

- ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:
- “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

[**Isaiah 7:14** Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel.]

- ²⁴ **When Joseph woke from sleep**, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Love in Action: Joseph Risks Condemnation

- “**Mary** had been **betrothed** [legally pledged to be married] to Joseph, before they came together, **she was found to be with child** from the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 1:18).
- “And her husband Joseph, **being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly**” (Matthew 1:19)
- “If a man commits adultery with the wife of^[a] his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death. (Leviticus 20:10)
- The Angel: “**do not fear** to take Mary as your wife” (Matthew 1:20).
- “**he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him**” (Matthew 1:24).

Intermission: The Expectation of Faithful Obedience

- “But Peter and the apostles answered, **“We must obey God rather than men.”** (Acts 5:29)
- ³⁸ And Mary said, “Behold, I am the **servant [*doule* = slave girl]** of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” (Luke 1:38)

Intermission: Blessings Beyond Obedience

- And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have **found favor with God** [*charis* = *favor or grace*] (Luke 1:30).
- “Without denying Mary’s special honor, participants in the early church, upon hearing this story, might recapture some of the thrill of hearing the word of God’s ‘**favor (*charis*)**’ for each of them” (Robert C. Tannehill)
- “Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. **Let not your hearts be troubled**, neither let them be afraid” (John 14: 27)



Luke 1:39-45

(Mary Visits Elizabeth)

- In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.
- ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “***Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!***”
- ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
- ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ **And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”**

Luke 1:46-56

(The Magnificat: Mary Praises God)

- ⁴⁶ And Mary said,
- “My soul **magnifies** the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for **he has looked on the humble** estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and **holy is his name.**
⁵⁰ And **his mercy** is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

Luke 1:46-56

(The Magnificat: Mary Praises God)

- ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
⁵² **he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;**
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
⁵⁴ He has **helped his servant Israel,**
in remembrance of **his mercy,**
⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”
- ⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.



Hannah's Song of Praise

(Mother of Samuel)

- **2** And Hannah prayed and said,
- “My heart exults in the LORD;
my horn is exalted in the LORD.
My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in your salvation.
- **2** **“There is none holy like the LORD:
for there is none besides you;
there is no rock like our God.**

Hannah's Song of Praise

- ³ Talk no more so very proudly,
let not arrogance come from your mouth;
for the LORD is a God of knowledge,
and **by him actions are weighed.**
- ⁴ The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble bind on strength.
- ⁵ Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,
but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger. (1 Samuel 2:1-5)

Love in Action

God Sends the Messiah: Jesus

- He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” (Luke 1:32-33)
- And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.” ¹⁷ In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David. (2 Samuel 7:16-17)

Conclusion: Love in Action

- **God First Loves Us:**
- **1 John 4:16** “So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. **God is love**, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.”
- **John 3:16** “**For God so loved the world**, that **he gave** his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

Conclusion: Love in Action

- **We in Turn Love Others:**
- **1 John 4:19** “We love because he first loved us.”
- **John 13:34-35** “A new commandment I give to you, that you **love one another**: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are **my disciples**, if you have love for one another.”
- **John 1:25** “But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, **being no hearer who forgets but A Doer who acts**, he will be blessed in his doing.”

Let Us Pray

