

***The Lutheran Church of the Covenant***  
***“Reaching Out, Reflecting Christ, Renewing Lives”***

AND MARY SAID,

MY SOUL  
MAGNIFIES  
THE LORD,  
AND MY  
SPIRIT  
REJOICES IN  
GOD MY  
SAVIOR.

LUKE 1:46-47

*Mary, Mother of Our Lord*  
*August 15, 2021*



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



We welcome you to worship here at the Lutheran Church of the Covenant! As long as the weather cooperates, we gather outside in God's Creation so that we may more safely come together and worship with singing and loud shouts of praise.

- Bulletins and Communion (wheat or gluten-free wafers, wine or grape juice options) are available to be picked up at the side driveway. Please keep in mind potential wind that may affect your Communion cups.
- You may stay in your vehicle or setup a chair anywhere you like. Speakers will be set up front by the worship leaders so that everyone can hear and participate from their respective spots.
- It is your choice whether you wear a mask or not, as well as how much distance you wish to keep from others. We are mindful of everyone's varying comfort levels with what we hope to be improving circumstances with COVID-19.
- We encourage you to participate throughout the worship by speaking the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns!
- You will not be asked to stand during the worship, so feel free to remain seated throughout.
- An offering basket is placed up-front by the podium.

### ***Our Worship Leaders & Staff***

Ministers

Presiding Minister

Pianist

Lector

Parish Administrator

Custodian

All People

The Rev. Rich Israel

Robin Crawford

Marie Zahn

Jennifer Lasher-Dobush

Vince Besednjak

*The Lutheran Church of the Covenant*

*19000 Libby Rd.*

*Maple Heights, OH 44137*

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## Mary, Mother of Our Lord

*Mary's role is not limited to giving birth to Jesus and mothering him in his childhood. In John's gospel, she is among the women standing near the cross; in Acts, she is among the disciples awaiting the gift of the Spirit. Through all that happened she continued to see how God was at work through her son, keeping the ancient promises to her ancestors, brushing aside the rich and powerful, and focusing on those as poor and powerless as Mary herself.*

Prelude *Come, Join the Dance of Trinity* (HANSEN)

Confession & Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at our baptism, remembering our everlasting bond with our Risen Lord.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the God of manna,  
the God of miracles,  
the God of mercy.

**Amen!**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our provider, **help us.**

**It is hard to believe there is enough to share.**

**We question your ways when they differ  
from the ways of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding  
rather than trusting in you.**

**Share with us the words of eternal life  
and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Beloved people of God:  
in Jesus, the manna from heaven,  
you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles,  
 there is always more than enough.  
 Through Jesus, † the bread of life,  
 you are shown God’s mercy:  
 you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen!**

Gathering Hymn *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

#265



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
 2 “For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
 4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
 “To me be as it pleas - eth God,” she said.  
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



“All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 “My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God’s ho - ly name.”  
 and Chris-tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.”  
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,  
 “Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.”

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924  
 Music: GABRIEL’S MESSAGE, Basque carol

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, in lifting up Mary to be the mother of your Son, you made known your gracious regard for the poor, the lowly, and the despised. Grant us grace to receive your word in humility, and so to be made one with your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen!**

## First Lesson

Isaiah 61:7-11

*The prophet proclaims a hopeful message: God loves justice and will make an everlasting covenant with Israel and her descendants. In response, the prophet sings a joyful song, like Mary many generations later, about God's mercy and salvation.*

<sup>7</sup>Because [the] shame [of God's people] was double,  
and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot,  
therefore they shall possess a double portion;  
everlasting joy shall be theirs.

<sup>8</sup>For I the Lord love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

<sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

Word of God, word of life!

**Thanks be to God!**

<sup>1</sup>I will bless the Lord at all times;  
the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.

<sup>2</sup>**I will glory in the Lord;  
let the lowly hear and rejoice.**

<sup>3</sup>Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord;  
let us exalt God's name together.

<sup>4</sup>**I sought the Lord, who answered me  
and delivered me from all my terrors.**

<sup>5</sup>Look upon the Lord and be radiant,  
and let not your faces be ashamed.

<sup>6</sup>**I called in my affliction, and the Lord heard me  
and saved me from all my troubles.**

<sup>7</sup>The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear the Lord  
and delivers them.

<sup>8</sup>**Taste and see that the Lord is good;  
happy are they who take refuge in God!**

<sup>9</sup>Fear the Lord, you saints of the Lord,  
for those who fear the Lord lack nothing.

## Second Lesson

Galatians 4:4-7

*In the promise of the Incarnation, Jesus Christ embodies God's mother-father heart, in love claiming people as adopted children.*

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Word of God, word of life!

**Thanks be to God!**

Gospel

Luke 1:46-55

*Mary's song, the Magnificat, serves as a thematic anthem for God's work in the world and therefore for the ministry of her son, Jesus. In Mary's praise we hear of a saving God who remembers the humble, scatters the proud, lifts up the lowly, and fulfills all things.*

The Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord!**

<sup>46</sup>Mary said,  
“My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

This is the holy Gospel of our Lord!

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *For All the Faithful Women* Verses 1, 6, 2, Last

#419



1 For all the faith - ful wom - en who served in days of old,  
*Insert one or more of stanzas 3-11 or this general stanza 2:*  
2 O God, for saints and ser - vants, those named and those un-known,  
*Last* All praise to God the Fa - ther! All praise to Christ the Son!



to you shall thanks be giv - en; to all, their stor - y told.

in whom through all the a - ges your light of glo - ry shone,  
All praise to God the Spir - it, who binds the church as one!



They served with strength and glad - ness in tasks your wis - dom gave.

we of - fer glad thanks-giv - ing and fer - vent prayer we raise  
With saints who went be - fore us, with saints who wit - ness still,



To you their lives bore wit - ness, pro - claimed your pow'r to save.

that, faith - ful in your ser - vice, our lives may sing your praise.  
we sing glad al - le - lu - ias and strive to do your will.

*Mary, Mother of Our Lord*

6 We honor faithful Mary,  
fair maiden, full of grace.  
She bore the Christ, our brother,  
who came to save our race.  
May we, with her, surrender  
ourselves to your command  
and lay upon your altar  
our gifts of heart and hand.



## Prayers of Intercession

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, you have revealed your love for people overlooked and cast aside, sending your son to be born among the humble and poor. Send your whole church to proclaim good news to those who feel abandoned, despised, or rejected and make Covenant home of genuine welcome and hospitality. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All creation longs for healing and restoration. Thwart the destruction of plant and animal habitats and amplify the voices of those who advocate for wise stewardship of the earth's resources. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We remember your promise to our ancestors and look to you for justice. Expose pride, greed, and exploitation wherever it is found and raise up humble leaders who act on behalf of those who are poor, oppressed, or in other need. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Spirit, you live in our hearts and makes us heirs of salvation. Rescue us from shame and dishonor. Lift up the lowly, fill the hungry with good things, and have mercy on those who turn to you for help. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mary's song of praise and amazement echoes through this whole world you still love. Attend to those expecting a child and console those struggling to conceive. Come to the aid of those enduring a difficult pregnancy and those who have experienced a miscarriage. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the saints who have found refuge in you, O God, including your beloved Mary. As you have delivered them from all their afflictions, so save us from all our earthly troubles until that day when we sing your praise together in heaven. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen!**

## Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy God,  
our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,  
in the harmonious world of your creation,  
the plants and animals, the seas and stars  
were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world,  
you sent your Son to heal our ills  
and to form us again into one.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up,  
and his victory over death,  
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth  
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Holy Spirit, bless us through this meal:  
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,  
so let your church be gathered from the ends of the earth,  
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
both now and forever. **Amen!**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

Communion

Music Interlude *I Want to Walk as the Child of the Light* (HAMILTON)

Prayer after Communion

Jesus, Bread of life,  
we have received from your table  
more than we could ever ask.  
As you have nourished us in this meal,  
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.  
In your name we pray.  
**Amen!**

Blessing

The blessing of God,  
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,  
✠ be upon you now and forever!  
**Amen!**

Sending Hymn *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*

#251



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav-ior's praise!  
2 To all who live in ho-ly fear your mer-cy ev-er flows.  
3 To Is-ra-el, your ser-vant blest, your help is ev-er sure;



You looked up-on my low-li-ness, and I am full of grace.  
With might-y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex-pose.  
the prom-ise to our par-ents made their chil-dren will se-cure.



Now ev-'ry land and ev-'ry age this bless-ing shall pro-claim—  
The ruth-less you have cast a-side, the low-ly throned in-stead;  
Sing glo-ry to the Ho-ly One, give hon-or to the Word,



great won-ders you have done for me, and ho-ly is your name.  
the hun-gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un-fed.  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a-dored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat  
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune  
Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

Dismissal

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ!  
**Thanks be to God!**

Postlude *O Day of Rest and Gladness* (BIRCHWOOD)

## Praying Together

**... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating:** Gayle Agg, Bob Buettner, Joan Clarke, John Crawford, Nicole Crawford, Barbara Fossa, Carolyn Frajter, Ken Frajter, Donna Franz, Nealie Gage, Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Judy Jones, Matt Jones, Tammie Keller, Dylan King, Jason Lanese, Andrea Lanzalaca, Heather Lasher, Sara Mendes, Phyllis Nemeth, Bernice Novak, Robert Ridgell Don Rusher Jr, Arlene Stoltz, Marie Storms, Tom Susaneck, Phyllis Treichel, Phyllis Welker, Linda Wright, Wilma Dancy, Bill Helmick, Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Kim (Novak) Leonhardt, Laura Mele, Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Bill Wilkens, Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane Family

### LAST WEEK

General Fund receipts for week ending 8/8/2021: \$2138



**VISIT OUR  
WEBSITE**

For our latest video recordings of worship, bulletins, newsletters, as well as links to daily devotions and other resources, please visit: [covenantmaplehts.org](http://covenantmaplehts.org).

Check us out on Facebook for the latest updates for community activities and a dose of Good News on your news feed!



**facebook**

A BIG  
*thank  
you*  


*We greatly appreciate Pastor Israel for leading us in worship this morning! Thank you, Pastor Israel!*

## ***Mary, Mother of Our Lord***

In our Lutheran calendar, the principal festival of Mary is “Mary, Mother of Our Lord” on Aug. 15. The “of Our Lord” speaks to Mary’s role as the mother of Jesus in the Gospel narrative and as the mother of God in eternity. In 431 the Council of Ephesus proclaimed Mary as the theotokos, the God-bearer. This claim emphasizes the union of the two natures of Christ in one person when Mary gave birth to Jesus.

A year before his translation of the New Testament, Martin Luther completed his commentary on the Magnificat, Mary’s song from Luke’s Gospel that served as the main canticle of the Evening Prayer. Luther saw Mary’s song as a model for Christian prayer and praise, not dependent on merit but rather in response to God’s grace. God had chosen her for such an important role in the history of salvation, one that turns everything on its head. Thus, Christians are to respect and venerate Mary because of her faith, humility and willingness.

Luther identifies six works of God in the Magnificat: mercy, breaking spiritual pride, putting down the mighty, exalting the lowly, authoring trust and giving good things (what he usually identifies as “life, forgiveness and salvation”). All six of these works find their origin in and point to the Incarnation, which is God’s greatest work and from which we receive salvation and its benefits through no merit of our own.

The Magnificat is where we encounter Mary most regularly. Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) contains six versions of it. Lutherans experience Mary in four other ways during worship: the creeds, lectionary readings, hymns and images. Joining with other Christians weekly, Lutherans say Mary’s name in professing their faith through the creeds.

Mary is featured in the Gospel readings for Christmas and Epiphany, as well as the Annunciation (March 25) and Visitation (May 31). She also appears on the fourth Sunday of Advent for all three lectionary cycles, and the Magnificat is used in place of the Psalm on that Sunday or on the third. Mary also appears in John’s account of the Passion read annually on Good Friday, where Jesus from the cross establishes a relationship between her and the beloved disciple. For that reason, tradition holds that Mary was present with the apostles at Pentecost. Mary also appears in at least three other lectionary readings amid Jesus’ ministry.

Including the versions of the Magnificat, Mary is mentioned (either by name or by role/title) in 38 hymns in ELW (including six Advent and 12 Christmas hymns). The Lutheran Book of Worship included the Stabat Mater (“At the Cross Her Station Keeping”), in which the singer accompanies Mary at the cross in sorrow over her son’s death. This hymn, which is not in the ELW, speaks of real motherly emotions during tragedy and loss, but it doesn’t elevate Mary to some pious ideal.

Both in churches and popular culture, Mary has been the focus of religious art. Some Lutheran congregations contain icons or statues of Mary, often holding the infant Jesus to solidify her connection to the Incarnation. Mary’s appearances over the centuries have made her embedded in particular contexts and geographies. Many people see Mary because of her connection to God’s mercy to the humble and poor. These various “Our Lady of ...” speak to the reality of God’s mercy being made manifest worldwide. Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec. 12), one of the most popular Marys in America, exemplifies this fact and should have a role among Lutherans, especially in Latino communities.

A recent example is the icon commissioned by Trinity (Episcopal) Church Wall Street: “Our Lady of Ferguson and All Those Killed by Gun Violence.” Mary’s posture is one of prayer, while on her womb is the silhouette of Jesus in the crosshairs of a gun. As in the Magnificat, this icon lifts up God’s mercy by speaking truth to the violence caused by injustice. Here, Mary is a true theologian of the cross, pointing to God who stands alongside the suffering and targeted, calling out sin for what it is.

In his Little Prayer Book (a prototype of the Small Catechism), Luther includes the Hail Mary by stating: “Let not our hearts cling to her in faith, but through her penetrate to Christ and to God himself. Thus, what the Hail Mary says is that all glory should be given to God, using these words: ‘Hail, Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with you; blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of thy body, Jesus Christ. Amen.’ ” Let us join with the Queen of Heaven and Mother of God to give thanks and praise to God through whose mercy and grace we are freed to care for our neighbors.

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# An Angel Visits Mary

You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. Luke 1:31 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 1:26-38



K V G J E U J H T U Z G T J N  
X I Y K V V V Z S H N U B K J  
P D N W U E J N F O R M O O B  
C J K G L L I O W N N O R S D  
H B E E D G X E S N R O N Z B  
I C G S R O F V B E M W D E I  
H N L I U P M I I B P A V Q B  
A Q V B I S H L R M W H R L A  
Z Z J P J P L X T C D Q W Y G  
D F H H D P F P H N A C I K A  
A D A F R A I D W N V X K N B  
E B W Q K U P O V X I J X Y R  
Q G P L T C T L R X D L F H I  
E L I Z A B E T H Q B O C Y E  
Y K C N P O S T D N F E E O L

ELIZABETH  
SON  
MARY

JESUS  
KINGDOM  
TOWN

JOSEPH  
DAVID  
ANGEL

BORN  
GABRIEL  
THRONE

AFRAID  
BIRTH  
VIRGIN