

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Let your face shine upon us, & we shall be saved. (v7)

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, & come. With your abundant grace & might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live & reign with the Father & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man & unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream & said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, & you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive & bear a son, & they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; & he named him Jesus.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. A good, Old Testament shorthand explanation of "righteous" is "things the way God intends them." How do *Matthew 1 & 2* show this about St. Joseph? Also read about "righteousness" on p843 of your Lutheran Study Bibles by Concordia Publishing House.
2. Building on this shorthand explanation, how do *Matthew 1:18-25 & Luke 1:26-38 (46-55)* show Sts. Joseph & Mary to be fitting parents for Jesus? See *Romans 3:21-26*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. What claim is made about "his people" in v22 (*cf. 12:46-50*)? How is it that you, who are not a Jew, can be among God's people? See *Psalms 86:5. 145:18; Romans 10:12*
4. Review the explanation of the 3rd article of the Apostles' Creed in the Small Catechism; how does that explanation inform St. Joseph's experience in vv18-21? How has the Holy Spirit shown you the truth about Jesus the Savior? See *1 Corinthians 12:3*

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NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Some people doubt the historicity of the Virgin Birth (*1:23, 25; Luke 1:34*). How does St. Joseph provide a model for us in this matter? How does his action provide evidence of the virgin birth?
6. As a righteous/just man St. Joseph intended to do what was right by God's Old Testament law, yet with mercy, compassion, gentleness, humility, even kindness (v19; *cf. Deuteronomy 22:23-24*). How does your following Joseph's example make your community a better place? See *Proverbs 21:3; Hosea 6:6; Micah 6:8; Matthew 9:13, 12:3*

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A Righteous Man

*He brings his gift of “doing the right thing”
even if it means reappraising his principles & other’s opprobrium*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: But just when he had resolved to do this,
an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream & said,
“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife,
for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.” (v20)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

The virgin shall conceive & bear a son,
& they shall name him Emmanuel. (*Matthew 1:23*)

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Fourth Sunday of Advent

Series: Guest List

12.18.22

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

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