

Sermon
Rev. Lang Yang

“Finding Favor with God”

Fourth Sunday in Advent
Our Savior Lutheran Church
11-29-15

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Luke 1:30 *“But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God.”* “This is the Word of God.”(Cross Reference – Genesis 6:8, Matthew 14:27, Luke 1:13)

Illustration “favorite” (Show assorted pictures)



How many of you had said, “This is my favorite sweater, my favorite car, my favorite chocolate, my favorite drink, my favorite son, my favorite daughter, my favorite niece or nephew etc.” When we make such confession, our face lit up and we are so proud to call someone favorite, because we are please with the person or for the thing that we love. During this time of year, many of us feel that we need to be someone favor in order for us to get a present from that person. Sometime you feel regret and even lonely because you are not in the favorite of the other person and that is why you don’t get a present. Let us watch a short video when the Angel Gabriel spoke to Mary. (Show video)



The Angel Speaks To Mary - YouTube - 2.36 Min.wmv

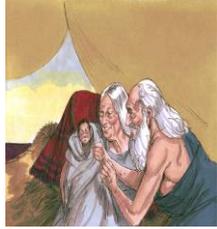
- I. Today in our Gospel Lesson, the Angel Gabriel said to Mary, *“Mary, you have found favor with God.”*(Luke 1:30) (Show picture of Angel speaking to Mary)



Mary was just an ordinary women that God had made the decision of bestowing the grace upon her to be the mother of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. God knew who Mary was. He knew her character and her commitment to being faithful to God. In all of human history there had never been a virgin mother. There were women who conceived and gave birth to a child even though they were past the child bearing age, Sarah for instance. There were women who gave birth to a child

even though they were infertile, Hannah for instance. But never had there been a woman who gave birth to a child even though she was a virgin.

(Show pictures of Sarah gave birth to Isaac and Hannah gave Samuel to the priest)



There were women who conceived and gave birth to a child even though they were past the child bearing age. Sarah gave birth to Isaac at the age of 90. Hannah gave birth to Samuel. But never had there been a woman who gave birth to a child even though she was a virgin. As miraculous as it was, Sarah and Hannah

would never have conceived and born the sons that they did had they not known their husbands, respectively. Which was also their great act of obedience of faith in the Word of the Lord that came to them. **(Show the Angel Gabriel appear to Mary)**

Mary would be the one of a kind virgin mother, for whom alone.



The child would be conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He would be her natural born son, with a full of flesh and blood. But, He would also be holy, the Son of God, with a full the deity of the Godhead dwelling in Him. (Col.2:9). Mary would be the one and only virgin mother who would also be simultaneously mother of Jesus and mother of God.

Luther says that here, God demonstrated that he could create humans in more ways than one. In the beginning, God created the first man, Adam out of the dust of the earth by breathing His breath into his nostrils, and the man became a living being. Second, God created the first woman, Eve by the rib that he took from Adams side. Third, God told Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply. And so Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain. But now, God is about to do a new thing. An unheard of thing. A one of a kind thing. The likes of which will bring every human being ever conceived in either of these three ways to their knees with tongues confessing that this child of Mary is the Son of the Most High either to their salvation or to their judgment. God will produce a child from a virgin. (Complete Sermons of Martin Luther. Baker Book House Co. v.7, p.288). **(Show Mary and Elizabeth)**



Mary was found favor from being a nobody to being the Mother of God. She went from being a person who wouldn't even get a footnote in a history book to being the mother of the one who would make the greatest change in all of history and in all of eternity. For nine months, Mary was favor from girl next door to temple of the living God. Mary's Son, Jesus Christ, would provide the greatest favor of all. He offers all

mankind the favor from natural born sinner to adopted Son of God.

Each of us is born detestable in God's sight. **(Show Ten Commandments)**



We start our lives as natural born sinners and get progressively worse as time goes by. Ever since Adam and

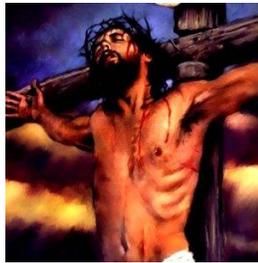
Eve sinned in Eden, the world has been going from bad to worse. When we examine ourselves in the Ten Commandments, we see nothing but shame and failure. The fact that we die and the fear of that death tells us that we know a terrible judgment awaits us on the other side.

II. God found favor in Mary who makes His temple in Mary's womb came to reverse all that. **(Show Mary's pregnant)**



He came to Mary's womb to take our place. He came to Mary's womb to take our place under the law. His earthly life begins with conception by the Holy Spirit, but it then proceeds exactly as all our lives proceed. He experienced everything that we experience, birth, childhood, the sickness and death of those He loves including His adopted father, Joseph. He even experienced the temptation we experience. He experienced all these things exactly as we experienced them, but He experienced them without sin. He humbled Himself under the law in order to fulfill it.

He came to Mary's womb to take our place under the curse. Even though He led a perfect life under the law, He was the greatest sinner of all time in God's sight. For in God's sight, He carried the sins of the whole world. Through baptism we share in His life. He took our sin to His account and credits His righteousness to ours. His account is full of our sins. **(Show Jesus hanging on the cross)**



He came to Mary's womb to take our place on the cross. As a result of our sin in Him, He became the target of God's wrath against our sin. He endured that wrath while He suffered the shame of crucifixion on the cross, the cross that should have been ours. With His Holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death, He paid the penalty for our sins and earned forgiveness for the entire world. He took our place successfully. He triumphed over death with His death. He removed the sting of death and He rose from the dead and ascended to the right hand of God the Father. He completed the mission that He began when He made His temple in the womb of the Virgin Mary. The one who made His temple in Mary's womb now makes His temple in us. **(Show Word and Sacrament)**



The Holy Spirit works through Word and Sacrament to establish and strengthen faith in us. That faith trusts in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the one who made His temple in Mary's womb. Now we are His temple and found favor in us, when He called us to faith in Christ Jesus. The Christian church has set aside August 15 as a special day to thank

God for Mary and to remember, appreciate, and learn from the example she set for us. May her attitude of service be ours as she said, *"I am the Lord's servant, may it be to me as you have said."* (Luke 1:38) May it be that God find favor in you now and forever and ever. Amen. Now may the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen.