

Didache Divine Service

Session 6

Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

The Apostles' Creed: The Second Article—The Incarnation

- I. Invocation and Prayer
- II. Hymn: 352 "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"
- III. Bible Reading: The Incarnation of the Son of God—Luke 1:26-38

Now in the sixth month [of Elizabeth's pregnancy] the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a **virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David**. The virgin's name *was* Mary. ²⁸ And having come in, the angel said to her, "**Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!**"

²⁹ But when she saw *him*, **she was troubled at his saying**, and considered what manner of greeting this was. ³⁰ Then 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 bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give 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 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, "**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.**" ³⁶ Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. ³⁷ For with God nothing will be impossible."

³⁸ Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

- The Son of God became man to bear our sin and suffer our punishment and death to redeem us from the slavery to sin, death, and the power of Satan into which Adam had sold himself.
- The Son of God becomes the Second Adam to be and do for us what Adam failed to be and do.
- Jesus was the legal descendant of King David because Mary was betrothed (married) to Joseph, the descendant of David.
- Jesus was the biological descendant of King David because Mary's lineage also traces back to King David and the tribe of Judah.
- The favor of the Lord is God's grace (His undeserved love and mercy for sinners)
- Mary was a sinner who was cleansed and declared righteous by the forgiving Word of God's grace which she received by faith.
- The Word of grace coming to Mary by which she is justified, parallels the Word of grace that calls us to faith in Jesus and justifies us.
- The Son of God is conceived by the Holy Spirit in Mary's womb so that He is also truly a man, yet without sin, to be the bearer of our sin and to reconcile us to God the Father.

- In the incarnation, Jesus, the Son of God, shares fully in our humanity: All the sin, sickness, infirmity, and death of humanity He takes upon Himself; all of His righteousness, forgiveness, goodness, and life becomes ours in Him.

IV. The Creed preaches the faith that saves us from our sin: The creed shows us that God loves us and has done everything to save us from sin through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.

1. Incarnation

2. Crucifixion

3. Resurrection

Ascension

4. Judgment

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Explanation to the Second Article from the Catechism —

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ,
true God, begotten of the Father from eternity,
and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary,
is my Lord,
who has redeemed me,
a lost and condemned person,
purchased and won me from all sins,
from death, and from the power of the devil;
not with gold or silver,
but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,
that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom
and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,
just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.
This is most certainly true.

V. Hymn: 382 “We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth”

VI. Liturgy for Holy Communion (Peach handout)

VII. Hymn to Depart: 389 “Let All Together Praise Our God”