

Lesson I

Review:

Author

Date

Themes

Places

"Orderly account"

Theme Verse:

"Therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God." Luke 1:35



Bible Study:

Zechariah and Elizabeth

Read: Luke 1:5-25

Before beginning his story about Jesus, Luke tells us some important things about the Savior's forerunner (Malachi 3:1; 4:5–6), John the Baptist.

How did Old Testament believers feel when they had no children (see Genesis 16:1–5; 30:1; 1 Samuel 1:5, 6; Psalm 127:3)?

Have you waited patiently for God to answer a prayer?

Remember the 3rd Petition of the Lord's Prayer – "Thy will be done" and trust in God's design and plans.

Zechariah used human reason to question God's plan through the angel Gabriel, and he lost his speech.

- Do you ever use human reason to question God or His Word?
- What does 1 Corinthians 2:14 say about using reason to understand God?

Annunciation and Magnificat

Read: Luke 1:26-56

God chose Mary to be the virgin mother of the Messiah. Her Son would be the “Son of the Highest,” that is, true God. Mary could not understand the mystery of her Son’s birth (incarnation or God becoming human), but she believed God’s Word and humbly submitted to His will. Her song of praise is called the Magnificat (Latin for “magnifies,” which is in the first line of the song).

What does the Bible say about Jesus being born of a virgin (see Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18–25)?

Consider how the angel Gabriel spoke with Zachariah, a priest, and now with a young girl. What was similar and different? How is the Virgin Mary an example for all Christians?

Following is a chart from Dr. Arthur Just:

I. The Angelic Announcements of the Births (1:5–56)

About John (1:5–25)	About Jesus (1:26–38)
The parents introduced, expecting no child (because barren) (vss 5–10)	The parents introduced, expecting no child (because unmarried) (vss 26–27)
Appearance of the angel (vs 11)	Entrance of the angel (vs 28)
Zechariah is troubled (12)	Mary is troubled (vs 29)
“Do not fear ...” (vs 13)	“Do not fear ...” (30)
Your wife will bear a son (vs 13)	You will bear a son (vs 31)
You shall call him John (vs 13)	You shall call him Jesus (vs 31)
He shall be great before the Lord (vs 15)	He shall be Great (vs 32)
Zechariah’s question: “How shall I know?” (vs 18)	Mary’s question: “How shall this be?” (vs 34)
Angel’s answer: I have been sent to announce this to you (vs 19)	Angel’s answer: The Holy Spirit will come upon you (vs 35)
Sign given: You shall become mute (vs 20)	Sign given: Your aged cousin Elizabeth has conceived (vs 36)
Zechariah’s forced silence (vs 22)	Mary’s spontaneous answer (vs 38)
Refrain A: Zechariah “went back” (vs 23)	Refrain A: The angel “went away” (vs 38) ¹

¹ Just, A. A., Jr. (1996). [Luke 1:1–9:50](#) (p. 44). St. Louis, MO: Concordia Pub. House.

Birth of John the Baptist

Read: Luke 1:57-80

Zechariah and Elizabeth took their eight-day old baby to be circumcised and given his name at the temple in Jerusalem. All the people expected he would be named after his father, but they followed God's instructions and named him John. Zechariah begins to speak and immediately "blesses the Lord" (Benedictus – Latin for "blessed be").

Birth of Jesus the Christ

Read: Luke 2:1-14

Luke's Christmas story is familiar and dear to all Christians. It is also the turning point in the world's history. Caesar Augustus, the mighty ruler of the Roman Empire, unknowingly helped carry out God's plan that the Savior should be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). Only a few lowly shepherds heard the wonderful message of the Savior's birth preached by an angel (Luke 2:8–11).

- Why was Jesus born at Bethlehem (Matthew 2:5–6)?
- What does this fact prove about the Bible (Micah 5:2)?
- Why was Jesus born in such humble circumstances (2 Corinthians 8:9)?
- Why did the angel call his message "good news of great joy" (Luke 2:10)?

Shepherds at the Manger

Read: Luke 2:15-20

The shepherds were some of the believing Israelites who waited in hope for the Messiah's coming. The angel's message awakened a desire to see and worship the holy child. The shepherds laid aside their earthly tasks for a while and hurried to the place where they would find their Savior. Later, they shared the good news of the Messiah's birth with others and returned to their daily tasks thanking and praising God.

- Where can Christ be found today? Why do many people not find Him (see Romans 10:5–21)?
- Why do we take every opportunity to tell others about Jesus?
- We sing the Christmas hymn, "Angels We Have Heard On High" (LSB 368), but do you remember singing or saying the Gloria in Excelsis during a worship service?

Simeon and Anna

Read: Luke 2:22-38

Forty days after His birth, Jesus was taken to Jerusalem to be presented to the Lord in the temple (see Leviticus 12). Simeon and Anna longed for the coming of the Messiah. Simeon took Jesus into his arms and praised God in a hymn known as the Nunc Dimittis (Luke 2:29–32). The prophetess Anna likewise spoke to others about this child (v. 38).

- To redeem mankind, Christ put Himself under God's Law to fulfill it (Galatians 4:4–5). What requirements of the Law did Jesus fulfill according to Luke 2:21–24?
- How is the Nunc Dimittis (vv. 29–32) used in church services? What does it express?

Jesus the Child

Read: Luke 2:40-52

God revealed only one incident about Jesus' childhood. At the age when many children today are prepared for confirmation, Jesus studied the Holy Scriptures. Even as a boy, He faithfully applied God's Word.

- At twelve, a Jewish boy assumed full responsibility for his spiritual life. How does this parallel confirmation? Why is confirmation not the end of our religious training?
- What were the first recorded words of Jesus? What did He mean by them?

Closing

- Add the babies and toddlers to your daily prayers; ask God to lift them up to be believers after His own heart;
- Side by side, look at Luke and the Divine Service from a Lutheran hymnal to see how this Gospel is "sung"; (Included is a brief order of Divine Service)
- **Read Luke 3:1–5:11** to prepare for the next lesson.

Confession and Absolution

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

G who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

G and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

G I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Kyrie

G Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria in Excelsis

P Glory be to God on High,

G and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee.

we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

Old Testament Reading

Psalm

Second Reading

Holy Gospel

Nicene Creed

Sermon

Offering

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

Lord's Prayer

- P** Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
- C** For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** Amen.

Agnus Dei

- C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Distribution

Nunc Dimittis

- C** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Salutation and Benedicamus

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And with thy spirit.
- A** Bless we the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

From Morning Prayer Service:

Benedictus

- G** Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
He has come to His people and redeemed them.
He has raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of His servant David.
Through His holy prophets He promised of old
that He would save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers
and to remember His holy covenant.
This was the oath He swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship Him without fear,
holy and righteous in His sight all the days of our life.
- L** You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare His way,
to give His people knowledge of their salvation
by the forgiveness of their sin.
In the tender compassion of our God,
the dawn from on high shall break upon us
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

From Evening Prayer Service:

Magnificat

- G** My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.
My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.
- For he has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.
For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.
- For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;
and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.
- My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.
My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.
- He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.
- He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.
He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his seed forever.
- Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.
My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book
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Weidenschilling, J. M., (2006). *God's Word for Today: Luke*. St. Louis, MO: Concordia Pub. House.