

# Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2025

*“Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Jesus”*



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

## **THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**

December 24, 2025

8:30 PM Service

Coventry Carol	Bell Choir
Advent Alleluia	Adult Choir
A Christmas Music Box	Bell Choir
Little Bitty Babe In a Manger	Adult Choir
Ukrainian Bell Carol	Bell Choir
Still, Still, Still	Pastor Rob and Kimberly
Christmas is Coming	Adult Choir, Kris Briggs, and Jim Conkle
Away in a Manger	Elizabeth Gosnell, Rob, Lincoln, Theodore and Kris Briggs
Little Drummer Boy	Matt Lucas, Kris Briggs, and Jim Conkle

## THE GRACE AND LOVE OF GOD HAS APPEARED

\*The Processional Hymn                      *O Little Town of Bethlehem*                      (ELW) No. 279

\*The Confession and Forgiveness                      (ELW) page 94

P: In the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: God of all mercy.....of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God,.....in the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

\*The Apostolic Greeting                      (ELW) page 138

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

\*The Kyrie (*sung response*)

(ELW) page 138

P:....., let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

\*Hymn of Praise

*This is the Feast*

(ELW) page 140

\*The Prayer of the Evening

**C. O God, You have made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Grant that as we have known on earth the mysteries of that Light, we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

The Psalmody for the Evening

Psalms 110:1-4

<sup>1</sup>The LORD says to my LORD: "Sit at My right hand, until I make Your enemies your footstool."

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD sends forth from Zion Your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!**

<sup>3</sup>Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of Your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of Your youth will be Yours.

<sup>4</sup>**The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind, "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."**

The Second Reading

1 John 4:7-16

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Choir Hymn

*Emmanuel Will Soon Appear*

Adult Choir

The Gospel Acclamation *(sung)*

(ELW) page 142

**C: Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

\* The Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.** (sung after announcement of the Gospel)

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.** (sung after conclusion of the Gospel)

Sermon

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

\*The Hymn of the Evening

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

(ELW) No. 270

## The Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen**

\*Sharing of the Peace

The Offertory

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

(SBH) page 27

\*The Great Thanksgiving

(ELW) page 144

\*The Lord's Prayer

**C: 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. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Lamb of God

(ELW) page 146

\*Communion Hymn

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

(ELW) No. 282

The Distribution

Prayer/Blessing

**The Ushers** will distribute candles to the worshippers as the Adult Choir sings an arrangement of "*All is Well*" by Lloyd Larson.

Following the distribution of the candles, the ushers will process to the chancel.

**(Please stand)** We will read responsively:

P: I am the Light of the World, saith Christ, they that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the Light of Life.

**C: Glory to God in the Highest.**

P: Let your light so shine before all people, that they shall see your good works and glorify your Father Who is in heaven.

**C: And on earth, peace, good will to all.**

The Pastor lights his candles from the Gospel candle, symbolizing The Good News of Jesus Christ. The ushers light their candles from the Pastor's. The ushers take the light of Christ to the worshippers.

"Silent Night"

Bell Ensemble

**(Tilt the unlit candle, not the lighted one.)**

When all the candles are lit, the ushers will come to the altar and all will sing

"Silent Night"

(SBH) No. 16

First verse in German by Pastor and Kimberly with Matt on Guitar

\*The Benediction (sung response)

**C: Amen, Amen, Amen.**

**(Please extinguish the candles after The Benediction)**

\*The Recessional Hymn

*Joy to the World*

(ELW) No. 267

*Merry Christmas to All, and to All a Good Night!!*

**As you leave the church, please deposit the extinguished candles in one of the boxes covered with foil. Thank you!**

**First Lutheran Church**

92 W. Walnut St., Washington, PA

724-225-4040

e-mail: [secretary@flcwash.church](mailto:secretary@flcwash.church)

Online services posted weekly on website:

<https://firstlutheranwashington.church/>

The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

724-705-4050

[revrob@flcwash.church](mailto:revrob@flcwash.church)

Dennis Schmidt, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

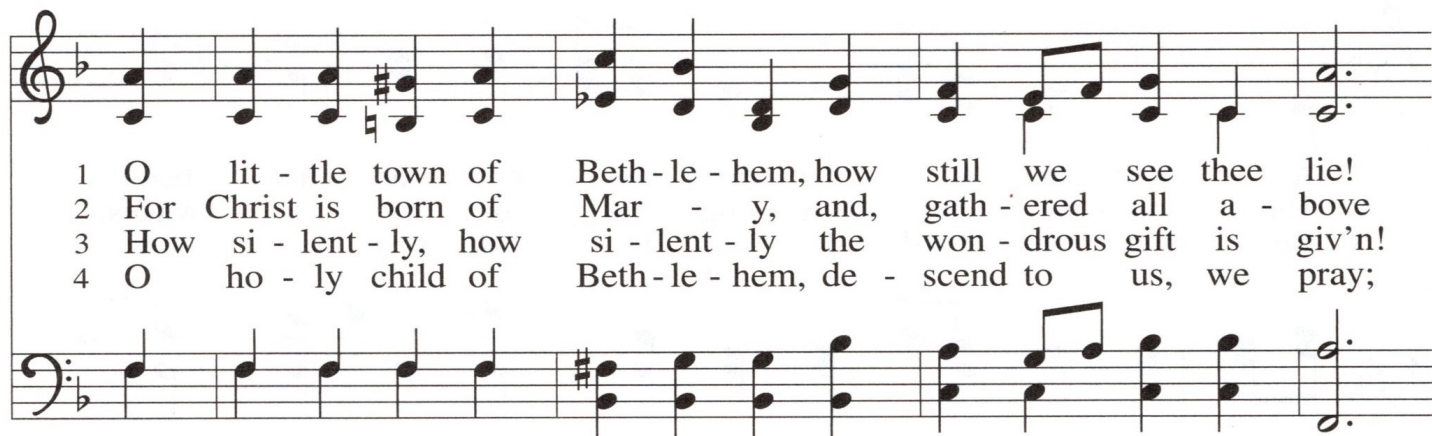
Mark Black, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Matthew Cimino, Organist and Music Director

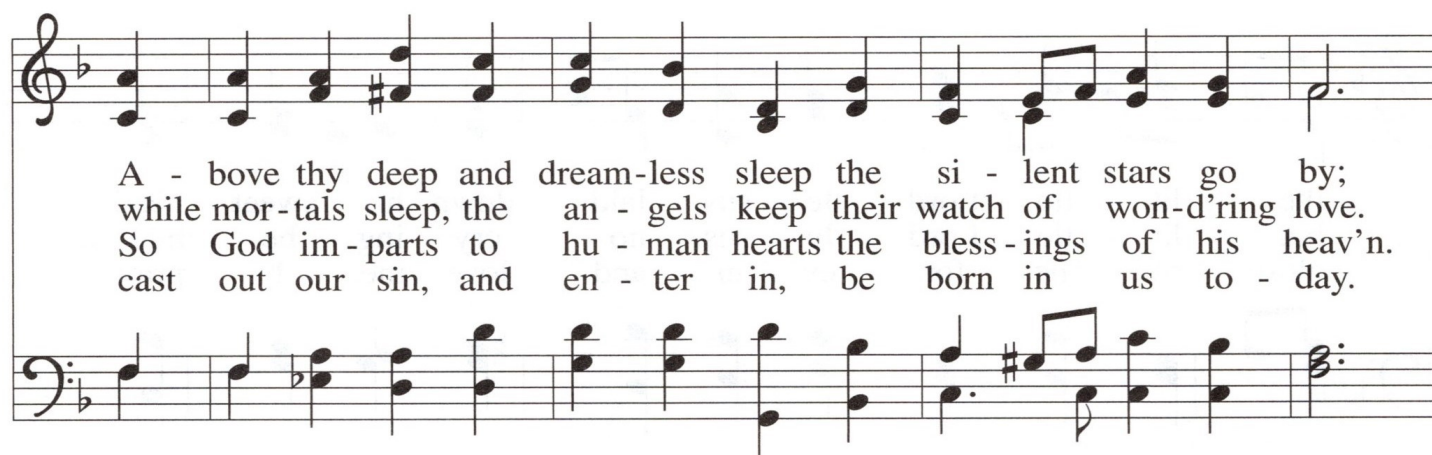
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Acolytes: Heidi and Denico Walsh and Julia Jeffcoat

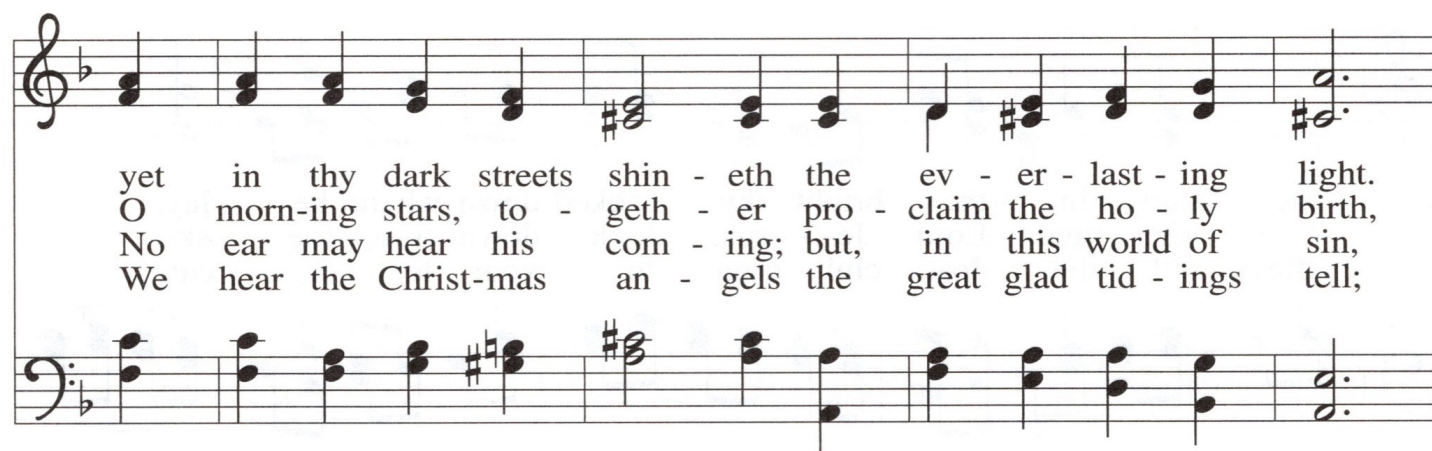
## O Little Town of Bethlehem



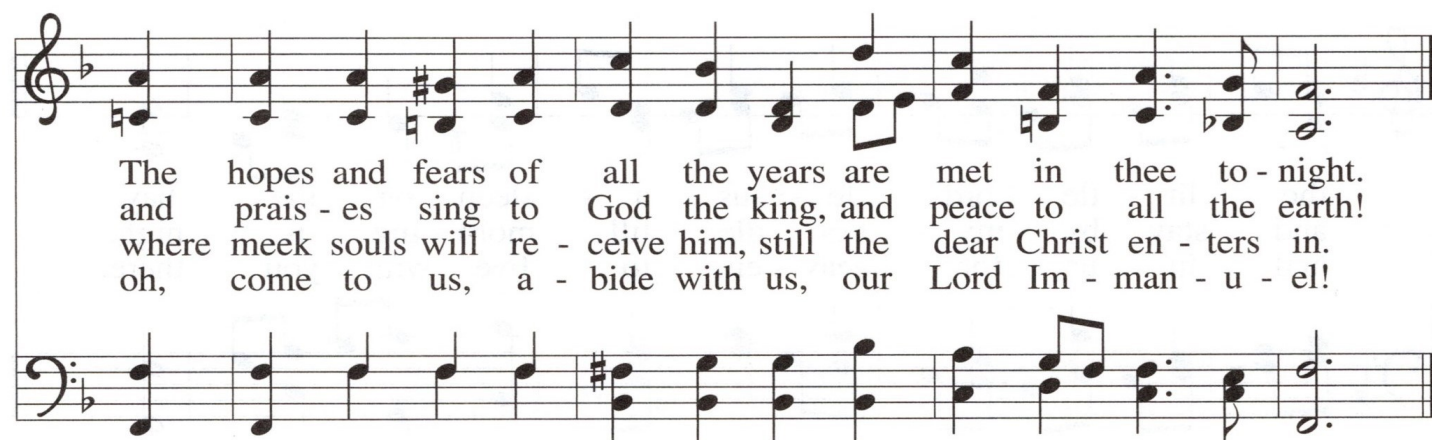
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.  
 So God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



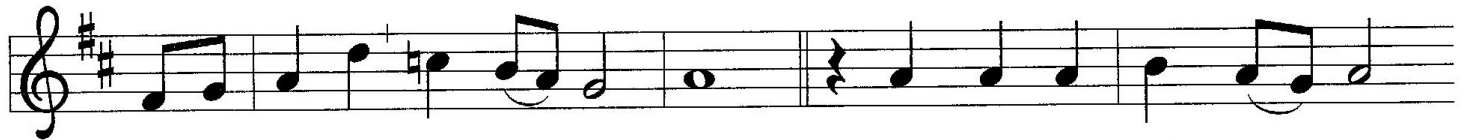
yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
 O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



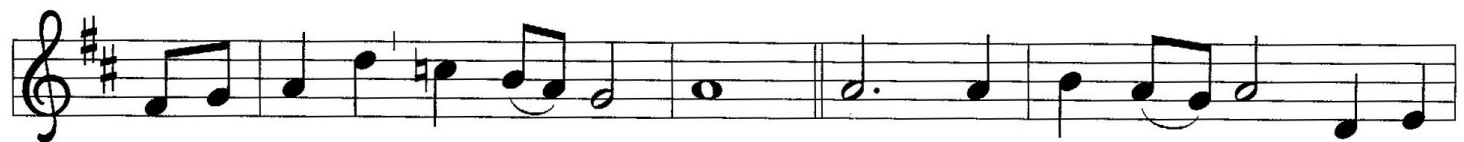
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;  
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
 late in time be - hold him come, off-spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

*Refrain*

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

# The Communion

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -

The first system of musical notation for 'The Communion'. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are 'Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -'.

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

The second system of musical notation. The melody continues from the first system. The lyrics are 'new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -'.

way from thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly

The third system of musical notation. The melody continues. The lyrics are 'way from thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly'.

Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of

The fourth system of musical notation. The melody continues. The lyrics are 'Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of'.

thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.

The fifth and final system of musical notation on this page. The melody concludes with a final cadence. The lyrics are 'thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.'

# It Came upon the Midnight Clear

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1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,  
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.  
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:  
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."  
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,  
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!  
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.



1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, All is calm, all is bright

Round yon Vir - gin Moth - er and Child. Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.

2 Silent night, holy night,  
 Shepherds quake at the sight;  
 Glories stream from heaven afar,  
 Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia,  
 Christ, the Saviour, is born!

3 Silent night, holy night,  
 Son of God, love's pure light  
 Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
 With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
 Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.



# Listening for the Promise

## Sola Publishing – Weekly Devotions

Christmas Eve – December 24, 2025

*“<sup>20</sup>But behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’  
<sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife,  
<sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.”*

- Matthew 1:20-21, 24-25 -

When the angel came to Joseph, he had already made his decision. The angel explained that Mary had been faithful. The child was not of man. Instead, God had chosen her for a very special purpose. Joseph was aware of Scripture and understood the prophecy from Isaiah: *“the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’”*

Imagine his shock when Joseph found out that his own wife would be the virgin mentioned in Scripture. Joseph had an interesting situation on his hands. He was being asked to allow the pregnancy to continue with a child that wasn't his own. This would result in Joseph claiming the child and adopting him as his own. By allowing the baby to be born under his roof, he'd be responsible for the child. But the child would come to save men from their sins. He would be special indeed. Joseph listened to what the angel had to say, and Joseph obeyed. In silent submission, he listened to what the scriptures told him, listened to what the angel told him, and listened to what his heart told him. He knew that others would find out about the pregnancy and assumptions would place guilt on both of them. People would assume that they had relations prior to marriage. Mary and Joseph would be treated as unrighteous in a world where how you were perceived was more important than how you really were.

But he trusted in God that this was the right thing to do. He trusted that God would find a way for Joseph to live with the disgrace that society would see in both Mary and Joseph. In obedience, Joseph denied his own needs, reputation, name and standing among his peers. He chose to deny himself to honor God through obedience to His messenger. He obeyed what the angel told him and let his ego take second seat to following God's will.

It took courage to follow God's will when everything in his fiber told Joseph to divorce Mary. Joseph chose to be humble and place himself after the needs of Mary and the child. He chose to believe in what the message told him and submit to the will of God. But Joseph didn't do it on his own. Joseph needed help with believing the angel's words, like we all do. Joseph needed help to believe that Isaiah's prophecy was coming to fruition: it was happening! Soon! But he certainly didn't have that faith on his own. God gave Joseph the gift of the Holy Spirit to stir up that faith, to give him the ability to believe the angel's proclamation, to give Joseph the ability to submit to God's will.



