ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH – HOLLAND, MN

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***“What Child Is This?”***

The birth of a certain child two thousand years ago in Bethlehem prompted a poet in the nineteenth century to ask a very uncommon question in a hymn: “What Child Is This?” It was an uncommon question because it asked about the birth of a very uncommon child.

What Child Is This? The angel who announced this child’s birth on Christmas Eve answered the question this way: “a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” The hymnwriter answered it this way: “This, this is Christ the king.” They both want to make known the identity of this child.

The goal of this advent mid-week series is to set before us the unmatched blessing of the Lord’s incarnation, [God taking on our human flesh]. Our hymn helps us in this regard by making connections that we might not otherwise make. The sermons draw upon the themes of Holy Scripture and teaches us to appreciate the full range of blessings that are ours through faith in the child who is God from before the foundations of the world, and who was born of the Virgin Mary. Confronted and comforted by this reality, with penitent and hope-filled hearts, we join to sing: “Haste, haste to bring Him laud,” “Hail, hail the Word made flesh,” and “Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!”



December 5th

Sermon: “The Child Who Is Zechariah’s Hope”

Isaiah 40:1–5; Luke 1:5–25

December 12th

Sermon: “The Child Who Is a Virgin’s Great Son”

Judges 13:2–7; Luke 1:26–38

December 19th

Sermon: “The Child Who Is John’s Joy”

2 Samuel 6:12–23; Luke 1:39–45

*IN JESUS’ NAME, AMEN. Pastor David Petrich*