

# Announcement of Jesus' Birth

Luke 1:26-56; Matthew 1:19-25

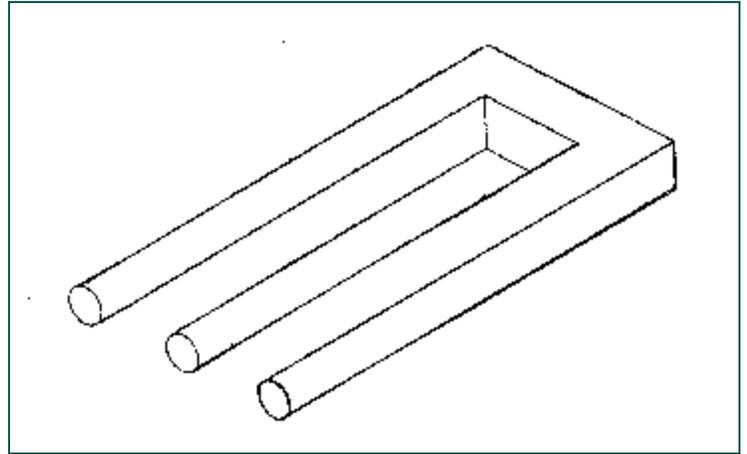
Does this picture seem possible?

Is anything in this picture impossible?

Is anything impossible?

## Prayer

Dear Lord, You alone are capable of what to us may seem impossible. We thank you for accomplishing the miracle birth of Your Son, true God and true man. Be with us as we study Your Word. Through that Word make our faith strong to believe in our salvation which comes through Your marvelous miracle. Amen.



## The Story - Luke 1:26-56

Now in the sixth month 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 of you 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 shall 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.

(39) Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, (40) and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.

(41) And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. (42) Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! (43) But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? (44) For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. (45) Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.”

(46) And Mary said: “My soul magnifies the Lord, (47) and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. (48) For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. (49) For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name. (50) And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation. (51) He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. (52) He has put down the mighty from their thrones, And exalted the lowly. (53) He has filled the hungry with good things, And the rich He has sent

away empty. (54) He has helped His servant Israel, In remembrance of His mercy, (55) As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to his seed forever.”

(56) And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house.

### **Matthew 1:19-25**

Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

(20) But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. (21) And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

(22) So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: (23) “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” (24) Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded Him and took to him his wife, (25) and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

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## Outer Aim - God announces the miracle of Jesus' birth.

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### Recalling Details

Tell how Gabriel, Mary, Joseph, and Elizabeth are important to today's lesson. Find and discuss at least three miracles in today's lesson.

### Discussion Questions

1. Name four people to whom Gabriel had been sent.
2. Why do you think it was so important that Mary be a virgin?
3. How did Gabriel's message show that Mary's baby would be the Savior promised in the Old Testament?
4. Why might Joseph have been inclined to divorce Mary?
5. See if you can find a hymn in the Lutheran Hymnal that is based on Mary's song. Write a prayer verse of your own.

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## Inner Aim - Believers show faith in the miracle of Jesus' birth.

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### Passages

(Isaiah 7:14) "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

(Galatians 4:4-5) But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

(I Timothy 3:16) And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh.

### Hymn

Look at Hymn 274. Paraphrase each verse in a sentence or two.

### Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven, You teach us today that Jesus is both Your only begotten Son and also a human being born of a virgin named Mary. This miracle made Jesus both God and Man, and so our perfect, holy Savior; we know this is a matter of faith. O Lord, strengthen our faith in this and all other mysteries of Scripture, that we may remain Your children now and into eternity. Help us to show our faith with words of praise and deeds of obedience, that blessing may come through us as Your servants. In the name of Jesus, our Savior, we pray. Amen.