

Theme: The Gospel of Luke contains five songs by key participants related to the coming of Jesus that first Christmas, each of which contains rich theological truths to renew our minds and shape our hearts as we prepare for Christmas.

I. Elizabeth's Song of Joyful Blessing (Beatitude)

- A. Theme: Those who delight in the supremacy of Jesus will believe the Word of God and receive the joy of God's deepest, richest blessing.
- B. Text: Luke 1:39-45
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Romans 15:13
- E. Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas; Christology; biblical characters; worship; joy; humility

II. Mary's Song of Exaltation (Magnificat)

- A. Theme: Worship is focused on God and His Gospel, is formed and filled by the Word of God, and arises from personally experiencing God's faithfulness to His people through the ages.
- B. Text: Luke 1:46-55
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Romans 15:13
- E. Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas; biblical characters; prophecy (Old Testament); worship; salvation; humility

III. Zechariah's Song of Prophetic Praise (Benedictus)

- A. Theme: After a season of silence and deep meditation, Zechariah erupted in a song of praise for God's saving work, which had been prophetically promised, and was now coming to fulfillment with the birth of John who would prepare the way for Jesus the Messiah Who would save God's people.
- B. Text: Luke 1:67-79
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Romans 15:13
- E. Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas; biblical characters; meditation and silence; prophecy (Old Testament); salvation and deliverance

IV. The Angels' Song of Glory and Peace (Gloria et Pax)

- A. Theme: The song of the angelic choir announced that Christ had come to bring glory to God and peace to the people of earth.
- B. Text: Luke 2:8-14
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Romans 15:13
- E. Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas; Christology; angels; biblical characters; God's glory; peace; salvation and deliverance

**V. Simeon's Song of Freedom (Nunc Dimittis) -
12/24 Christmas Eve service**

- A. Theme: Simeon is a model of our journey through Advent as he waits, is led by the Spirit, receives Jesus, and then finds true freedom and unshakeable peace, knowing that to have Jesus is to have everything.
- B. Text: Luke 2:25-32
- C. Response: Candle Lighting/Silent Night/O Come All Ye Faithful
- D. Benediction: Luke 2:29-32 paraphrase
- E. Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas; Christology; biblical characters

The First Songs of Christmas - Series Outline
Advent 2024