

Adult Bible Discovery- December 13, 2020:

As we prepare for the coming of the Messiah once again, we also remember that Christ has come. He became Immanuel, that is God with us! For the weeks of Advent, we will be using devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries and their resource entitled *God With Us*. If you are interested in more devotions and studies like this, click on this link: <https://www.lhm.org/advent/> Please also consider giving a donation to LHM to help them bring Christ to the nations and the nations to the Church.

Christmas is a time for reflecting. We think of holidays past and the one that's upon us. As you read the messages of *God with Us*, consider the many ways that God is present in your life—through His Word, your loved ones, the fellowship of believers, Holy Communion, and more. His love for us is personal. He proved that in a Bethlehem manger—God's only Son born for all mankind, so that through the Christ Child we might know life with Him forevermore.

THE TIME CAME

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. (Luke 1:57-58)

The thing about pregnancy is, it comes to an end. Nobody ever stayed pregnant forever (though it feels like it sometimes). I remember when I first found out I was pregnant. Suddenly my world turned into a relentless countdown to birth. There was no way out—it was a one-way ride that would end sometime in May. I was overjoyed, but also terrified.

I wonder if Elizabeth felt like that, facing childbirth? I wonder if you feel like that, facing something that has a predestined end, either good or bad. The days before you start a new job. The senior year of a son or daughter. The final days of a loved one.

Waiting is rarely easy, and God knows it. Maybe that's why He has given us so many good things to get us through—His promises, His Word, the Lord's Supper, each other. Best of all, He has given us His own Son Jesus, our long-awaited Savior. We could have no better companion during these days. He loves us, He has redeemed us, and He will never leave us alone. We can bear our waiting one day at a time, leaning on His strength.

Lord, when I am having a hard time with waiting, please help me. Amen.

Reflect & Discuss:

- 1. What are you waiting for right now?*
- 2. What is the hardest part of waiting?*
- 3. Tell a story about a way God helped you when you were waiting and it was difficult.*