

Matthew 1:21
“Way Down Here”
Advent 2 – Christmas and Carols

December 10, 2017
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
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Grace, Mercy, and Peace be unto you from Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior and God our Heavenly Father. Amen! Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

[Introduction] Incredible! It is truly astounding! Did you notice the direction?
 We don't go up to God!

Seriously! Get over that.

If you've always believed that your goal in life is somehow to make a trek
way up to God === repented! It is simply not true.

Yeah, you can try it if you want.

Go ahead. Be my guest.

Climb as hard as you want.

Build that tower of Babel.

Peek your head through the clouds.

Check out the impressive throne of God.

BUT I've got news for you. It will be empty! God isn't way up there!

[Down Here] HE'S WAY DOWN HERE!

Behold! A Baby is conceived by the Holy Spirit

as the sermon of archangel Gabriel is preached into the Virgin Mary's ears!

Yes, that's right, Mary conceives when God's Word, full of the Holy Spirit, is spoken!

Where is God? He's way down here!

Yes, that Baby is Immanuel!

AND Immanuel means “God with us.”

The prophecy of Isaiah 7:14 is fulfilled!

Did you hear that? God is with us in, with and under the Baby Jesus!

WAY DOWN HERE! Heaven has come to you! God has come to you!

This truth is expressed in the Baby's personal name: “Jesus.”

“Jesus” is the Greek of the Hebrew “Joshua”

which literally means, “The LORD saves.”

Did you catch that? The name “Jesus” means “The LORD or God Himself saves.”

Jesus is the Lord! He is God! And He comes all the way down!

[*Work of Jesus*] To do what?

Hear the Word of God: "***She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.***" (Matthew 1:21)

You **ARE** a sinner. Come on... Don't deny it.

You're a sinner so you need a Savior.

Only God can save. He's Jesus. The Baby Jesus!

So, you see, Christmas is really a First Commandment issue!

"You shall have no other gods."

So, which God shall you have?

The Triune God!

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

One God in three Persons.

Who gives Himself to sinners completely and entirely!

The Father sends the Son.

The Son takes on flesh by the Holy Spirit
in the Virgin's womb.

This Baby Jesus is Immanuel – God with us!

In the body of Jesus "***all the fullness of the deity***" dwells ON THE EARTH (Col 1:19)!

***"God was IN CHRIST reconciling the world to Himself,
not counting our sins against us,"*** (2 Corinthians 5:21)!

You see... God has already come to you!

He is the one who sleeps in Mary's lap.

He is the one who hangs dead on the cross!

He is the one who gives you His saving name in Holy Baptism,
frees you from your sin in His spoken Word of forgiveness,

And He is the one who gives you His Body and His Blood
with the bread and wine in Holy Communion.

Jesus: He is the Lord who saves! Saves you from your sin!

Immanuel: God with us == to save us!

There is no other God! Way down here in the manger! Way down here on the cross!
Way down here for you and for your salvation! Amen.

"Now may the God of peace... equip you with everything good that you may do his will,
through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen." (Heb 13:20-21)