



Growth Group Questions
December 14, 2025
“O Come, O Come Emanuel”

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:39-45

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

Luke 1:46-55

⁴⁶ And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name. ⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. ⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful ⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.”

1 Samuel 2:7-9

⁷ The LORD sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts. ⁸ He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor. _“For the foundations of the earth are the LORD’s; on them he has set the world. ⁹ He will guard the feet of his faithful servants, but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness. _“It is not by strength that one prevails;

Luke 16:19-31

¹⁹“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

²²“The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’

²⁵“But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

²⁷“He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, ²⁸for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’ ²⁹“Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’ ³⁰“‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

³¹“He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

Psalms 98:1-2

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things;
his right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.

² The LORD has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

Lamentations 3:22-23

²² Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. ²³ They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

QUESTIONS

1. Mary’s song, found in Luke 1:46-55, is called The Magnificat, which means “my soul magnifies the Lord.” What does it mean for one’s soul to “magnify the Lord”?
2. What lessons can we learn from Mary’s song?
3. What do you see as the similarities in themes between Mary’s song in Luke 1:46-55 and Hannah’s song in 1 Samuel 2:7-9?

4. Pastor Paul told us that Lazarus is the only name ever mentioned in any of the parables that Jesus told. What do you think is the significance that Lazarus was named in the parable found in Luke 16:19-31 and the Rich Man's name was not mentioned?
5. Pastor Paul said that in the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus, Jesus has a warning for us about how we are to live our lives. What do you think this warning is?
6. The Rich Man was not tormented after death because he had been rich and Lazarus was not rewarded because he had been poor. What do you think was the reason behind where each man ended up after death?
7. What practical steps can we take to be more compassionate and aware of the needs of the marginalized in our community?
8. In Lamentations 3:22-23, we are told that God's compassions or mercies are new every morning. What does it mean that God's mercies are new each day?
9. How does remembering that God's mercies are new each day help you to face daily challenges and difficult times?
10. What helps you to remember God's faithfulness?

PASTOR PAUL'S SERMON QUESTIONS

1. What is an "ebenezer" in your own life – a place where you can look back and say, "God has helped me thus far"?
2. Where do you find yourself in this Advent season (Rich Man or Lazarus) and what does it mean to know that God is with you?