

Sermon
Immanuel Comes
Isaiah 7:10-17
Rev. Dr. Steven P. Mueller

Judah was in desperate straits, threatened by other kingdoms

They didn't need to be afraid with God on their side

But their situation made them anxious – just as we are anxious.

God is not thwarted by our anxiety. He offers them, and us a sign.

We have no right to demand this, but God made the offer.

But King Ahaz refused God's offer. Why?

Isaiah rebukes him and gives him a sign from God

“The virgin shall conceive a bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel”

Luther: this is really two signs

A short-term sign for Ahaz

A long-term sign for all people.

Both are about Immanuel.

Is Immanuel's coming Good News?

The answer depends on how we receive Him.

For Ahaz and Judah it was deliverance followed by a challenge because they put their hope in the wrong thing.

In the fullness of time, God shows the long-term fulfillment.

Mary knew the biological impossibility of her conception, but she believed God's messenger.
God once formed mankind out of the dust of the earth. In sin we returned to the dust.

Now God sends His Messiah – the One born of woman's seed.

Truly human, of His mother's substance, and truly God.

Jesus truly is Immanuel – God with us.

Not merely God among us, but God with us. One with us. Sharing our flesh but not our sin.
Immanuel changes everything, coming to defeat our real enemies.

He becomes God with us so that we can live with God forever.

How will we respond to Immanuel's coming?

Unbelief and rejection? Then we reject His benefits.

But if we receive Him in the faith that He gives, then “to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12)

Thank God, by His grace, we have received Him, and we receive Him still.

Jesus is our Immanuel