



# Advent Vespers Devotional 2020

Tuesday, December 8  
Luke 1:67-79

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

In Hebrew, Zechariah means, “YHWH remembers.” Through this prophecy, God reminds Zechariah of this remembrance, of the hope that God provides. God promised a holy covenant through Abraham that the people would “be rescued from the hands of our enemies and would serve God without fear”.

During times of isolation and division, this promise can feel impossible or so very far away. In the midst of continuing realities of racial injustice, a global pandemic, and division in our country and communities, how can we remember God’s promise? And yet, we are challenged to know and feel in our bones, that “YHWH remembers.” There is hope in remembering, just as God filled Zechariah with the Holy Spirit, we have hope for a future, a day, a moment where the tender mercy of God gives light to our darkness, unites neighbors for the common good and guides our feet into a way of peace. There is hope in a season of waiting, the possibility of what is to come.

*Adrienne Kuchler Eldridge '02*  
*Theology and Public Leadership Program Associate*  
*Christensen Center for Vocation*

**AUGSBURG**  
UNIVERSITY  
Campus Ministry

[www.augsburg.edu/campusministry](http://www.augsburg.edu/campusministry)