

30 Days Together
“Immanuel - God With Us”
#30daystogether

Day #8 – Dec. 3rd

Text: Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Devotion: Linda Bartusch

Therefore. Definitely a word that indicates there has been something building to this point. The prophet Isaiah has just brought the word of the Lord to Ahaz, King of Judah and of the house of David that his kingdom will not be destroyed by its enemies and now he is being invited by the Lord to ask for a sign to confirm this. How many times have we prayed – “Lord, please just give me a sign”? And here is Ahaz getting a personal invitation! But Ahaz refuses, not wanting to test the Lord.

Isaiah, possibly in disbelief, lets Ahaz know that he’s getting a sign from the Lord whether he asks for it or not. And what a sign it is. Not just a random virgin, but the virgin. God has already chosen Mary to be the mother of his son. No need for a gender reveal party. It will be a boy. The relatives will not be weighing in on names for this baby. He will be Immanuel – “God with us” who we see in Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem who will save people from their sins and is the ultimate fulfillment of the prophecy.

Closing Prayer:

“O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind; Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace”. *

Gracious heavenly Father, who knows all our needs and wants before they are even on our lips, thank you for knowing our need for a savior and sending your son Jesus, our Immanuel, to be “God with us”. In this Advent season, in a world that more and more often confounds us, help us to share the good news with one another and with those hearing it for the first time. We ask this all in Jesus’ name. Amen.

*from “O come, O Come, Emmanuel” LSB #357