

4th Week of Advent – Year C

- I. Advent Wreath with the boys
- Evergreens, Berries, Thorns - Prayer & Burgundy Wine
- II. Readings today remind of this
- Hebrews – “When Christ came into the world he said ‘I come to do your will O Lord’ and then “By this *will* WE have been consecrated.”
- Jesus came to be obedient
- Jesus came to do the will of the Father -- What was that?
- REDEMPTION - Atonement
 Think back to Genesis
 Creation was not intended to be left in sin.
 God created that He and His beloved might be together
 That He and His creation IN LOVE would walk in Garden

God’s dignity required Redemption
Sin of Humanity was beyond Humanity’s ability to repay
So God comes to His beloved creation
He comes so close to it, He becomes part of it
As Jesus – God-man As Emmanuel – God with us
CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT CALVARY
It’s why we used red wine with the Advent wreath

Hebrews says “By God’s will, WE have been consecrated
Through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ, ONCE AND FOR ALL

- III. Luke – Mary visits Elizabeth – NOT about Mary coming to care for Liz
Its about Liz recognizing Mary as ‘blessed’ - 3x - why?

“the infant leaped in her womb for joy and Elizabeth, *filled with the Holy Spirit*, cried out

1. Blessed are you among women
2. Blessed is the fruit of your womb
 how does this happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me”
3. “Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled”

Mary is “Blessed” because she believed, she had faith, she was carrying the Lord within her.

NOTE THIS – Mary is ‘blessed’ NOT for what she was herself. But because of Jesus

- For the rest of her life, Mary does what she does here – She brings Jesus to people
- She brings J to world @ Annunciation,
- She brings J to Liz here @ visitation, Again @ Cana she brings stewards to J.
- At Calvary – she’s focused on Jesus
- Every appearance of Mary - Fatima, Lourdes, LaSalette, ALL OF THEM
 Mary points to Jesus (SO SHOULD WE)