

Tonight, the world pauses to rejoice! The angel of the Lord announces to us along with the shepherds, in verses 10-11 of the sermon text: **“Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”**

Luke tells us that as the shepherds heard about the birth of the Savior in Bethlehem, who was wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

There was suddenly a great company of heavenly host praising God and singing, **“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”** (v. 14).

We have titled the song of the angels “Amazing Glory.” The foremost of God’s invisible creation, the angels, were so excited about the new relationship of God with His people that they praised God with everything they had. They glorified God!

God sent his one and only Son to rescue mankind from its sins. The loving act of sending His only Son to become a man in order to bring us back to God describes the awesome glory and honor due His name tonight.

As we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas, we also glorify God as the angels did. We praise Him this evening along with the multitude of the heavenly host. Why do we give glory to God?

The grace of God is shown clearly by God’s only Son becoming one of us. In the coming of Jesus Christ, we have a God who knows the life we live; because He, too, lived it. He is Immanuel—God with us! He came in the flesh to become one of us.

We have been given a gift. The good news of the great joy of God’s grace is **Luke 2:11 “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”**

We sing along with the angels, **“Glory to God in the highest!”** He loves us tonight with an everlasting grace. Despite our sins, He comes to us to be born as our Savior. He became human to die on a cross in our place.

He rose from the grave after three days to win the victory over Sin, death, and Satan once and for all. God made good on His plan to save us and to give us all that we need in this life and for eternity. Indeed, we give glory to God!

As we look at the angels' song, we see that they sang, **“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased” (v. 14).**

When people are asked what they would like for Christmas, so many desire peace. We want to have peace in our families, peace in our world, peace in our nation, and peace in our own hearts. Many people say they especially enjoy Christmas Eve service.

We can finally sit back and focus on the gift of gifts, God's Son, who comes to be our Savior. As the angels promised in their song of amazing glory, the One born for us this Christmas Eve comes to bring peace. God's grace and glory bring us His peace.

I heard about a member of a Lutheran Church, who many years ago, when asked by the pastor how she would be spending Christmas; being 99 years old, she said just like in past years, she would read and ponder the Christmas Gospel from Luke 2.

She would read about how God made good on His promise to send a Savior. She would remember how this little baby grew up to die on a cross for her and to rise again to take away her sins.

She said that this simple time with God is what really “made” her Christmas and brought her peace. What is it that will “make” your Christmas this year and truly give you God's peace?

What really matters to you shouldn't be the condition of your house. It shouldn't matter what gifts you give or receive, or what you eat at Christmas dinner.

What should matter the most is the eternal peace that you have graciously been given by God through His Son, Jesus Christ.

We have the peace of our Savior to know that even if everything went wrong in a worldly way this Christmas, God still cares for us and has a good plan for our lives. We have the peace of Christ to experience and to let overflow in our relationships with others.

His glory and grace give us the peace to reach out in love to others as God loves us. We have the peace of God in Christ to know that one day, when our life on this earth ends, we, too, shall join “with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven [as] we laud and magnify [His] glorious name.”

God’s presence and peace are offered to us again this Christmas. Unfortunately, the attitude of so many today reflects the feelings of the common folk of Bethlehem.

There's just no time, no room for Jesus to be born for them. Satan and sin continually want to shut Jesus out!

We are tempted to think that we can handle life all by ourselves without God in our lives.

We need to know the reality of our situation. **Romans 3:23** reminds us that we all have “fall[en] short of the glory of God.” In our thoughts, words, and actions, we don't live up to what our Maker has a right to expect of us.

The Bible calls this “sin.” We miss the mark of God’s glory! The cold and darkness at this time of the year reminds us of the bleak situation of our hearts and lives by nature. The Lord calls for us to repent of all our sins and trust in him with all our heart.

John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. God sent his son to rescue us from our sins; to bring us forgiveness, life and salvation.

Galatians 4:4-5 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

The Word of the Lord came to the shepherds, announcing the “**good news of a great joy**” (v. 10). The multitude of heavenly host sang their glorious song.

We are told that the shepherds went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus, just as God had told them through the angel.

They worshiped Him and acknowledged Him as the promised Savior of the world.

Even though the world despised them as unclean and unworthy of God's love and favor, those shepherds trusted in God's Son as the one who would love them just as they were.

God gave them the faith to accept His peace and hope. They were able to glorify God along with the angels for the peace that God's Promised One had come to bring—He would take their sins upon a cross and die and rise for them to give them eternal life.

Christmas is about receiving the One who came as a baby, who then went to a cross to die for the sins of all people, who rose again from the grave.

Ultimately, the Christmas glory we celebrate directs our hearts and minds to the One who promises and bestows eternal salvation to all who place their trust in Him.

Our Savior is someone we trust in for more than a day or season. He's our glorious Lord for eternity. In response for what He has done for us, we want to live as faithful disciples in the fruits of the spirit.!

God comes to us! Immanuel—truly God is with us! And along with the angels and the shepherds, and all the faithful believers of the past, we praise God for the glory of His grace, which comes to us so clearly tonight.

We can rejoice in His peace, which He won for us by His coming, His death on the cross, and His resurrection.

Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Amen

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen