

**“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.”**

**Luke 2:10**



During the feast of the Nativity, every year we look forward to celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Praise and glory be to God for allowing us to celebrate this special day. As is written in the Scripture, do not be afraid. I bring you the good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today, let us rejoice together in the day of our salvation.

There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.” The angel told them there would be a sign for them. “You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. Suddenly there appeared with the angel a great multitude of heavenly host, praising God and saying glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men” (Luke 2:12-14). The message of the first angel is confirmed by the multitude.

Indeed this good news of great joy is for all people. Christmas is a renewal of our joy. This is not a simple birthday of one individual. The birth of Christ gives joy to all mankind. God promised Adam and Eve that through the seed of a woman (Eve) our Lord would come to crush the head of Satan. Based on this promise, our forefathers were waiting for this special day. The Lord foretold through the prophets that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. St. Paul summarized it in this way: “In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways” (Hebrew 1:1). Also St. Ephraim the Syrian wrote, “This is the day that gladdened them, the prophets, kings, and priests, for in it were their words fulfilled, and thus were the whole of them indeed performed! For the Virgin this day brought forth Immanuel in Bethlehem.” Additionally St. Paul wrote, “When the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His son, born of a woman, born under the law to redeem those who were under the law that we might receive the adoption as sons” (Galatians 4:4-5).

When the angels saw that the birth of Christ would lead to the human race being reconciled with God, they rejoiced. The angels knew that God did not create Adam and his children to be condemned or to perish. Christ is the beginning of the joyous journey of

salvation and the ending of enmity between God and the human race. Because of the Birth of our Lord, all creation rejoices. The miracle of Christmas – the real miracle – is that Jesus is willing to be born into our hearts! No matter how sinful your life has been, Jesus is willing to come in, enter, and clean your heart.

The birth of Jesus Christ is the greatest mystery in all of history, how God himself became fully human. This cannot be comprehended by the human mind. This spectacular truth is at the center of what we celebrate at Christmas. We call it “the Incarnation,” which means the “in-fleshing” of the divine Son — God himself taking human flesh and blood from our mother, St. Mary. As St. Ephrem the Syrian said “This Lord of natures today was transformed contrary to His nature; it is not too difficult for us to also overthrow our evil will” (Hymns of the Nativity, Hymn 1:97, pg. 74). In John 1:14 “...**The Word became flesh** and made His dwelling among us.” This clarifies the manner in which the Son and Word of God came to His people, pointing specifically to His Incarnation. The Word refers to the eternal Son of God (Jesus Christ).

This shows us to what extent God loves us. Christ strips Himself of His glory and becomes man. This led Him to ultimately give His life on the cross and to rise from the dead. 1 John 4:9-14 says how God showed His love for us. He sent His one and only Son into the world so that we might live through Him. Since God loves us so much, we also ought to love one another—not merely in words but in action. We need to take care our brothers and sisters in need. St. John emphasized the need for true love. “Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth” (1 John 3:18).

#### **Dear beloved brethren of the church and family of God:**

God showed His love to everyone. He was born from a poor family in a manger. A manger is cold, dirty, and dark place. He did not have proper clothes and was wrapped in a swaddling clothes. If we were there, what could we have done to help baby Jesus? We read the angels sang songs of glory. We read the shepherds came with haste and faithfulness. We saw the animals breathing on the child to keep Him warm. We also saw the determination of the foreign wise men who searched for the truth and offered their labor, diligence, and time before offering their precious gifts. If we ask a question to ourselves, what would we have done? There are many people deprived of basic necessities: the new comers, the poor, the orphans. May our closeness today be felt by those who need it. Christmas time is full of wonderful opportunities for us to demonstrate our love for one another and help each other. As God commanded us, we need to love one another and help each other. It is good to give what we can to those who need it the most. May God be praised, and may the people rejoice during this Christmas.

**I wish you all Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
Glory to God, AMEN!**

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