

## ***“For unto YOU is born”***

The world is busy, everyone in a rush. The government is sticking their noses into people's lives, regulating what they do. There are family concerns, pressing concerns – Mary is pregnant – should they be traveling? But they do. They have to. And when they get where they are going – there is no room for you. They are pushed to the margins, the fringes, out of sight.

The shepherds are working the night shift – a lonely life – lived apart from the hubbub of family and world – forsaken by many, despised, looked down upon because of their smelly job.

And into the midst of all this the Church proclaims “good news of great joy that will be for all the people ...”

Man's mindset is that – “If it's for EVERYONE, then it can't be that great, it's not special.” There's the fear of getting lost in the crowd – and the nagging question of whether God is FOR ME.

There are many who are lonely, forsaken – stressed by family and frustrated by the world's taxing burdens. Many who are not HERE to HEAR the good news. Many who are HERE who HEAR and wonder – is this good news FOR ME?

God's Word is clear. “For unto YOU is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” That's like John 3:16. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” Or, 1 Timothy 2:4 where it says that our Savior “desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

1 John 2:2 says that Jesus Christ “is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.” And Mark 16:16 – “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”

God's Word is clear, and yet, we need assurance. Our sin keeps showing our unworthiness – the world says you have to make up for all your wrongs – the devil lies about God, and about you, so that you despair – so that you believe his lies, that God does not love YOU.

That's why the Lord continues to announce and deliver this "good news of great joy" to you, personally. The Savior says that what I've done for ALL, I've done FOR YOU. – and He means you, each and every one of you – no exceptions, no exclusions.

This is why God comes from heaven above in the first place, and takes on human flesh – in order to save sinful, humans. Do you have flesh and blood? Then Jesus came FOR YOU. Just as God created you and gave you life – so Jesus has redeemed your life – and the Holy Spirit sanctifies your life.

Jesus, the Savior born FOR YOU – preaches His good news of forgiveness, life and salvation to you – and He says, when you hear my Word preached, you are hearing me. As I said before, many are not HERE to HEAR this good news – so I say to you – tell them of this "good news of great joy" which is also FOR THEM.

Jesus, the Savior born FOR YOU – cleanses you from all that soils you. By His washing He makes you to be heirs of His Kingdom – the isolated and lonely are children of God, brought into the family of Our Father who art in heaven, and given a home with their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly nourishes and sustains your faith in Jesus as YOUR SAVIOR. And in a world that loves to promise all kinds of saviors and salvations – the good news announced to you this day is that this Savior, Jesus, who is born FOR YOU – is none other than "Christ the Lord."

Jesus is truly God. God Himself, FOR YOU – for your salvation. Dearly beloved, hear the "good news of great joy" once again – "FOR UNTO YOU is born this day ... a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Amen.

The peace of God which passes all understanding, guards your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.