

From Heaven For You

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” – the angel says – because I have “good news of 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.”

How great to hear this Gospel from the Lord Himself – His good news announced by His angel – which we heard this evening, from the mouth of these children. How great to hear them sing this Gospel – as they sang Martin Luther’s Christmas hymn.

The hymn is from the perspective of the angel – the messenger sent by God with His message to proclaim. Good news – a Savior who is none other than God Himself, “the Christ, our Lord most high.” God Himself “hears your sad and bitter cry” and promises that He will be your Savior – One who will set you free from all your sins.

What Good News – what WELCOME good news! “Welcome to earth, O noble Guest.” NOBLE GUEST indeed. Can you imagine a greater guest? God Himself – who not only created you and gave you life – but is the Creator of all things and the Lord of life – coming to be YOUR guest?

And the stanza continues – “You came to share my misery.” Wait! What? This doesn’t sound right. This isn’t what one thinks of when they think of a NOBLE GUEST. But this is the Good News – the Gospel that mankind would never know, or think of, or believe – unless the angel comes from heaven to proclaim this good news.

God humbles Himself. The hymn is full of adjectives describing God Himself who comes From Heaven to Earth – lowly, weak, poor, small, rough. The one and only true God – who is eternal, without beginning and without end – humbles Himself to take on human flesh.

What a great mystery – God as man. Again, such good news must be revealed – or we would never know it, or believe it. God is BORN in human flesh – He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of DEATH, even death on a CROSS.

How far would you go for someone for someone you love? The irony is that the one we love often says – “don’t go out of your way.” It’s a humbled response – one with embarrassment or shame lurking in the background – a confession that “I don’t deserve this.”

When someone goes so far as to walk around the car to open your door. When the volleyball star Merritt Beason goes to far as to visit a little girl named Merritt in the hospital. When someone travels all this way to spend Christmas with you.

God comes all this way – From Heaven Above to Earth I Come – FOR YOU. It’s not just an angel, it is God Himself – who comes in the flesh – who comes to Bethlehem – who is laid in a manger – and who comes to you this night in the very words of this “good news of great joy that shall be for all the people” – YOUR Savior going out of His way – from heaven to earth – FOR YOU.

Such is His love for you – and such is the certainty of your salvation. God Himself has come to set you free from your sins – He goes out of His way to earn salvation for sinners – and He goes so far as to come to you this night, to give His salvation to you.

A blessed Christmas to you – rejoicing that God goes out of His way – FOR YOU.
Amen.

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