

LK2:1 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

2:2 This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria.

2:3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

2:4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,

2:5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.

2:6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered.

2:7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

2:8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

2:9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

2:10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.

2:11 "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

2:12 "And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

2:13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

2:14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

2:15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."

2:16 And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

2:17 Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.

2:18 And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

2:19 But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.

2:20 Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

2:21 And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

From today's sermon.

What cruel words, "There was no room for them in the guest room." What a cruel thing to say. On a cold, dark night, when Mary was so heavy, Joseph must have desperately looked around for a place to put her to sleep. How much he must have pleaded with her, even if it was only for one person. However, their desperate efforts were in vain, and the situation continued to progress. They had a hope that she might be able to give birth after returning to Nazareth from this registration. They had their predictions and hopes, but they were missing the mark at every turn.

'But while they were staying in Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to her firstborn son when the moon was full, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger. For there was no room for them in the guest room..."

I am reminded of this verse in 1 John 1. He came to his own, but his own people did not receive him."

But here's the thing. All of this was God's plan and deep consideration. All these sufferings and unthinkable things were "signs.

For "Today is born to you in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This is the Christ the Lord. You will see a little child wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. That is the sign given to you.

God took our place and made us His children in order to save us from losing our place in heaven.

Happy Christmas, everyone!

It was another snow day this morning, making it a white Christmas.

Yesterday we passed the winter solstice, and from now on the days will gradually get longer. The light will extend its power. This is appropriate for the birth of Jesus, the "true light that shines on all people. Yes, it is so. As in the words of this prophecy by Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist.

You, little child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High. For thou shalt go before the Lord, and prepare his way, and make known unto his people salvation through the forgiveness of sins.

This is according to the merciful will of our God. And by his mercy the light of day will come upon us from above, shining on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and will guide our feet in the way of peace.

As we read today of this joyous event of the Lord's birth, and celebrate with thanksgiving and

glad joy “Merry Christmas,” which I assume means “Happy Christmas,” what we see here is the Lord's humility and sacrificial love.

As verse 7 says, “For there was no room in the parlor for them.

We are reminded of 1 John 1:9, where it says

1:9 There was a light of truth to lighten all men, and he came into the world.

1:10 He was in the world. And the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

1:11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

Now let us continue reading today's verses.

2:1 In those days an edict came from the emperor Augustus, commanding that a census be taken of the whole world.

2:2 This was the first census that was conducted when Cranio was governor of Syria.

2:3 All the people returned to their cities to register.

2:4 Joseph also, being of David and of his lineage, left Nazareth, a city of Galilee, and went up to Bethlehem, a city of David in Judaea.

Emperor Augustus was the first emperor of the Roman Empire and remained emperor for more than 50 years, from 40 BC to 14 AD. And Cranio was governor of Syria from 6-7 A.D. Joseph, being of Davidic descent, went to Bethlehem, the city of David.

Samuel 16:18 And a young man answered, “I have seen the son of Essai, a Bethlehemite, a man of fine figure, skillful on the harp, courageous, a shrewd man, and of a good tongue; and the Lord is with him. And the Lord is with him.

16:19 Then Saul sent a messenger to Esaiah, saying, “Send to me your son David, who herds sheep.

God has established a king who will succeed to the throne of David through his descendant, Mary, Joseph's wife, and who will be the Lord and ruler over God's people forever.

Luke 1:31 Behold, thou shalt conceive and bear a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus. And you shall name him Jesus.

1:32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,

1:33 He will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and his dominion will endure forever.

But in welcoming such a great king, how did the world welcome him?

2:6 But while they were sojourning in Bethlehem, Mary, when the moon was full,  
2:7 And she gave birth to her firstborn, and wrapped him in a cloth and laid him in a manger.  
And she wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the guest room.

But while they were in Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to her firstborn, and wrapped him in a cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the guest room. The distance from Nazareth to Bethlehem is about 110 kilometers. This must have been an arduous journey for Mary, who was heavily pregnant, and for Joseph as well.

What bad timing, I say, for the birth to be prematurely scheduled on such a journey.

It often happens to us that our thoughts, desires, and plans fail us, and we say to ourselves, "By the way.

But while they were staying in Bethlehem, the moon was full in Mary..."

How many times before that, Joseph had to run around with his feet on sticks looking for a place to stay for Mary, who had been kidnapped. How earnestly did he run around looking for a place to stay for his pregnant wife? I wonder how many times he has gone out of his way to ask for a place to stay for at least one person, just for her, because he didn't need a place for himself. How many times did they ask for more than they were willing to pay, even more than the market rate, for the sake of Mary, even though they could not afford it? But is there no such thing as mercy for people? There was a reason that people were pouring in to register as residents, but at last, at long last, there was no room for them anywhere in the guest room. What sadness, what frustration, what disappointment and disappointment! And finally, their place was in the stable, and the bed of the baby Jesus was a manger. What a pity.... Why is it that the sun is so cold-hearted, so stubborn, so ungrateful, so ungrateful to God? Why do people thoroughly refuse to give God the throne in their hearts, not even preparing a guest room, but abandoning it outside and not responding when God keeps knocking on the door of our hearts?

For there was no room for them in the drawing room."

Hymn 124: "Mimikuni o mo mikura wo mikura  
Let us leave our country and our treasury  
I have put it behind me  
No home for the departed Jesus  
There is no home for him

Dwell, O Lord

Here, in this bosom

Your voice is loud in remembrance

Though I praise Thy name

But the Son of God was born in a lowly house

He was born in a lowly house

Dwell, O Lord

Here, in this breast

Even foxes have holes

Though birds have nests

But the Son of Man is above the earth

Sleeping on the earth

Dwell, my son

Here, in this bosom

You who are connected to me

And you, who have come forth

I shall be buried on Calvary.

O wretchedness of man!

Dwell, O Lord

Here, in this bosom

But these words, “for there was no room for them in the drawing room,” were actually addressed to us.

We have sinned, we have been driven from the garden of God, we are in deep disconnection, sin brings death, and there was no room for eternity, was there? As in the parable of the prodigal son, we are no longer called to be children of God, and with God there is no room for us anymore. The Lord was born to take away that sin, death, curse, fear, loss, loneliness, and sorrow. He experienced everything and surrendered everything to be a substitute for us and made room for us to live.

John 14:1 “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God and believe in me.

14:2 In my Father's house are many dwellings: if it had not been so, I would have said so. If it had not been so, I would have said so. 14:3 And go and prepare a place for yourselves.

14:3 And when the place is ready, I will come again and receive you unto myself. For where I am, there you shall be also.

14:4 For I know where I am going, and the way is known unto you.

14:5 Thomas said to Jesus, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?

14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except by Me.

14:7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. But now you know the Father, and you have already seen Him.

2:8 Now there were shepherds in the region, keeping watch over their flocks by night in the field.

2:9 And the angel of the Lord appeared, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were greatly afraid.

2:10 And the angel said, "Do not be afraid. Behold, I tell you of a great joy that will be given to all people.

2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. This is the Lord Christ.

2:12 And ye shall see a little child lying in a manger, wrapped in a cloth. That is the sign given to you.

2:13 And immediately there appeared a great multitude of the heavenly host, and they were with the angel, and they rebuked God, saying, "This is a sign given to us, that we have seen the Son of Man, who is the God of heaven,

2:14 "Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth peace to whom he will.

Shepherds were responsible for growing an important source of food, but their irregular work schedule made it difficult for them to observe the Sabbath. They were often regarded as people at the bottom of the social ladder. Yet, they were the first to receive the invitation to be honored worshipers of Jesus.

Luke 5:30 But the Pharisees and their scribes murmured against Jesus' disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?

5:31 Jesus answered and said, "The healthy do not need a physician. It is the sick who need a physician.

5:32 I have not come to invite the righteous, but sinners to repentance. 5:33 And they said to Jesus, "John's disciples often fast and pray, and the disciples of the Pharisees do so, but

your disciples eat and drink."

5:34 Then Jesus said, "Can you make the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them?

5:35 But the day is coming when the bridegroom will be taken away. On that day you will fast."

2:12 And you will see a little child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger. That is the sign that will be given to you.

The birth in Bethlehem, which was the only thing he wanted to avoid, was the sign that testified that Jesus was the King who was to receive the throne of David. And why on such a stable manger... and that environment in which the best bed was found only on the manger, was a sign of God's humility to lie down and be present in our cold, self-centered and smelly hearts, our true hearts. It was a sign.

It was an easy sign for the shepherds to look for, because it would have been impossible to find a baby sleeping on top of an ordinary inn, and it would have been impossible to look for a baby on top of a stable.

Likewise, the absurdity of the Righteous One being crucified for no sin is also a sure sign of God to us. It is a salvation for those of us who have lost our place in heaven, a salvation to make us God's children. As a sign for this, the Lord was born on a manger and died on a cross. Blessed are those who see this sign of salvation, this sign of God's humility and love, and who, like the shepherds, joyfully come to worship the Lord Jesus and gladly tell others about it.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for today's worship. There was no room in the inn to receive the Lord Jesus, and though He came to His Kingdom, His people did not accept Him. But that was a fitting sign for Jesus, who would eventually take up His place on the cross of the curse. In this way, He gave us a place in heaven. Please bring all sufferers into God's salvation and peace. Bless our families and our communities. Use us. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.