



## Unto you: The JOY of the Incarnation God Becomes Flesh

<sup>11</sup>“For *unto you* is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

God took on flesh and came to this world not as a stern judge but “for you.” <sup>10</sup>“Fear not, for behold, I bring you GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY that will be for all people. <sup>11</sup>For *unto you* is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2).

Martin Luther once wrote: “The little word ‘you’ should make us *glad*...Now then what are you? Who am I? Are we not all human beings? Yes, and who other than people are to receive this child? The angels have no need of Him; the devil does not want Him. We, however, need Him, and for our sakes He became man. It behooves us, therefore, to welcome Him with *gladness*, as the angel here says, ‘For *unto you* a Savior is born.’ It is not a great wonder that an angel from heaven comes to bring this message to mankind, that many thousands angels thereupon also *rejoice*, urging and preaching to us people to *rejoice* over and embrace this graciousness with thanksgiving? We must write the words ‘unto you’ with letters of fire into our hearts and welcome the Savior’s birth most *gladly*...Life is too narrow really, our hearts too small, for us to be able to apprehend, let alone comprehend, this *tremendous joy*...This *gladness* is so great that were the human heart fully to assimilate it, body and soul would be torn apart and the person would expire. (Martin Luther, *Sermons of Martin Luther: The House Postils*, ed. Eugene F. A. Klug [Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996], 1:117-18)

Can that be said of us as we gather for worship? Can visitors point at us and say, “Those are a JOY-filled people! The pews are filled. They sing with all their hearts! They respond with attentive and attuned ears to the Scripture readings and sermon. They kneel reverently at the rail. They warmly and joyfully greet one another with the love of Christ.” If not, why not? What has robbed you of the JOY of being given the Christ?

This Christmas Season, hear anew the “unto you” portion of the Gospel from God. Cling with all your heart to this reality: when God viewed life from eternity, He did not want to spend a single moment of it without you. Therefore, He was willing to move heaven and earth to make a way for Him to be with *you!* Because of His great love *for you*, you stand to inherit all of Paradise because God became man to deal with that which separated us from Him; namely sin. Rejoice too, in that, He set the stage for a grand reunion with those you love who have preceded you, in faith, to heaven. That’s the *for you* part of the Gospel.

A very Merry and JOY-filled Christmas be *unto you!*

*Pastor Szczesny*