

Luke 2  
“Savior for YOU”  
Advent 2

December 9, 2018  
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
Rev. Brent Hartwig

Grace, mercy, and peace be unto you from God, our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen! Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

**[Introduction]**

The Virgin Mary gives birth!

The Baby — a Boy! Paint the walls blue.  
Get blue onesies and blue blankets too.  
Buy a baseball and bat!

***“And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.”***

So He’s born. So what? Maybe you don’t know — Lots of women given birth.  
So what’s the big deal?  
Setting apart the virgin part... what’s the big deal?

**[Angel]**

Well, I am glad you asked. I’m delighted to give you the answer.  
After all, it’s huge.  
Heaven breaks wide open.  
Lo and behold – straight from heaven to earth — out pops —  
A PREACHER!

***“And an angel of the Lord appeared.”***

Angels usually preach.  
They’re messengers. It’s one of the things they do best.

The angel’s sermon tells you what the birth of Mary’s Son means.

You’d better pay attention to the angelic sermon.  
Now is not the time to fall asleep or daydream,  
Or make your Christmas list or check it twice.

Don’t do that. I beg you.  
Hear the angel’s sermon. It’s gospel, good news!  
He preaches the meaning of this Baby’s birth.

***“I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people,”***  
the angel begins. Then he gets right to the point. Wastes no time.  
He gives the clincher.  
***“For unto you is born this day in the city of David***  
***A SAVIOR who is Christ, the Lord.”***

[***Savior***]

Did you catch it? You weren't nodding off already were you?

The angelic sermon preaches the Baby as THE SAVIOR!

The long expected Messiah – in Hebrew  
Christ – in Greek – has come! The one who sets us free!

Because of the original sin of our first parents, we were slaves.  
We had lost the right to be children of God and heirs of heaven.  
Sin and death held us in bondage.

Jesus set us free by paying the price of his own blood shed on the cross.  
Through his obedience and suffering he brought us back to God,  
to God's grace and life.

We say he made atonement for our sins.  
In other words, he made us to be “at one” with God again.  
He repaired our friendship with God

Jesus saves you!  
From all your sin. From death. From hell. From Satan.

[***You***]

The angelic sermon preaches the Baby as THE SAVIOR!  
And not just generic savior but THE SAVIOR FOR YOU!

Baby Jesus is born to save you!  
That's what He does. It's His specialty. His uniqueness! His gift!  
Only He can do it. Because the Baby is God in the flesh. FOR YOU!

Christmas isn't just a historical trivia fact that comes in handy  
during Jeopardy or during a Trivia Challenge.

Christmas isn't just an example of righteous living,  
which is used to teach righteous living.

So why did God record the Christmas history for us? “

The angel does not simply say, Christ is born, BUT to you He is born,  
neither does he say, I bring glad tidings, BUT to you I bring glad tidings of great joy.

The Christmas history wasn't written only to inform;	the Christmas history WAS written to inspire faith.
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The Holy Spirit recorded these words through Luke  
so that you might trust  
that Christ did all of His saving work for you.

Look back at the meanings of the three articles of the Apostles Creed  
and you will see the same thing.

You are the reason for the season.  
Jesus, the Son of God, was born in a lowly, stinky stable for your salvation.

Maybe you have heard “Jesus is the Reason for the Season.”  
That isn't bad. After all we try to make Christmas about anything other than Jesus:  
snowmen, reindeer, santa,  
cookies, presents and bells...

But at the end of the day, Jesus didn't come for himself. He came for you!

Believing that Jesus is the SAVIOR born for YOU...  
That's spelled: F-A-I-T-H.

The shepherds believed Him to be the Savior.  
So did Mary.

She *“treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.”*

**[Conclusion]**

So will you.

[Tonight/today] you heard again the Christmas story.

And you will hear it again next week and the next.

Each time you hear it ... the gospel brings you good news of great joy.

For you,

the Savior Jesus the Christ has been born.

God is at peace with you.

God is pleased with you.

All because of ....

the baby born in Bethlehem and the crucified of Calvary...

All because of Jesus! Amen!

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REJOICE always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. AMEN! (1 Thess. 5:16–18)

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