



The long promised Savior had come as announced by the angels, **“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” St. Luke 2:11.** The first promise of the Savior is made after Adam and Eve fell into sin in the Garden when God said: **“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel” Genesis 3:15.**

The divide between man and God is one that cannot be restored by sinful humanity. Adam and Eve had once known God in the perfect relationship. Now they had completely shattered the perfect creation. In sorrow, they knew they could not restore it, so they hid from God. However, God in His mercy, went looking for them. Along with the consequences of sin listed by God there was also the promise; forgiveness through the Savior. Adam and Eve were uplifted by this promise. They looked forward to restoration made through God's promise of the Savior. In the promise, they understood God's love for them and His desire to give salvation.

When the angels made the announcement of the Savior in **St. Luke 2:11**, the promise God made to Adam and Eve had come in the birth of Jesus. Jesus is the joy of mankind as the Word becomes flesh **St. John 1:14.** The baby the shepherds will find in the manger appears as any other child. Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary, **“wrapped in swaddling cloths and laid in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn” (St. Luke 2:7b)** is the very manifestation of God's love as He gives His own Son for all.

God's love sends His Son to be our Savior born in human flesh to redeem His fallen creation by His grace. The Creator Himself takes what begins as a great conflict between the serpent against man (including man's rebellion against God) and goes to our defense: His work of redemption for us in reconciling us to God and defeating our enemies, sin, death and the devil.

Jesus, our Redeemer possessed no sin, no evil thought, no malice, nothing in the nature of Christ was or is contrary to the will of God the Father. God's very essence, which is love, moved Him through Christ to redeem and save His creation, thus the promise of the Savior and the delivery of that promise in the birth announced by the angels. By the mercy of God, man was rescued through the grace of God in His only begotten Son Jesus, the Word made flesh Himself.

In taking on human flesh, the Word, the very Creator Himself, the Second Person of The Holy Trinity, is still God even as He is True Man. **“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy-the Son of God” St. Luke 1:35.** These words teach; **“The divine and human natures in Christ are personally united”**

(reference from The Formula of Concord, Epitome VIII 5). God comes into human history as fully human to die on the cross in our place, and is fully God in order to rise after His death and time in the grave to overcome death for us. In this, Jesus defeats the serpent (Satan) and all his domination over us forever. Now, we are His through what He has done for us and for our salvation.

With the beginning of December this year, we are now in the season of Advent. The season of Advent teaches that Jesus took on our human flesh (**John 1:14**) so that He could suffer and die for us while living out the law for us which we could not. We are also pointed to Christ's return in judgment during the season of Advent when all who believe in Christ will be taken into eternity with Him. Advent which simply means (coming) points us to Christ's coming again at the Last Day while giving us a fresh reminder of His first coming as the Savior who was born in the city of David our Savior who is Christ the Lord.

From before the very foundations of our world were established, God's redemption and salvation for us was set firmly in place by God's Divine grace. Nothing, not even the devil's most vile attacks can shake God's love for us in Christ. All through Scripture, we read of God's promises made, kept and delivered through Christ. The seasons of Advent and Christmas (12 days) are the marvelous comfort of God's love by the first promise of the Savior (**Genesis 3:15**) to the announcement of God's promise having come to earth (**St. Luke 2:11**) to the work of redemption completed through Christ alone (**St. John 19:30**) to the resurrection (**St. Matthew 28:6**) assuring us that God the Father has accepted His sacrifice and we too will rise again to live with Him forever. God's promises made and God's promises kept!

**“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased” St. Luke 2:14.**

God's Blessings to all of you this Advent and Christmas!

In Christ, Pastor Ahrendt, Donna & our family