



St John Lutheran Church

1017 Montana
Libby, MT 59923
(406)293-4024

Luke 2:1-20

"Delivered to You!"

"So it was, that while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And also Luke 2:11, For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

When all was still and it was midnight, your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne (Wisdom 18:14-15). **The whole world** was still when Mary brought forth her firstborn Son. **It is as if** all of creation was waiting on tiptoe to peek into the manger in Bethlehem... **just to** get a look at the one prophesied from so long ago. **Who will get** a glimpse of the baby? **Will kings see** Him... **will royalty ...or those** in power or authority? **Who will have** the honor of receiving the newborn King of the Universe? **Who will have** the honor? **Who will get** the privilege and prize?

The world sat in the darkness of sin. **That darkness was deep. It was the** darkness of fear and death. **It was the** darkness of pain and suffering from sin the world over. **There was a** stillness over the earth from this shadow of death which covered all people. **As Isaiah said** in chapter 9 (v. 2): **"The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined."** **This darkness, this** shadow of sin and death looked like it had control over the whole world. **But it was not so.**

When all was still and it was midnight,...**your Almighty** Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne. **Mary brought forth** her first-born son in the middle of night... **in the** darkness of our sin and death. **For you see,** Jesus Christ the Son of God doesn't enter into the world with a show of power and might. **He entered into** the world of darkness... **the darkness** of our sin and death. **That is where** He came in. **For He came** into the world to bright light... **the true** light of the only-begotten Son of God. **He came to** bring the light and to shine that Gospel... **that Good** News of salvation to all the world. **The people who** walked in darkness Have seen a great light. **The light didn't** come from us. **We are darkened** and in the shadow of death. **We are blind** by our own greed and sin. **But Christ came** into the world... **into our** darkness... **to shine** the Truth of the Gospel to all the world.

Understand the great wonder of this...**the Son** of God...**the Prince** of the universe...**He who** has untold and unfathomable power and might...**this Son** of God came to be the Son of man. **He Came from** above to reveal Himself from below. **He came not** to rule with an iron hand and not to conquer with His unchallenged Glory and Might...**but He** came humble and poor...**He became** the

lowliest so that He might take us into Himself ...**He came** to make us His own...**He came** to restore us to our Heavenly Home!

And God's timing is always perfect... **the events** of this world always work out as He would see fit in the end. **The days were** accomplished that she should be delivered. **Catch the double** language here. **Mary would be** delivered of the Christ-child. **She would be** delivered from her sin. **Who**

would deliver her? **Only Jesus could** deliver her. **So the bearer** of the Son of God would be saved... **would be** delivered by her own flesh and blood.

Jesus came into earth as a little child. **He came in** the same way you and I came into earth... **through the** womb of His mother. **But He didn't** have the amenities we have today to insure his safety. **There was no** hospital. **There was no** doctor or nurses to make sure mother and child were safe. **They were there**, Mary and Joseph... **alone on** a cold Palestinian night. **And Mary brought** forth the Son of God and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a feed-trough for livestock. A more humble advent could hardly be imagined.

"**When all was still and it was midnight, your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.**" **This Jesus began** His life on earth as the poorest of the poor. **No place to live... no comfort... no safety** at all. **He lived His** life here as the humblest of all. **Not even a** roof over His head. **He became the** poorest of all so that you could be rich... **rich with** God's mercy and light... **rich with** life and salvation... **rich with** forgiveness. **Jesus Christ came** into the world so that you might have forgiveness... **real forgiveness** that comes only through death and resurrection. **He came into** the world to die so that you might live forever.

So it is that we join the shepherds in hearing the song of the angels... **Glory be to God on high and on earth peace, good will toward men.** **The song of** the angels is now our song. **We sing glory** be to God on high because God's Peace now dwells in our midst. **Jesus Christ... the Prince of Peace ... even now** descends from His royal throne to make your heart His throne.

He comes to you with Words of forgiveness. **He comes to** give you Himself. "**Take eat, this is My Body... take drink... this is My Blood.**" **His Almighty Word** descends from Heaven today... **at this** very hour... **and comes** wrapped in the swaddling cloths of bread and wine. **On the outside** they appear but nothing, but they contain the very Son of God... **the Word** made flesh for you.

"**When all was still and it was midnight, your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.**" **So come to** the Table of the Lord! **Sing with the** angels of Heaven of the Mighty Savior who comes as a little babe.

Sing the song of salvation! **Sing with joy** of the love of God who comes to earth as one of His children. **Sing and rejoice**, for Christ has taken on your flesh and blood. **He has become** one of us... **so that** we can be one with Him.

Who will receive Him... Who has the honor?

You do... for He came to earth for you. **He died for** you. **He rose again** from you. **And He will bring** us home to be with Him... **where there** is light eternal... **and where** there is no more death... **no more** sorrow or pain.

In the Name of Jesus Christ, the Son of Mary and Son of God. Amen.

Christmas Day, 2007

Rev. Eric M. Christiansen
St. John Lutheran Church
Libby, Montana