

Tonight you will hear the greatest sermon ever preached by a messenger from the Lord. And you will not leave this place the same. Your life will forever be changed. It's a really long sermon, so get comfortable. No, it's just 38 words long. **Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.**

**Fear not.** You are anxious about many things, much uncertainty in life.

**For behold,** the endearment of your God to have you, bring this to you, what's been long foretold, is in your life.

**Good news of great joy, for all people** - the Gospel, this news, beyond all thought and imagination, more than you can have ever prayed for, hoped for, **great joy** that has come to you, joy that will not ever end. **All people**, reaches your ears too. This proclamation shakes the foundation of the earth and resonates into your life.

**Unto you,** for you. **Born,** God has become man, joined Himself to our flesh, that your flesh will be glorified.

**This day,** God always faithful to deliver on His promises. This day. That for your day our God is still a man, faithful to deliver on His promises for you.

**in the city of David,** the promise of a King to follow David to rule forever, **a Savior,** to save from what? Your sin, your death, your brokenness, your hopelessness, to save from your failures, to save you eternally,

**who is Christ the Lord,** the promise to Adam and Eve, all the prophets, all God's people longed for, waited for, the anointed Christ comes. True God, true man to join Himself to you, that you too will touch nail-scarred hands and cry out, **my Lord and my God.**

**Fear not.** Three years ago this night, when you gathered, some right here; you could've hardly imagined what was about to unfold. The more you dwell in those 38 preached words, what is there to fear? Born for you!

I'm not the only one that preaches to you. The world, news, media -constantly sending you a message. Normally not good. Even still, you are preached to everyday to remind you that you are going to die. You now face a triple-demic. Sure, we shouldn't forget one day we will breathe our last. Your heart will stop beating. Yet, there is no hope they can give you. The vast majority of the preaching you hear everyday, even from so-called Christians, offers nothing but to keep you dependent, scandalized, live in fear to keep tuning in, traumatized, living from crisis to crisis, hopeless, despairing, that you keep looking to them for answers, look to yourself for answers.

What the angel preached means for those in Christ, what's the worse thing than can happen to you? What can man do to you? Even, there is no real death. There are answers to everything that matters. There is truth amid a world of lies.

Remember what life used to be like 3 years ago? Remember what life was like 15 years ago when there were no smartphones. The Lord uses all of life events, like 1525 years ago King Clovis becomes the first German ruler baptized; how that changes the land from barbarians to Christian. 500 years ago, Martin Luther finishes translating the NT in German. Areas of plague been going on for 300 years and

thousands more to die. Do you think they lived in fear? Do you not know how the Lord used all this history, all these events of life, plagues and persecutions, even in our day to bless His people. To teach us more, to not live for ourselves, or fear what death or harm may come. **For unto you is born.** That changes how you see your history, how you live your life, how you make it through each day.

500 years ago Luther preached: *If you could put out of mind all you are and have and have not, except this child. If for you everything -money, goods, power, disease, poverty, or honor -fades away, that all of life is as nothing compared with this child, then you have the true treasure of this message of the angel.*

*The time must come we shall know nothing but: **I bring to you good news of great joy: for to you is born this day the Savior.** God who so loved you that He gave you a savior who is yours. Nothing else should be preached except this child, our Savior in every need, call upon Him, and never doubt that He will save us from all misfortune, harm, and evil.*

**Fear not! For unto you is born!** You have nothing to fear. The world is evil. You face an army of demons who never sleep or tire or take a day off. Our flesh is weak. Our families are a mess. He creates all life from the womb to be sacred, creates 2 genders to bless the other, creates marriage for a man, a woman to live for the other, look what the world has done. Even look how we have treated His gifts.

A Savior who comes as a sacrifice for you. This is who He is. Why He is born. And from His cross flows the only truth, the only love, the only forgiveness, this world has ever known. And He is the Lord who love you cannot lose. No matter what you have done, you cannot stop Him from loving you. His compassion to give you this day all that is needed, work in your life, and gives you, promises you a future.

So you who hurt, have hurt those you love; you who mourn and carry sorrow; whose children and loved ones have not lived up their promises; whose parents have failed them; you who are fearful or lonely or burdened with guilt: **born unto you, a savior** comes with healing, to bind your wound soul, broken heart.

Which of you do not have a broken heart? Which of you do not wish you could always go back to grandma's house? Oh how we wish our family table, gathering would not change over the years.

He brings you peace, comfort, joy -not of this world but to have you bask in His kingdom of forgiveness, grace, and life. And you realized you have not lost anything that will not be restored to you for eternity.

**Born unto you this day.** Your Lord, true God, true man born of Mary joins Himself to you by His Word, Sacraments; born that you come to receive His preaching from His messenger here, born to feed you as heaven and earth joined here as in no other way on earth; all for you, to spend unending communion with you. Eternity with Him. Your loved ones in Christ, those you love and mourn, and those in your family you never met, gather for Christmas in heaven. Until you join them, there's much for you to do. You are His. Receive, bask in His gifts. Live as His child. Hold to Him. Stand in His truth. He will never fail you while this world decays and life here fails. **Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy. For unto you is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Frohe Weihnachten!**