

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2022
“Room for Jesus this Christmas...?”
(Luke 2:7)
By Rev. Ed Weber

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our text for this Christmas Eve is from our Gospel reading Luke 2:7.

“7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”

Here ends our text.

No Room for Mary and Joseph. No room for Jesus. Sorry no vacancy.

Last Saturday in Port Isabel, we reenacted this journey by visiting some homes in neighborhood near Fishers of Men Lutheran Church. It's a Spanish tradition called La Posada, where two of the children dress up like Mary and Joseph and we sing Christmas carols with the families we visit. After singing some carols we also sing a Posada song asking for room in the inn.

The third family we visited didn't speak Spanish but the translation of the words was in the song booklet. The translation to what Joseph sang was “We come very tired, from Nazareth, I am a carpenter, named Joseph.”

And the reply was, “I don't care about your name. Let me go to sleep, because, as I said, we're not going to open up.”

And the mother at the home looked up at me with almost tears in her eyes and said, “that's so sad.”

To imagine saying those words to a young couple would be difficult to do. “Leave me alone. Don't bother me.”

Would the answer been different knowing who Mary was carrying in her womb? God in the flesh - 9 months old since His conception by the Holy Spirit?

As we read last Sunday in the Psalm 24:

“The earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein. 2 For He has founded it upon the seas, And established it upon the waters.”

The Creator of the Universe of all things... of all people, as John in his gospel wrote: **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made...14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:1-3,14)**

No presidential suite for the Creator who made all the rooms, and gives each of us home and shelter during this cold time of the year...just a stable with the animals. No room in the in for Jesus, just a feeding trough...a manger for His royal bed.

Now it’s a fun thing to go to a petting zoo at the stock show for a few minutes and sanitize your hands right afterward. But sleep with them? In their hay?

I read an article recently “Hollywood Celebrities You Didn't Know Were Very Religious” Is there room for Jesus in Hollywood? Some names you might recognize who profess to be Christians are Chris Pratt, Pierce Brosnan, Denzel Washington, Kevin Sorbo...Kevin James. Chris Pratt became a Christian after a complete stranger invited him to church.

But the question to each of us this Christmas Eve is:

Is there room for Jesus in your inn? In your heart? Not just on Christmas but every day? Does Jesus get the presidential suite treatment in your life or is He left out of your life in the barn? Do you take to heart the angels’ message to go and see the Savior of the world, your Savior, who came in love for you, by reading God’s Word daily? Going to church often?

That is the very reason we are gathered here again this Christmas Eve. Because are all guilty of not honoring and giving glory to the King of Kings with our actions, our words and thoughts. Yes, we confess before God that we deserve to be in the stable, in the doghouse for not loving the Babe of Bethlehem with all our heart, mind and soul.

But, God loved you with all His heart – so much that He became like us to take on Himself all our sins. Jesus humbled Himself for us. There in the womb of Mary, He served the government He established by going to Bethlehem for a census. God foretold it would happen in Micah 5:2. Little, humble, unimportant Bethlehem would be Jesus' birth place. "The house of Bread" is the meaning of the name Bethlehem. So fitting for the One who is the Bread of Life.

For Jesus there was no room in the inn and no room in the hearts of those who crucified Him. He humbled Himself to the point of death out of love for you and me. Jesus was born to die...your death.

God provided a trough for His birth, a cross for His death, and a tomb for His burial. Yes, there was room for Jesus in the tomb. But, after 3 days no longer need this cold stone room because Jesus rose again in power and might. His room is everywhere – the glorious King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

All the known world went to be counted and taxed by Caesar August. Jesus came came for the whole world to be counted as a sinner, to be taxed with your sin and pay your debt! Merry Christmas!!

I read an article about a unique birth that happened last week on December 18th. A baby was born to a couple who each share the same birthday. What made it unique was that the baby was born on mom and dad's birthday too! What were the odds? Somebody calculated 330,000 to 1.

What are the odds that each of us would be born without sin? Impossible. But God changed those odds in our favor by being born for us – God in the flesh – a miracle – impossible odds, but not impossible for God. He did it!

And through faith in Jesus you are united in your baptism with Jesus'. You are born again so that you are united with Jesus' birth, death and resurrection!

Jesus desires a room a big palace in your heart. Humble yourself, confess your sins daily to God and receive His complete forgiveness! That's what Jesus' name means. "He will save His people from their sins." He has made this known to the lowly shepherds and to you this night. Listen to Colossians 1.

Colossians 1:26-27

"26 the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. 27 To them God willed to make known

what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

God's heart is big. So much room in His heart of love for all people. God is love. He loved this sinful world so much that He willingly gave Himself for all. And there awaits for all believers a room, a mansion that Jesus has prepared for you in heaven.

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you” (John 14:1-3)

This is God's good will to all men that the angels sang of. Good will and peace in Jesus. There is plenty of room for all people in God's kingdom.

The shepherds left glorifying God and telling everyone what they had seen and heard! Unto you a Savior is born who is Christ the Lord! You do the same and let people know God has room for them in His big heart of love.

Wherever Jesus makes His home, there is grace, truth, forgiveness, love. Yes, God makes room in your heart by the power of the Holy Spirit. Thank you Jesus! Merry Christmas! Amen!

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your heart and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Philippians 4:7)