

## Sermon for Christmas Day

**Date:** December 25, 2025

**Location:** Zion – Colby, WI

**Old Testament:** Isaiah 9:2–7

**Epistle Reading:** Titus 2:11–14

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 2:1–20



**Sermon Series:** Waiting for the Missing Piece

**Sermon Title:** Peace Has Come

**Sermon Text:** Luke 2:1–20

**Introit:** Psalm 98:1-4; Antiphon: Isaiah 9:6

### Hymns:

LSB 374 – Gentle Mary Laid Her Child (v.1,2)

LSB 367 Angels from the Realms of Glory (v.2)

LSB 384 – Of the Father’s Love Begotten (v.2,5)

LSB 956 – Create in Me

LSB 361 – O Little Town of Bethlehem (v. 3,4)

### Distribution:

LSB 387 – Joy to the World (v.2-4)

LSB 359 – Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming

LSB 365 – Away in a Manger

Zion  
PO Box 438  
301 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Colby, WI 54421  
715-223-2166

Pastor James Groleau  
Shepherd@JamesPlace.net  
Phone: 320-336-8149

 ZionColby.org

 316-Sermons by Phone:  
715-316-4098

*(No Internet or Smart Phone needed)*



**Text: Luke 2:1–20**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

	<p>Proclaiming God’s Word Encouraging one another in faith Witnessing to God’s love Serving all people</p>	
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 Office: 715-223-2166 <u>3:16-Sermons by Phone: 715-316-8149 <small>(John 3:16)</small> <i>No Internet or smartphone needed</i></u> <u>5:17-Prayer Requests: 715-390-0517 <small>(1 Thessalonians 5:17)</small> <i>Your prayer request will be forward to our prayer team.</i></u>		

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Grace to you, and peace from the Prince of Peace, Jesus. Amen.

Today I want you to help me preach. I want to sing some hymns and talk about what they tell us about our God.

### LSB 384 v.1 – Of the Father’s Love Begotten

We gather this Christmas morning where we left off last night. We stepped into *A Father’s Peace* as the Child arrived, the Father’s heart is revealed in a manger. We ended that Advent road we traveled together through: **Waiting** and **The Missing Piece**, watching with the Watchman, steadying with the Warrior, grinding through long nights with the Worker, yearning with the Father for His children. All paths



converged in the quiet of Bethlehem. Today we see where those paths lead.

This morning we have a reason for joy, not only in the birth of a baby, a sight familiar to nearly every family and household, but in the birth of **the** Child promised to Adam and Eve<sup>1</sup>, the Child foretold by Isaiah,<sup>2</sup> the Child whose coming requires all eyes to see Him.



### LSB 367 v.1 – Angels from the Realms of Glory

Christmas is the Father’s peace made flesh, the peace the angels proclaimed as they sang, “*Creation’s story and now proclaim the Savior’s birth.*” Peace did not arrive with soldiers and strategies. Peace arrived in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger. The eternal God becomes a man<sup>3</sup> not to demand service but to serve. Not to take from His creation, but to give Himself for it.

### LSB 361 v.1 – O Little Town of Bethlehem

Bethlehem means *House of Bread*. The “*Little Town of Bethlehem*” reminds us, He enters a humble place to do a heavenly work. He is placed in a manger, a feeding trough, because He becomes the Bread of Life,<sup>4</sup> giving His Body and Blood to feed us, for our forgiveness.<sup>5</sup> When we approach this Sacred Table the very thing that passes our lips is that true and real Body and Blood, borne for us, shed for us, risen for us.



### LSB 379 v.1 – O Come, All Ye Faithful

Come! Now He lies in a manger, quiet, vulnerable, yet surrounded by the same angelic host that sang over the fields. He is the One “*born the King of angels*”. The choirs of angels singing in exaltation, submitting to the One holding all authority in heaven and earth. Jesus comes in humiliation. This is His high honor. He bends down low to lift you up.

1 Genesis 3:15

2 Isaiah 9:6–7

3 John 1:14

4 John 6:35

5 Small Catechism: Sacrament of the Altar

We take our place beside shepherds, angels, and barn animals, and we wonder. The Creator becomes a created one. The Ancient of Days becomes a Child.<sup>6</sup> The Law-giver becomes the Law-fulfiller.<sup>7</sup> The One who called to Adam after the fall now calls to us. Not to accuse but to forgive. Not to crush but to comfort.

### LSB 387 v.1 – Joy to the World

The piece we searched for through Advent is the peace declared, “*the Lord has come!*” Let heaven and nature sing. The piece we misplaced, resisted, longed for, rests in the hay. He comes to rule the world with truth and grace. This is the glory of His righteousness. He is peace in the flesh.<sup>8</sup>



He is why angels sing. He is why we sing. Because everything depends on this Child. Without His birth there is no cross; without His cross there is no resurrection; without His resurrection there is no hope for any grave.

... but He was born.

### LSB 376 v.1 – Once in Royal David’s City



Because He comes, death becomes rest.<sup>9</sup> The grave becomes a doorway. Paradise opens again, as the Scripture reminds us: the Son “truly suffered, was crucified, died and was buried<sup>10</sup>” so sinners may be redeemed. Titus declares this morning that God’s grace has appeared<sup>11</sup> to train us to step out of old patterns, old sins, old shame, to live as His redeemed people. He comes for *you*. He alone has the power to proclaim, “Death don’t live here anymore!”

He does this for you, for your ache, your need, your sin. He comes to restore the dignity He gave you at creation.<sup>12</sup> He comes so you may be born again as a child of God in Holy Baptism. Given faith fed as His Holy Table.

This morning closes one season and opens another. Advent’s waiting yields to Christmas receiving. The Watchman may lower his lantern. The Warrior may rest on his shield. The Worker may look up and breathe. So what comes next?

This Child who brings peace gathers His people for a purpose. Christmas joy is not the end. This Child will grow. The cross will rise. The empty tomb will stand open. The peace given today becomes the strength you need tomorrow.

We will follow Him: into battle, against the enemy, even into death, a thing He has made a gateway to life eternal. So the angels sing, and we join them:

### 380 - *Hark! The herald angels sing v3*

In the Name of Jesus. Amen.

- 6 Daniel 7:9
- 7 Matthew 5:17
- 8 Ephesians 2:14
- 9 1 Thessalonians 4:13–14
- 10 Augsburg Confession III
- 11 Titus 2:11–14
- 12 Genesis 1:27