

Theme: We should receive the salvation offered in Christ with joy and faith, praising God and spreading the good news to others.

I. Intro - Welcome!

- A. For our guests - we are glad you are celebrating with us
- B. We have spent the whole month looking at God's Promise to send Jesus
- C. A story that stretches back to the dawn of humanity
- D. As God's Promises often are - it seemed to be delayed and derailed, and the people found themselves full of disappointment and doubt
- E. But tonight we celebrate - for God did keep His promise to come and save us
- F. Jesus came to save us from our sin, and to restore us to God
- G. How should we receive the fulfillment of this Promise?

II. How To Receive the Advent Promise

- A. We should receive the promise with joy
But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Luke 2:10
 1. The fulfillment of God's promise to come and save us is good news - and cause for great joy!
 2. We have been cut off from God, under His righteous wrath for our sin - but Jesus has come to save us from our sin and God's wrath
 3. If we understand this - it produces joy!

B. We should receive the promise with faith

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." Luke 2:15

1. The shepherds believed the good news - they received it with faith
2. This prompted them to act - faith is not mere intellectual assent, but a wholehearted reception - mind and will leading to action
3. If they had simply returned to shepherding they did not believe - faith always leads to action
4. Receive the Good News with faith - and let it change your whole life!

C. We should receive the promise with praise to God

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."... ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. Luke 2:13-14, 20

1. The angels delivering the new praised God, and called for glory to God
2. The shepherds responded to all of this with praise and glory to God
3. The fulfillment of God's Promise to crush the Serpent, deliver us from Satan and sin, and bring us to Himself should cause us to overflow with praise
4. A heart that has truly understood and embraced the promise of the Gospel in faith will be full of praise to God

D. We should receive the promise and pass it along

When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child
Luke 2:17

1. The shepherds did not just receive the promise with joy, faith, and praise - they told others about it
2. When something this good happens to us - we tell others
3. In fact, the telling of others completes our own joy. That which produces joy in us longs to be passed along to others
4. In a world full of terrible news, it is a joy to pass along the best news ever heard!

III. Applying the Word

A. Friends - I announce good news - Christ has come

1. The Promise has been fulfilled, God has come to us
2. His coming has brought peace to His people - we no longer need fear or hide from God

B. Receive the great Promise!

1. With faith - it is true, and we should give ourselves to God
2. With joy - we are saved!
3. With praise to God - He has done this, and not us
4. Receive it - and then tell others the Good News!

The Advent Promise Received

Luke 2:1-20
December 14, 2017 (Night)
Communion
Hebrews 13:20-21

Teaching keywords: Holy Spirit; false teaching and heresy

The Lord bless you and keep you; ²⁵ the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24–26

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to his own town to register. ⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. ⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. Luke 2:1–20