**The First Coming of Jesus**

Based on [Luke 2:1-20](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Lk2.1-20)

Preached on December 24, 2019

Christmas Eve/Midnight

Pastor Nathan Fuehrer

As we gather this evening with the spirit of Christmas all around us. It is necessary for God fearing christians to take a moment, pause and reflect...what is Christmas?

Christmas is about the ***first*** coming of Jesus Christ, the Saviour. Approximately 2019 years ago, the world was doing what the world does. People were marrying and given in marriage. People were eating, drinking and being merry. The rich were in their palaces, the poor were in their poverty. Governments were planning big things; merchants were selling their wares; parents were raising children. And workers were trying to make a living, even as certain shepherds were in their fields watching their flocks by night.

People were living life in this world because they were born into it, and they were trying to make their way in it. Things were different back then, but things were also the same. Things will not always be the same. Jesus was born into the world at a time set by God; and at a time set by God he will come again to end the world.

This world doesn’t want to end, but Jesus will end it in a time chosen by the Father. Jesus came into the vanity of this world and said “I am the living God, and I have come to tell you that I will not conform to this world, but will keep the commands of my Father in heaven, and bid that you not lose heart in keeping mine. Because I obey my father, the world will crucify me; and because you believe me the world will hate you. But take heart, I have overcome the world, and you will inherit eternal life in the kingdom of my Father.”

Jesus came with that message. It is not attractive to everyone But anyone who fears God and strives do what is right; anyone who treasures the glory of God more than the glory of this world, everyone who is disappointed with the vanity of the world, everyone who is exhausted from their constant struggle with sin, and everyone who is anxious for salvation has a place to go. They have a place on earth to go and to find peace as they wait for the end of this world and the coming of the new creation. That “*place”* is Jesus Christ.

Jesus’ first coming was to bring peace. This peace was not global in size, but was the size of a baby...a precious child, a wrapped gift to be found as a pearl of great price. And he was placed on earth for everyone who seeks life and salvation from God. 2019 years ago, shepherds in their fields found that place when they found a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. When that baby grew up to be a man, people still had a place to go to...not a temple, not a government, not a wealthy worldly benefactor. They had Jesus Christ. And **those who hunger and thirst for righteousness went to him and found in Him grace upon grace and forgiveness without measure. They found in him such abundance of life, that a bleeding woman would strive to touch even the hem of *his* garment, a troubled mother would gladly settle for mere scraps that fall from *his* table, and a short man would climb a tree just to get a glimpse of *his* appearance.** And we who believe would gladly come together to share bread and wine just to taste *his* salvation.

Like so many shepherds on Christmas, we leave our worldly vocations for a time to go and see and worship the king. Yes, we have our family festivities, our turkeys in the oven, our preparations for family gatherings...and we will return to them. But for now we have left our worldly watchings to see the miracle of salvation delivered for us on earth. **Only the king comes to us now, not in a manger, but in bread and wine that are his body and his blood for us and for our salvation.** This altar is our manger. And we gather with Mary and Joseph, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven praising God and celebrating his delivering to us his Son in this sacrament. This is Christmas...the Mass of Christ.

There is a place for sinners to go and see the miracle of their salvation. That place is a person. That place is Jesus Christ. He came once in a manger, he comes now in the Sacrament of the Altar, he will come again in clouds of glory bringing with him a kingdom which has no end.

Merry Christmas!