

Everyone Is Invited!

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."

*So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 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 2:15-20, NIV)*

The following reflection is based on a sermon by John Chrysostom, reportedly from the first Christmas sermon ever preached, 386 A.D.

Jesus Christ has come!
God is now on earth!
Humanity now rules in heaven!

The hope of all nations is here!
Come, everyone!
Gather and celebrate!

Kings have come that they might
 bow to the King of Kings.
Soldiers have come that they might
 serve the Lord of all the armies of heaven.
Women have come that they might
 adore Him Who was born of a woman.
Children gather round to
 see the God who has become a child.
Shepherds leave their flocks to
 come and know the Good Shepherd.
Priests come to
 worship our Great High Priest.
Wise men have journeyed from the ends of the earth
 to wonder at the source of all wisdom.
Servants kneel to the Lord of Lords who
 made Himself a servant like them.
Sinners draw near to the holy God who
 gladly calls Himself their Friend.

Jesus Christ is the Father's good news

*for every human being.
In Christ, God stands in the public square and shouts,
“I love you!
I forgive you!
Just trust Me, and
you will live deeply, freely, and forever!”*

Hymns:
[Eternal Treasure](#)
[Christ the Lord Is with Us!](#)

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