

Christmas Day 2023

Text: Isaiah 52:7-10

Outline

1. Warm fuzzy feelings today, SN because of what we receive.
2. Warm fuzzies because of what God has done for us!

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

My dear beloved flock, the text for our meditation today is the Old Testament lesson of Isaiah chapter fifty-two verses seven through ten.

Merry Christmas! As we gather to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, what are you most looking forward to day? Maybe the gathering of family, all the tasty food, the gifts? Surely the gifts. What makes you feel good inside? Today we are given the best gift we could ever dream of, who is that? Ponder that question as you hear the rest of the sermon. You may go back to your seats and those who love you.

Warm Fuzzies

There are many things today that might make us feel good and joyful today. Many things as Isaiah writes that make us sing for joy. The warmth and joy of being with family that we have not seen for a while. Seeing everyone dressed up in their Christmas best last night and today. All of the beauty and emotions of singing and gathering to worship and praise our God. The tasty food and drink that is waiting for lunch and dinner. It is not Christmas unless grandma or mom make molasses cookies. Unless the house is decorated to the point you can see the lights from space, it is not Christmas. The amazing gifts that are waiting under the tree. Many times, our sinful nature, and the fallen world we live in, enjoy making all of these and many more, the reasons for the joy we have. How often have you heard it in the stores? Buy more, buy now! Increase your joy even more.

Because of what this baby came to do

Our joy does increase. It increases not because of the things that we have, or the things that we do. It is good to enjoy the good things that God has given to us. It is good to eat good food. It is good to get together with family and exchange gifts. But too often our sinful nature makes that the end goal. Things or possessions is not where our joy, true joy is found. True joy is found lying in the manger.

Because of this baby, we can sing for joy. This is Christ the Lord. God in the flesh for us. We are joyful because we know why He has come. Jesus took on flesh to save you from your sins. He has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. How shall I describe this Birth to you? For this wonder fills me with astonishment. The Ancient of days has become an infant. He Who sits upon the sublime and heavenly Throne, now lies in a manger. And He Who cannot be touched, Who is simple, without complexity, and incorporeal, now lies subject to the hands of men. He Who has broken the bonds of sinners, is now bound by an infants bands. He is bound to die. He grows up, the son of a carpenter. He dies on a wooden cross. The blood in His little veins to be shed for you in death. This baby crying is the man who cries out “Telesttetai” It is finished. This baby sleeping is the man who slept the sleep of death and rose from the dead to give you new life with Him forever and ever.

For this He assumed my body, that I may become capable of His Word; taking my flesh, He gives me His spirit; and so He bestowing and I receiving, He prepares for me the treasure of Life. He takes my flesh, to sanctify me; He gives me His Spirit that He may save me.

Come, then, let us observe the Feast. Truly wondrous is the whole chronicle of the Nativity. For this day the ancient slavery is ended, the devil confounded, the demons take to flight, the power of death is broken, paradise is unlocked, the curse is taken away, sin is removed from us, error driven out, truth has been brought back, the speech of

kindliness diffused, and spreads on every side, a heavenly way of life has been ;in planted on the earth, angels communicate with men without fear, and men now hold speech with angels.

Why is this? Because God is now on earth, and man in heaven; on every side all things commingle. He became Flesh. He did not become God. He was God. Wherefore He became flesh, so that He Whom heaven did not contain, a manger would this day receive. He was placed in a manger, so that He, by whom all things are nourished, may receive an infants food from His Virgin Mother. So, the Father of all ages, as an infant at the breast, nestles in the virginal arms, that the Magi may more easily see Him. Since this day the Magi too have come, and made a beginning of withstanding tyranny; and the heavens give glory, as the Lord is revealed by a star.

Let us rejoice this happy morning because of the salvation that we have received. We have One that surpasses everything. Who is better than a room full of family, better than a whole feast spread before you, better than the best gift you could ever ask for. We have received Christ the Lord, God in the flesh for us men and for our salvation, our Savior from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

The peace of God which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.