

Christmas Day 2017 Luke 2:14

Adapted and added to from Glory to New Born King 2006 CCP

***Hark the Herald Angels sing:
Glory to the New Born King***

There is something special about Christmas Day.
Quieter, simpler.

All preparations are complete.
The hubbub of Christmas Eve is over
Today we can just stand in awe of the incarnation:
Love came down. God became one of us.
God with Us. Immanuel.

Glory to the New Born King is a great theme for Christmas
Day as we celebrate the birth of God's Son, A Savior, Christ
the Lord is come.
His words will teach.
His hands will heal.
His life will be an example.
His death will destroy all death.
His rising will signal our rising from the grave.
His ascension will lead us into everlasting life.

Certainly Glory is in order.
Give glory to the new born king.

There is a camp song that has a refrain that goes like this.
So rise and shine and give God the glory, glory.
Rise and shine and give God the glory, glory.
Rise and shine and give God the glory, glory,
Children of the Lord!

It was one of my favorites and we sang it a lot.

One year I had a counselor who used the song in devotions
and then would say to us now and then, during the week,
“Now go out there and give God some glory!”
And we knew she meant that we could do that by being kind
and caring to others.

And yet, I find it interesting that, at least according to our
lessons for today, the emphasis is not on giving God glory
but on our being recipients of God's glory!

In our OT lesson, Isaiah reminds Israel, newly back from
exile that **they are God's people and God will not forget
them.** He says that they are *Holy people, redeemed of the
Lord.*

Thousands of years later, he is speaking to us too.
God will bless Israel and us.
The blessings we will receive will be glorious.

Paul in his letter to Titus, says the same thing.

In Christ we are given salvation, grace, mercy, and renewal.
And we become God's heirs...children of God.
Because of the new born king, the glory of God's gifts has
been poured out on us.

Then in our Gospel lesson, even the lowly, smelly, humble
shepherd experience God's heavenly glory.

The glory shone around them!
And the angels announce Peace to God's people, including
the shepherds. This by the way was a radical thing to say.
Shepherd were outsiders, considered unclean because of
their work and were excluded from the temple.

And then finally, finally, the angles sing “*Glory to God in the highest heaven.*”

However, the angels do not give the new born king glory.

And there is nothing glorious about Jesus’ parents, or about his birth or birthplace.

You know the story. Cattle shed, feeding trough, rags of linen, dirty shepherds.

No glory for the new born king...until the shepherds having seen the baby Jesus, return to their fields, and do two things.

- 1) They glorify and praise God.
- 2) They spread the glorious good news of the birth of a savior with everyone they met.

Today we join the shepherds.

We Glorify the New Born King

Recognizing the wonderful gifts we have received from our loving God,

We honor, praise and celebrate Jesus Christ, God incarnate, Immanuel!

And we are called to continue to glorify our New Born king by who we are and by what we do.

By living lives that are fitting for the children of God we are.

We loving and serving one another

And you know it is also doing the harder things too, like forgiving our enemy and sharing our wealth with others and by our gratitude for what we do have.

This is all possible, because of the birth of a new born king named Jesus. So rejoice. Rejoice and sing because this is the good news of the Christmas gospel.

“Now go out there and give God some glory!”