



Christ the Lord

2022 CHRISTMAS EVE/DAY

Luke 2:1-20

Pastor Dave Bolte

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is *Christ the Lord*. Luke 2:8-11

Tonight is **ALL** about *Christ the Lord*!

Christ and Lord are two titles given to Jesus, the infant born to Mary in Bethlehem. The Son of God is Christ the Lord! *Christ* and *Lord* teach us who Jesus is, and what He came into the world to do!

The word “*Lord*” means that Jesus is God Himself. The One, True, and Only God has come into the world. Jesus is God *incarnate*. **Incarnate** is a word that means *in flesh*; it's a way of describing Who Jesus is. Jesus is God *Incarnate*, that is God *in the flesh*. In Jesus, God has flesh and bones, God is a Man on earth! Jesus is both God and Man who has come into the world to do the work of salvation for you!

When the Bible says that Jesus is Lord; or Lord Jesus Christ, it is teaching us that Jesus *is* God Himself. He is **God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God**. It's a full divine title, and with it comes the full divine power and authority of God Himself. The title “**Lord**” teaches us Who Jesus is!

**Jesus is Lord; He is God in flesh ...
and He is Christ!**

The word “**Christ**” teaches what Jesus has done for you. Jesus is the **Savior** God promised to send. Think of the word **Christ** as an office, or a position. Jesus’ “office”, His position and work, is to earn salvation for us.

God had promised this throughout the entire Old Testament times. Even in the Garden of Eden, immediately after Adam and Eve fell into sin, God promised to send a Savior who would crush Satan's head. Throughout the Old Testament times, God kept that promise alive. He promised that the coming Savior, the Messiah¹, the Christ, would bless the entire earth. The coming Savior would speak the very words of God, have an

¹ “Messiah” is an Old Testament Hebrew word that means “anointed.” (The New Testament Greek word for “Messiah/anointed” is “Christ.”) This word is used to describe the One God promised to send and “anoint” with the Holy Spirit to be the Savior of the world. You could say that the word “Messiah” means the “Office and Work of the Savior.” Jesus is this Messiah, who is given the Office and Work of salvation: Jesus is the Christ who saves us from our sins! The entire Old Testament was anticipating His arrival on earth in fulfillment of God's Promises. Advent is a time when we rehearse this fascinating story, remember the great promises, and thank God for His faithfulness!

eternal Kingdom, and die like a sacrificial Lamb for us and our salvation.

The good news tonight is that God kept these promises! The Christmas Gospel is that God is faithful; and He sent His Son Jesus to be your Savior; Jesus is both **Lord and Christ!**

Jesus lived a perfect life for you, completely obeying God's Word and His Law every moment of every day. His perfect life is credited to you, and God considers you holy and righteous in His sight.

Jesus also gathered up all of your sin and all of your guilt. Your sin and guilt come from disobeying God's Law, which is the 10 Commandments. When you disregard God's Commandments, you rebel against God and fall into all kinds of immorality. You know this to be true; you know your own life and your own heart. You have felt the burden of a guilty conscience. Your sin and guilt were placed on Jesus the **Christ** and He carried it to a cross, where He suffered and died for you and in your place. Your sins have been paid for by the death of **Christ**. Your guilt has been removed from you. Your disobedience, rebellion, and immorality has been forgiven because of the death of **Christ** on the cross for you!

You will not die in your sin!

You will live through faith in Jesus *the Christ!*

When Jesus rose from the dead on the Third Day, you are declared *not guilty* of your sins and given *eternal life*! These are gifts that God freely gives to you by grace alone; through faith alone; in Christ alone!

Tonight, hear this good news and believe it!

God is telling you the truth about Jesus; He promises that your sins are forgiven and that you have eternal life. You are included in the promises of salvation! Jesus took your sin and your guilt to the cross! You are considered holy and righteous in God's sight! Faith makes it personal: you know and you believe that these things are true, and that you yourself are included.

Everything about tonight is about Jesus,
who is **Christ the Lord!**

- ⇒ The Scriptures proclaim it
- ⇒ The Angels declared it on that first Christmas night
- ⇒ And we sing about it in our Christmas carols and hymns

Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord! Luke 2:11

AMEN!

Lord Jesus Christ, the Christmas Savior,

We thank you for the work of salvation that you have accomplished for us, and the gifts of salvation that you so freely give to each of us in Word and Sacrament. Send your Holy Spirit so that we may know, believe, and confess in you as our Lord and Savior.

Today O Lord we pray for those who have served us this throughout this Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas season; for those who have helped us to worship You and to serve others. We thank you for their gifts and talents, and their desire to serve you with them.

Today O Lord, we pray for all those who have worshipped with us. We ask that you would create and strengthen faith through the Christmas Gospel. We ask that You grant peace, comfort, and confidence to all of us in your abiding presence in our lives.

Lord Jesus, we know that you are Immanuel, that you are always *with us*. Be with those who have heavy hearts, with those who miss loved ones, with those who grieve, and with those who struggle with sin and temptation. Lord Jesus, we thank you that you are Immanuel: God with us every moment of every day!

Lord Jesus, we pray for your Church across the country and throughout the world. Grant that your Gospel may be clearly proclaimed so that many will come to know you as Lord and Savior.

Lord Jesus in your most holy name we now pray together
.... Our Father

Rev. Lohse: Matthew 1:18-24

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about[Ⓜ]: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet[Ⓜ] did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,[Ⓜ] because he will save his people from their sins."

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"[Ⓜ] (which means "God with us").

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Rev Self: Luke 2:1-20

² 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 their 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 guest room available for them.

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 that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, 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 heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

¹⁵ 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."

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.