

Advent 2009

In the Year 0 AD (AD means Anno Domini) give or take seven years Joseph the adoptive Father of Jesus and Mary His mother traveled from Nazareth to a blinker of a town called Bethlehem, where Jesus is born in humble circumstances. Bethlehem, the hometown of Joseph's and Mary's ancestor King David. It was time to have a baby and as usual life was going on around them and they were both subject to Roman taxes. Joseph because he was a carpenter and Mary because she was betrothed to him and this was binding in ways that engagement today is not. Betrothal usually preceded marriage by at least nine months to assure that the bride was not pregnant.

The birth of a child is never an easy thing. Childbearing, the entire pregnancy, not only giving birth is, so to say, no picnic. The birth of this Child comes with great blessing for us sinners.

In the midst of our daily drudgery with sin closing around on all sides the Son of God comes to us in the Gift once given. Back then the Dear One arrived in a manger. An animal's feed trough with *no place for them in the inn*, Mary and Joseph were forced to bed down in a nearby cave or stable, where animals were housed. The travel caused by the census overwhelmed normal arrangements for hospitality which is not very much different than the chaos we encounter day by day.

Sometimes because of all the muss and the fuss, we forget that the Lord delivers us amid all our suffering and disappointment. Now no matter what troubles weigh you down, trust in the Lord as your own deliverer and commend all your concerns to Him in prayer.

This is the opportune time to rejoice in His surpassing mercy to you in the Holy Child. The birth of Jesus brings the Lord's presence near to us. What more can we ask for? What more could we possibly want?

The Lord has answered our needs and all our questions long before our existence was even dreamed about by our progenitors. As we together celebrate the glory that is Christmas, let's be sure to take the lead of the angels. The angels reveal to the shepherds the Good News of our Saviour's birth. The shepherds in turn announce it to others. Let's be sure to announce Jesus' saving work to those we love and others also.

Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, is your joy this very day and always because of what was given to you way back then. It is my prayer that you treasure the joy of the birth that was granted for your salvation. It is my sincere prayer that others are called through you as you proclaim the Holy Birth.

Rejoicing in His Days
Your Pastor



*May the miracle of Christmas
touch your life!*