

## Day 22: Christmas Day

***Luke 2:1-20 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole empire should be registered. This first registration took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So everyone went to be registered, each to his own town.***

***Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David, to be registered along with Mary, who was engaged to him and was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. Then she gave birth to her firstborn Son, and she wrapped him tightly in cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.***

***In the same region, shepherds were staying out in the fields and keeping watch at night over their flock. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be the sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped tightly in cloth and lying in a manger.***

***Suddenly there was a multitude of heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people he favors!***

***When the angels had left them and returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go straight to Bethlehem and see what has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."***

***They hurried off and found both Mary and Joseph, and the***

*baby who was lying in the manger. After seeing them, they reported the message they were told about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary was treasuring up all these things in her heart and meditating on them. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had seen and heard, which were just as they had been told.*

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*Psalm for Christmas Day*  
by Thomas Pestel

Fairest morning lights appear,  
Thou blest and gaudy day,  
On which was born our Saviour dear;  
Arise and come away!

This day prevents his day of doom;  
His mercy now is nigh;  
The mighty God of love is come,  
The dayspring from on high!

Behold the great Creator makes  
Himself a house of clay,  
A robe of virgin-flesh he takes  
Which he will wear for you.

Hark, hark, the wise eternal Word  
Like a weak infant cries:  
In form of servant is the Lord,  
And God in cradle lies.

This wonder struck the world amazed,  
It shook the starry frame;  
Squadrons of spirits stood and gazed,  
Then down in troops they came.

Glad shepherds ran to view this sight;  
A choir of angels sings;

**And eastern sages with delight  
Adore this King of kings.**

**Join them, all hearts that are not stone,  
And all our voices prove,  
To celebrate this holy One,  
The God of peace and love.**

**From the Smith family to our church family at First Baptist  
Church of Martinsburg, West Virginia:**

**We hope you have the Merriest of Christmases. Worship  
our Savior King, born in a manger, sitting on the eternal  
throne. Peace has come for our King is with us!  
O, come let us adore Him!**