

**St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church-WELS**  
**Trinity St. Luke's Lutheran Grade School**  
**Christmas Eve Service**  
**December 24, 2009 Luke 2:11**



*For to you in the town of David a Savior has been born. He is Christ the Lord!*

People of God – precious in His sight for the sake of the Christ-child:

This is the time of the year when you go to the mall or *Wal-mart* or almost anywhere and there's someone ringing a little bell. The other day at the *Piggly Wiggly* there was a man singing Christmas carols acapella. Beside him was a place where you could put a contribution to help people in need. You can always ignore those guys. Pretend you are looking for your grocery list. You can monkey with that little flap thing on the grocery cart--in the little place where you can put a little child or put your really breakable and squash-able stuff. You can make kind of snake eyes – looking very intently at those very thin little plastic containers of blackberries and raspberries – that would really go great on some of that *Breyer's* all natural vanilla ice cream – with those little bits of vanilla bean in it – and before you know it – you're past him! Well, the other day someone walked by one of those places where you can put a contribution – and they put in what *looked like* a folded \$1 bill. I'm sure the person ringing the bell said, "Merry Christmas! Thank you! God bless you!" And that person said, "God bless you!" – and walked by. The fact is – inside that folded one dollar bill was a single coin – a single small pure golden coin – worth more than \$1200! Who would have thought in a package so small – so painfully ordinary – something so precious could be all rolled up? The same is true of the very first Christmas present. All wrapped up in strips of cloth – resting in a feed box in a stable – was the King of kings and Lord of lords. In a very small package – probably only 6 or 7 pounds – was the most precious thing that ever arrived on this planet. In that package so small and breakable was the holy innocent Son of God – our Redeemer and our Savior!

**For to you in the town of David a Savior has been born. He is Christ the Lord!** Jesus came to be our Savior from sin! That's the point. It's easy to miss that – when you hear so much this season about *giving* and *hope* and *peace* and *joy*. Don't misunderstand. All those heart-warming things like giving and hope and peace and joy – that spring from Jesus' forgiving love are all wonderful blessings. But they are fruits of faith. They are the wonderful things that happen because Jesus came to take away our sins! Christmas would be nothing – without Good Friday and Easter. Giving and hope and peace and joy that only last for this life – are nothing. Every year I see those commercials where they have a new Lexus or BMW in the driveway – with this red ribbon on top – the phones that can hook you up to the Internet and do that GPS thing – and diamond jewelry and buy hunks of gold in case there is inflation in the new year. All that put together doesn't matter in the eternal scheme of things! All that matters – all that counts is that Jesus took all your sins away. That's all that's going to matter one instant after Judgment Day comes – and make no mistake – Judgment Day is coming!

**For to you in the town of David a Savior has been born. He is Christ the Lord!** You know who Prince William is – the firstborn son of Prince Charles and Princess Diana. Prince William will one day be King of England – and so? Prince William spent the other night "sleeping rough" – that is – sleeping on the streets of London--like a homeless person for one night. I think that's pretty incredible – to give up your royal jammies and royal quilt and royal blanket – your royal pillow in your royal bedroom in Buckingham Palace – to literally sleep on

the streets where it was only 39°--to remind people what it is like every night – for the people who are literally homeless! The Prince said, “I cannot, after one night, even begin to imagine what it must be like to sleep rough on London’s streets night after night.” And that’s true! Prince William I’m sure – still had Scotland Yard guarding him. All he had to do was say the word and his people would have wrapped him up in a warm thick blanket – loaded him into a literal *limo* – handed him a hot cup of hot chocolate – and hurried him home! Imagine if you can – the little Lord Jesus! For 9 months – give or take a few days – he lived in the tummy of the Virgin Mary. The one whom Heaven and earth cannot contain was in her tummy. The Son of God was born in a stable – because no one would make room for him in the inn! He was wiped off – his cord was tied with some thread or a small piece of leather and cut. He was wrapped in strips of cloth – that once again held him tight. He was placed in a manger – a feed box – midst the warm and sweet hay. It wasn’t for a night or a day or a week or a month – but for some 33 years – Jesus was one of us. He woke up in the morning and rubbed the little eye crispies from the corner of his eyes. He washed up with ice cold water from the well or from the river or from the lake or with the rainwater that they caught. He had warm bread baked on a fire made from sticks that he had picked up. He squinted against the bright Galilean sun and his feet were tired from walking on the rocky dusty path in sandals. His hands got blisters – then callouses from using hand tools on rough hewn lumber. His chest hurt – when his heart ached when he saw people worried and confused and afraid – like sheep without a shepherd. Sweat would sting in his eyes and his hands and feet hurt like you can’t imagine when they pounded – literally pounded nails through them. The worst hurt Jesus endured was his Father’s holy white hot anger on account of all our sins. All Jesus did – he did because he loves us and forgives us all our sins. On April Fool’s Day – we will be here late in the afternoon – or early in the evening – hearing Jesus say, “**Take and eat – this is my body. Take and drink – this is my blood.**” April 2<sup>nd</sup> we will be here again – hearing Jesus say, “**It is finished!**” And very early on the morning on the first day of the week – we will be here – to hear the risen Christ say, “**Peace be with you!**” That’s the peace that comes from sins forgiven and Heaven won! Tonight these children will do the work of angels – reminding us once again, “**Christ the Savior is born! Let us come and worship him!**” Amen!

To God alone all glory!

