

“Lessons from the Manger” Part 1 – Advent Week 1
Mount of Olives | November 30, 2025 | Luke 2:8-11
Pastor John Steward

Prayer of the Day

Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us Your Word, God in flesh, Christ Jesus. Help us to seek Your light so that we may find and know Your presence, both in the brightness of day and the deepest dark of night. And help us to then shine Your light to others who walk in the darkness of this world. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:8-11

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

Message Notes

Luke 2:10-11

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

Romans 11:33 -36

O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" "Or who has given a gift to him, to receive a gift in return?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen.

Colossians 2:9-10

For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority.

Study Questions

Read Luke 2:8-14

ICEBREAKER – Getting started:

1. What's one of your favorite Christmas memories that always brings a smile to your face?
2. Have you ever received surprising news that changed your entire day?
3. What's the most beautiful night sky you've ever seen?
4. When you think of "peace," what picture or moment comes to mind?
5. What's an unexpected place where you've experienced God's presence?

Based on Luke 2:8-14, answer the following questions:

OBSERVATION – What does the text say?

1. As you read **Luke 2:8-14**, what comes to mind? What stands out? What is interesting to you and why?

2. In one sentence, how would you summarize this text?
3. What lesson or message do you think the author is trying to convey?

INTERPRETATION – What does the text mean?

1. Why do you think God chose shepherds—people of low social status—to be the first recipients of the good news?
2. What emotions do you imagine the shepherds felt when the angel appeared (v. 9)?
3. How does the angel describe the message they bring (v. 10)? What stands out to you?
4. What is the significance of the phrase “good news of great joy for all the people”?
5. What does the title “Savior” imply about the mission and identity of Jesus (v. 11)?
6. Why is the location of Bethlehem significant in Israel’s history and prophecy?
7. What do the titles “Christ” and “Lord” communicate about Jesus?
8. What is the importance of the sign given to the shepherds—a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger?
9. Why might God choose such humble circumstances to reveal His Son?
10. What does the appearance of the “multitude of the heavenly host” tell us about the importance of Jesus’ birth (v. 13)?
11. What does the angels’ praise—“Glory to God in the highest heaven”—reveal about the purpose of Christ’s coming?
12. How does the promise of “peace among those on whom His favor rests” connect with the mission of Jesus’ life and ministry?

APPLICATION – How can you apply the text?

1. In what areas of your life do you need to receive the good news of great joy today?
2. Where might God be calling you to respond with the same openness and obedience as the shepherds?
3. How can you bring God’s peace to people around you this week?
4. What humble or unexpected places might God be inviting you to pay attention to—just as He worked through a manger and shepherds?
5. How can the message of Jesus’ birth reshape your perspective in this current season of your life?