

**Thankful for Christ's Earthly Birthday**  
**(December 24, 2019 by Rev. Anthony Menzel)**

Today is a very special day...

Today we celebrate the First Coming of God the Son into the world...  
He was both 100% human and 100% God...

Today I feel led to put the sermon before the musical worship...

I really want us to praise the Lord Jesus for leaving heaven to come and save us...

**Scripture: Philippians 2:5-16**

<sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, being in the form of God, did not consider it <sup>[b]</sup>robbery to be equal with God, <sup>7</sup> but <sup>[c]</sup>made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Light Bearers**

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

<sup>14</sup> Do all things without <sup>[d]</sup>complaining and disputing, <sup>[e]</sup> <sup>15</sup> that you may become blameless and <sup>[f]</sup>harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, <sup>16</sup> holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

In this passage we see Christ's sacrifice for us. At the same time, we see what our response should be for His sacrifice...

**Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

<sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not despise prophecies. <sup>21</sup> Test all things; hold fast what is good. <sup>22</sup> Abstain from every form of evil.

### Blessing and Admonition

<sup>23</sup> Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify<sup>[g]</sup> you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> He who calls you *is* faithful, who also will do *it*.

### Scripture: Psalm 34:1-22 (especially 1, 19, 22)

I will bless the LORD at all times;

His praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.

<sup>2</sup> My soul shall make its boast in the LORD;

The humble shall hear *of it* and be glad.

<sup>3</sup> Oh, magnify the LORD with me,

And let us exalt His name together.

<sup>4</sup> I sought the LORD, and He heard me,

And delivered me from all my fears.

<sup>5</sup> They looked to Him and were radiant,

And their faces were not ashamed.

<sup>6</sup> This poor man cried out, and the LORD heard *him*,

And saved him out of all his troubles.

<sup>7</sup> The <sup>[a]</sup>angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him,

And delivers them.

<sup>8</sup> Oh, taste and see that the LORD *is* good;

Blessed *is* the man *who* trusts in Him!

<sup>9</sup> Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints!

*There is no* <sup>[b]</sup>want to those who fear Him.

<sup>10</sup> The young lions lack and suffer hunger;

But those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good *thing*.

<sup>11</sup> Come, you children, listen to me;

I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> Who *is* the man *who* desires life,

And loves *many* days, that he may see good?

<sup>13</sup> Keep your tongue from evil,

And your lips from speaking deceit.

<sup>14</sup> Depart from evil and do good;  
Seek peace and pursue it.  
<sup>15</sup> The eyes of the LORD *are* on the righteous,  
And His ears *are open* to their cry.  
<sup>16</sup> The face of the LORD *is* against those who do evil,  
To <sup>[c]</sup>cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.  
<sup>17</sup> *The righteous* cry out, and the LORD hears,  
And delivers them out of all their troubles.  
<sup>18</sup> The LORD *is* near to those who have a broken heart,  
And saves such as <sup>[d]</sup>have a contrite spirit.  
<sup>19</sup> Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous,  
But the LORD delivers him out of them all.  
<sup>20</sup> He guards all his bones;  
Not one of them is broken.  
<sup>21</sup> Evil shall slay the wicked,  
And those who hate the righteous shall be <sup>[e]</sup>condemned.  
<sup>22</sup> The LORD redeems the soul of His servants,  
And none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.

Now I want us to really praise the Lord Jesus on this day when we commemorate His birth for all that He has done for us...

**Scripture: Isaiah 53:3-12 (especially 3-6, 10-12)**

He is despised and <sup>[d]</sup>rejected by men,  
A Man of <sup>[e]</sup>sorrows and acquainted with <sup>[f]</sup>grief.  
And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him;  
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.  
<sup>4</sup> Surely He has borne our <sup>[g]</sup>griefs  
And carried our <sup>[h]</sup>sorrows;  
Yet we <sup>[i]</sup>esteemed Him stricken,  
<sup>[j]</sup>Smitten by God, and afflicted.  
<sup>5</sup> But He *was* wounded<sup>[k]</sup> for our transgressions,  
*He was* <sup>[l]</sup>bruised for our iniquities;  
The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him,  
And by His stripes<sup>[m]</sup> we are healed.  
<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray;  
We have turned, every one, to his own way;  
And the LORD <sup>[n]</sup>has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

<sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and He was afflicted,  
Yet He opened not His mouth;  
He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,  
And as a sheep before its shearers is silent,  
So He opened not His mouth.

<sup>8</sup> He was taken from <sup>[o]</sup>prison and from judgment,  
And who will declare His generation?  
For He was cut off from the land of the living;  
For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.

<sup>9</sup> And <sup>[p]</sup>they made His grave with the wicked—  
But with the rich at His death,  
Because He had done no violence,  
Nor *was any* deceit in His mouth.

<sup>10</sup> Yet it pleased the LORD to <sup>[q]</sup>bruise Him;  
He has put *Him* to grief.  
When You make His soul an offering for sin,  
He shall see *His* seed, He shall prolong *His* days,  
And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.

<sup>11</sup> <sup>[r]</sup>He shall see the labor of His soul, *and* be satisfied.  
By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many,  
For He shall bear their iniquities.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great,  
And He shall divide the <sup>[s]</sup>spoil with the strong,  
Because He poured out His soul unto death,  
And He was numbered with the transgressors,  
And He bore the sin of many,  
And made intercession for the transgressors.