

Eastern Mission

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

December 2018

Greetings of God's Peace to all readers of this Christmas message.

We are again approaching this season of joy, peace, love, and the giving and receiving of gifts. Much effort and expense on purchasing and giving will be experienced at this time.

Little thought is often given to the very reason for this season, the greatest gift given to mankind. This gift given out of the love, mercy and grace of our Heavenly Father for the salvation of our souls often seems but an afterthought to our preparation. This salvation was in place before God created man in His own image. Our redeemer was with the Heavenly Father even before the earth was created by God.

John 1:1-4 *In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life and the life was the light of men. V.14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth.*

The fullness of this came into being when Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary Luke 1:30-33. *“And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary for thou hast found favor with God and behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David. And He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end.*

Luke 2:7-14 *And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night And lo, an angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

This is the account made known unto us of the birth of the Savior and the peace and good will He wants to bring to all people. This is the true blessing of Christmas to the heart of one who has come to know the saving grace of our Lord and who has been cleansed from all sins by His redemptive work on the Cross of Calvary. It is a free gift. There is no work that we can offer and no price that we can pay to add to what has already been accomplished in our behalf. Romans 8:1 *There is therefore now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit.*

Apostle Paul writes unto the Colossians 1:14 *In Whom we have redemption through His Blood, even the forgiveness of sins. Col.1:21-22 And you that were sometime alienated and enemies in your minds by wicked works yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblamable and unprovable in His sight.*

We truly are blessed in the eyes of God. when we have been cleansed by the redemptive work of our Savior Jesus Christ. We often don't see ourselves as pure and holy but in God's eyes we are. We see our failures and lament of them. The peace the angels announced to the Sheppard's is truly the peace and joy in our hearts to know we are on our way to a heavenly home. May this peace and joy be in our hearts this Christmas season as we journey along in the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

May you all have a joyful and blessed Christmas this year.

In God's Peace,
Donald Bisila