

† CHRISTMAS EVE †

December 24, 2022

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

- The order of worship for each service is printed out in the bulletin.
 - ***We extend a special word of welcome to first-time visitors*** and invite you to take a welcome kit located by the Jesus Fountain in the church entrance.
 - ***Please fill out the Attendance Card***, one per individual or family. You may use the back side to submit prayer requests or other information to the church office. The cards will be collected during the offering time or may be left by the Jesus Fountain after the service.
 - ***Free Guest WiFi:*** Manually enter the SSID “VLCCS-Guest” - No password needed

TO KNOW LIVE AND SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST

- *Under the blessing of God, the mission of Village Lutheran Church is a ministry of the Word and Sacraments. This ministry gives opportunities for mission, witness, nurture, fellowship, stewardship, and service. It focuses on the specific needs of individuals and groups within the congregation and extends to the church-at-large, the community, and the world.*
 - *The Chapel School is an integral part of the congregation's ministry directed specifically to children. It provides a distinctive Christian education enabling children to evidence a Christian lifestyle and to achieve academic success.*

TO GOD ALONE BE GLORY

Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School

Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

Assisting Pastor Rev. Mark Budenholzer

Minister of Music Deborah Reiss

172 White Plains Road, Bronxville, NY 10708
Church 914-337-0207 ■ School 914-337-3202
VLC-NY.org ■ TheChapelSchool.org

5:00 p.m. - Family Service

PRELUDE

Adeste Fideles

Kevin Hildebrand

PROCESSIONAL HYMN (*Congregation rising*)

(LSB Hymn 379)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him born the King of angels.

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.
 O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God in the highest. *Refrain.*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

CHERUB CHOIR ANTHEMS

Children, What Do You Hear?/Away in a Manger/The Angel Band

INVOCATION and CALL TO WORSHIP

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

C **To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given.**

P Today, in the city of David, a Savior has been born to you.

C **His name is Jesus, because He has saved His people from their sins.**

P Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all His people!

C **O come, let us worship Him.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

(LSB Hymn 380, v. 1 & 3)

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;

Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;

With th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.

Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,

Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray:

C **O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that while we are here on earth, we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence, until we come to the full joys of His glory in heaven; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

YOUTH CHOIR ANTHEM

Christmas in Your Heart

J. & C. Owens

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Titus 2:11-14

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR ANTHEM

Night of Silence

Daniel Kantor

Cold are the people, winter of life; we tremble in shadows this cold endless night.

*Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping, flowers that will echo the sunrise;
fire of hope is our only warmth: weary, its flame will be dying soon.*

Voice in the distance, call in the night; on wind you enfold us, you speak of the light.

*Gentle on the ear you whisper softly rumors of a dawn so embracing;
breathless love awaits darkened souls: soon will we know of the morning.*

*Spirit among us, shine like the star;
Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar
shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely, rising in the warmth of the Son's love;
star unknowing of night and day: Spirit, we wait for the loving Son.*

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GOSPEL (Congregation rising)

Luke 2:1-20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read)

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

(LSB Hymn 368)

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,

And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains: Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo!

FAMILY MESSAGE

“Follow the Star to Jesus”

Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

HYMN

(LSB Hymn 364, v. 1)

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray,
bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, and take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

APOSTLES' CREED (*Congregation rising*)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the
living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the
forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING/VOLUNTARY

Once in Royal David's City

Greg Howlett

THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT (*Congregation rising*)

P In the beginning was the Word.

C **In Him was life, and that life was the light of all people.**

P The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.

C **The Word became flesh, and made His dwelling among us.**

P We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only;

C **who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

P We praise and thank You, O God, that the Light of Your love has come to us in Your
Son, Jesus Christ. Come into our hearts and make Your home with us, that we may live
in peace and be lights to the world.

C **Amen.**

(Please turn on your flameless candles as we join in singing “Silent Night”)

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and Child, holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!"

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from Thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth! Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9-13*)

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

(*The candles are switched off; please return to the basket after worship.*)

BENEDICTION

P May the joy and peace of Christmas be yours tonight and each day; and may almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.
C Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

(LSB Hymn 387, v. 1, 3-4)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room and heav'n and nature sing...

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found...

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love...

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

David Maxwell

8:00 p.m. - Carols and Candles

PRELUDE

Adeste Fideles

Kevin Hildebrand

PROCESSIONAL HYMN (*Congregation rising*)

(LSB Hymn 379)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him born the King of angels.

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.
 O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God in the highest. *Refrain.*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

INVOCATION and OPENING VERSICLES

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

C **Sing to the Lord, praise His name; proclaim His salvation day after day.**

P Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples.

C **For unto us a Child is born, to us a Son is given.**

P He will stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord.

C **And they will live securely, for then His greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And He will be their peace.**

P O come, let us worship Him.

HYMN OF PRAISE

(LSB Hymn 380, v. 1 & 3)

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;

Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”

Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;

With th’ angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all He brings, ris’n with healing in His wings.

Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,

Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray:

C **O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that, as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes again in glory; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Titus 2:11-14

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HANDBELL FANFARE

Joy to the World

Jeffrey Honoré

HYMN

(LSB Hymn 368, v. 1 & 3)

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains: Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo!

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL (*Congregation rising*)

Luke 2:1-20

P The Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read)

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

arr. Hal Hopson

Choir: O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shining the everlasting light;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

**All: For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love,
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth;
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.**

*Choir: How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.*

All: **O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;**
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

SERMON “Let Us Give the Savior a Warm Welcome” Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM O Holy Night Adolphe Adam

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING/HANDBELL VOLUNTARY The Moon of Wintertime Ringham/Eithun

RITUAL OF LIGHT (*Congregation rising*)

P In the beginning was the Word.
C In Him was life, and that life was the light of all people.
P The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.
C The Word became flesh, and made His dwelling among us.
P We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only;
C who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(*We light our candles and join in singing “Silent Night”*)

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin mother and Child, holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing, “Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!”

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth! Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!

CLOSING/LORD'S PRAYER

- P We praise and thank You, O God, that the Light of Your love has come to us in Your Son, Jesus Christ. Come into our hearts and make Your home with us, that we may live in peace and be lights to the world. Now as Your Son taught us, we are bold to pray:
- C **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

(*The candles are extinguished.*)

BENEDICTION

- P May the joy and peace of Christmas be yours tonight and each day; and may almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.
- C **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

(LSB Hymn 387)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room and heav'n and nature sing...

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy...

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found...

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love...

DISMISSAL

- P Go in peace to serve the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

David Maxwell

* * * * *

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICES:

5:00

8:00

Lectors Chris Clark Jennifer Schell Podoll

Ushers Mark Runge Skip Hansen
 Warren Wong Georgine Read

Music Deborah Reiss, Organist/Chancel and Handbell Choir Director
George Heath, Youth and High School Choir Director
Kate Marino, Cherub Choir Director
Marcia Kollmann, Cherub Choir Accompanist

Sexton Lorelei Heath

Special Holiday Worship Schedule

- ★ **Christmas Day** - Sunday, December 25 - One festival service at **10:00 a.m.** with Holy Communion
 - ★ **New Year's Day** - Sunday, January 1 - Total Family Worship at **10:00 a.m.** with Holy Communion on the First Sunday after Christmas
 - ★ **Epiphany Observed** - Sunday, January 8 - Sunday School resumes. Worship with Holy Communion at **9:00 and 10:45 a.m.**
 - ★ The Saturday service will resume on the first weekend of March

Our Chancel Christmas Trees – The two trees surrounding the altar tell the salvation story with their symbolism. On the right side is the Tree of Death. Standing in for the tree in the Garden of Eden, it has no lights and is decorated with apples (the forbidden fruit). This reminds us of the problem of sin in the world and our need for a Savior. The tree on the left side is the Tree of Life. It has bright white lights and is decorated with roses (a symbol of the promised Messiah). This lighted tree is also situated on the same side as the pulpit, the place where the Gospel message is proclaimed. These trees embody Isaiah’s prophecy which we hear every Christmas: “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.” (Isaiah 9:2)

Flowers in the Chancel are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Carol & Edward Raff, from Rose Ann DiGiovanni & Family

NEWS AND NOTES:

Holy Baptism - We rejoice with the newly baptized and welcome them into the family of faith. Edgar and Samantha Ruiz, children of Edgar Ruiz and Carolina Urena-Ruiz, will be baptized at a special service on Monday, December 26.

The Undecorating Party will take place on **Sunday, January 8**, at noon (after the 10:45 service). Pizza will be provided. Please RSVP on the Attendance Form or contact the church office, 914-337-0207 x 1003 or KRapillo@VLC-NY.org.

ALPHA Program – This is a fun and heart-warming conversation about faith, life and God over 11 weeks. Enjoy a catered dinner with wine followed by a short video and group discussion. Sessions will be held on **Wednesday evenings from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. beginning January 11**. Register online at tinyurl.com/2023Alpha

Travel to Turkey - Pastor Rob and Sue Hartwell are leading a group to see Biblical sites in Turkey on July 10-21, 2023. Space is limited to 35 travelers. **Register early by January 15, 2023** and receive a free copy of “Turkey - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture.” For more information contact the church office at 914-337-0207 (1003).

SOUP KITCHEN - The next volunteer date is **Wednesday, January 18**. Please sign up in advance to confirm your contribution. For more information, contact Katie Bukofzer at ETAKWHIT@aol.com.

Save the Dates: 1st Holy Communion Instruction classes (for 5th grade and older) will be held on Wednesdays during Lent from 6:00–7:00 p.m., **March 1, 8, 15 and 22**. The special 1st Communion Service will be Sunday, March 26, at 10:45 a.m. The Totally Green St. Patrick’s Day First Communion Lock-in will be Friday, March 17 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. Cost is \$50 (registration fee). At least one parent or guardian must attend with each child at each Wednesday session.

Automated Giving - As VLC prepares for a new year, it is important to know what support we can depend on from our congregation members. Automating your financial commitments means your contributions will be received on a steady, uninterrupted basis. To set up a recurring giving schedule, go to www.VLC-NY.ORG and click on the Online Giving link. Select a password that will enable you to log in at any time and make changes to your giving or view your complete online giving history. Alternatively, complete a paper authorization "Simply Giving" form and return it to the Development Office. Thank you!

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed! – Many thanks to everyone who volunteered over the fall and early winter. There is a sign-up sheet in the MPR for January to April. Sign up as a family or pair with another family/individual.

Music Ministry: Many thanks to all of our ensembles for their dedicated preparations and beautiful music. We will start rehearsing again in January.

Youth Choir - Resumes Thursday, January 5, at 7:00 p.m.

High School Choir - Resumes Sunday, January 8, at 10:15 a.m.

FaithWalk - Rehearse Monday, January 9 & 16, at 7:00 p.m.

Chancel Choir - Resumes Thursday, January 12, at 7:30 p.m.

Village Belles - Resumes Wednesday, January 18 at 6:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Deb Reiss at DReiss@VLC-NY.org or George Heath at GHeath@VLC-NY.org.

Wednesday Bible Study - 10:45 a.m. in the Friendship Room. We have just completed the book of James. Weekly sessions will resume on January 18, 2023 with a new study on Paul's epistle to the Romans.

Prayer Line: We pray for the sick and those experiencing any kind of difficulty: Elizabeth Acosta, Gerry Adams, Bernard Ansorge, Susan Barrowclough, Laura Bunn, Tatyana Campbell, Melinda Canary, Steven Carabuena, Bart Castillo, Frank Clark Sr., Solly Clark, Ron DeGeorge, Maria DiMarzo, Gail Eckstein, Don Febbraio, Deacon Faith Forliano, Annabella Hansen, Mackenzie Hayes, Kurt Hucke, Nancy Hylton, Sue Kobylack, Deacon Joe Lamoureux, Brian Langhans, Merline Leon, Noel Leon, Janet Lunog, Frank Lyman, Maria Magilton, Robert Magilton, Morris Mayer, Helyne Merwin, Liz Mouzakitis, Andy Munn, Maeve Nolan, Elizabeth Pedrosa, Rico Pedrosa, Laura Pencola, Louise Podszus, Gus Politis, Jason Psomas, Sylvia Puig, Karaugh-Nea Rodriguez, Astrid Rosendahl, Willi Rosendahl, Donald Ross, Marvin Sayer, Bob Schutt, Tashoff Family, Jane Triolo, Walter Wade

Bereavement Prayer Line: We pray for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

- † **Betsy Bradley**, mother of Erika Schultz, who passed away on December 18, 2022
- † **Rev. Dr. Paul Boecler**, former professor at Concordia-New York, who passed away on December 15, 2022; the funeral will be Saturday, January 7, 2023 at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids, MI
- † **Linda Cully**, cousin of the Perotto Family, who passed away on December 17, 2022
- † **Vicki Davis**, friend of Rowena del Castillo, who passed away on December 17, 2022
- † **Arlana Pathammavong**, friend of Kate Marino, who passed away on December 14, 2022

POINSETTIAS AND WREATHS

The poinsettias which adorn our sanctuary for Christmas have been given to the glory of God by the following:

The Ansorge Family

Beth & Chris Clausen

Kathy Coffey

In memory of Frank Coffey and Bill & Helen Messner

Tony DeRosa

Philip Auman Godlewski

In memory of departed members of the
Auman-Bucher-Godlewski-Hayes Family

Skip Hansen

Ilse Koerper

Vera Lang

The Podoll Family

In memory of Anna Maxine Schell Podoll

The Podszus Family

In memory of William G. Podszus,
Erna & Otto Podszus and Marie & Carl Finke

Kim Rapillo

In memory of Donald Gilder

The Reyes-Guerra Family

The Swain Family

Wreaths on the Great Porch have been sponsored by:

The Ansorge Family

Joan Bevers

In memory of Glenn Bevers

James and Jackie Bunn

The Gotte Family

The Murrer Family

In memory of Mary & Peter Ruman and Alfred & Marion Murrer

The Podoll Family

In memory of Anna Maxine Schell Podoll

Deborah Reiss

In memory of Frederick Reiss

The Wilkinson Family



Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.... ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Luke 2:1-20

¹And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. ²(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) ³And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) ⁵to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great

with child. ⁶And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. ⁷And 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. ⁸And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ¹⁴Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. ¹⁵And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. ¹⁶And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.