

**12/21/17**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

*Peace* is not a word often used in connection with childbirth. Today we try to get close to a semblance of peace with present-day medicines to take away some of the pain of childbirth. But Mary had none of our present-day conveniences. The birth of God into our world may have been on a "holy night," but it was certainly not a "silent night."

The pain of Mary's childbirth was a stark reminder of why Jesus had to be born in the first place. Sin shattered God's perfect world when Adam and Eve ate from the forbidden tree. Graciously, the Lord found them and promised them a Savior. But consequences remained as constant reminders of the sinners' need for a Savior. Pain, not peace, in childbirth was one of Eve's chastisements. Peace was probably the last thing on Mary's mind as she gave birth to her firstborn son.

*He will be their peace.* (Micah 5:5)

But Micah had already penned this song of peace hundreds of years earlier: "He will be their peace." That night angels sang of it: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests" (Luke 2:14). And a few days later, Simeon would add his own refrain: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation" (Luke 2:29,30). Don't be fooled by the pain Mary felt or the humble circumstances outside the inn. Jesus came to be our peace.

The Israelites in Micah's day needed God's peace, for they were a stubborn and stiff-necked people. Mary, Joseph, and their contemporaries in Judah needed God's peace because thousands of years of promises and prophets had not made them any less sinful. We need

God's peace because we too must admit that we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment.

Do not look to your government leaders to secure the peace you need with a holy God. Nor will it do to hope for peace in a well-lived life or a well-supplied bank account. Look, instead, to the child born from Mary's pain who was wrapped in strips of cloth and laid in a manger. Only he who humbly descended to us through Mary's womb also ascended to the cross to bear the punishment that brought us peace. In Christ your sins stand forgiven. Find him in the Word. Partake of him in the Lord's Supper. He is your peace.

***Prayer:*** *Lord Jesus, Prince of peace, let me rest ever secure in your blood-bought peace, which I now have with God through faith in you. Amen.*

(WELS E-Devotion, adapted)

...See you in church.

Keep looking up because the Lord is always looking down – Psalm 121

Pastor Alan W. Gumm

Phone: [630-947-4317](tel:630-947-4317)

E-Mail: [revagumm@hotmail.com](mailto:revagumm@hotmail.com)