

How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!

Bible reference for sermon: Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains

*are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."*



Happy Christmas 2025! It's a beautiful Christmas Day but it's also ten past three am on the morning of November 7th (48 days still to go to Christmas) as I start to write this sermon. And you're probably and rightly thinking, "why would you write a Christmas day sermon in early November?"

Christmas morning is one of those mornings of such lovely anticipation in the light of the certainty of Christmas Eve. Children may be waking to gifts to be opened or already opened, and all these because of the gift of the one born, the Word made flesh, born in the humble stable as the world's Saviour.

On this morning of 7th November, I can't sleep. I've decided to look ahead 48 days to Christmas and to dwell in the Word who became flesh for me and for you.

Yesterday (November 6) I received bad health news. In the early morning of the next day my head raced with questions.

On this night I can't sleep, but it's quite a different reason from those who look forward to the gifts of Christmas day who can't sleep because of the excitement.

My question as I dwell in the Word is how might Christmas, the birth of Christ, and the promise of the Word made flesh speak to me this morning, November 7th? How might it speak to me, to you, to anyone, to everyone in the whole world on any given morning whatever is happening in their lives?

“How does the God of Christmas life speak to me every day of the year?”

I love Christmas. I always have. I think I always will.

For me it's been a wonderful family time over 63 years. I hope I've breathed that in as fully as I might have.

But even more, Christmas and the incarnation of God, the Word who is God and who was with God in the beginning and who created all things...this all-powerful God became a human, fully God yet also fully human. And he was born in a humble dirty stable. All of this has formed and shaped me in my faith, in my theology, in my ministry and in my life. In the beginning God dwelt with us in the everyday, in the glory and the celebration yes but also in the poor, in the average, in the dirt, in the risky.

I've always loved this because God says to me and to you, that whatever steps we take and life we live on this earth, God himself knows what it's like to walk the dirt road of life that we walk. God himself walks them with us.

Last night at the Children's Service we focused on the steps that the humble donkey took to carry Jesus and Mary to Bethlehem and the donkey who carried Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Today we celebrate that Jesus promises to be with us in all of the steps of our lives. And what's more God promises us that whatever we face in life, joy and pain, life to the full and death itself, that he is with us.

The light of Christmas dawn is always a light of life and joy, a foretaste of the Easter feast ahead.

I know this now at 3:30 am on November 7th. I know it today too.”

But how does this make any real difference when we can't sleep because of the hard days and for some of us, Christmas is one such day. Maybe it is for you.

Ok, so God knows and God has empathy. But what about when we're alone in the early morning worried or afraid or sad?

Well let's turn to the prophet Isaiah and the Old Testament reading which will be read across the world today.

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices;
together they shout for joy,
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.

⁹Break forth; shout together for joy,
you ruins of Jerusalem,
for the Lord has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The Lord has bared his holy arm



God is not just born to know human
life for me and for you and for
everyone who has breathed the air of
the earth.

God comes as a human to give
life....to give his life so that he might
take the worst that life and death and
sin and the evil one can dish up on

himself and give us the gift of forgiveness for our sins on this day and every day.

It's God's personal gift of restoration and its yours and mine today and yesterday and for all of our tomorrows. Jesus is born for us and Jesus lives to die for us and God's restoration of life is made complete when three days later the tomb of death could no longer hold him and he rose to new life and the gift of new and eternal life for all who put their trust, their hope, their life, in his hands.

God's Christmas and Easter gift for you today and every day, is something to open and unpack, learn and rejoice in and to share this beautiful Christmas morn and every day you have life and breath.

Christmas morning, one of my favourites: a glorious, happy morning that we welcome our Saviour who dwells with us.

Martin Luther once said on Christmas Day "even if Christ were to be born a thousand times, it would be pointless for me unless I hear and know he is born for me." Unto you this day in the city of David a Saviour is born...unto you...for you.

Today is good news of the highest order. God dwells among us and for us and with us.

⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices;

together they shout for joy,

for in plain sight they see

the return of the Lord to Zion.

⁹Break forth; shout together for joy,

you ruins of Jerusalem,

for the Lord has comforted his people;

he has redeemed Jerusalem.

Happy Christmas 2025. God is here for you. God restores and God comforts and God lives.

And his gift today is life...the life
of Christ for you.

The life of Christ in you.

The eternal life of Christ every
morning in heaven and on earth.

Whatever we face, it is good
news of great joy.

Tell this good news today and
learn it for you and learn to speak it lovingly and boldly.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

How beautiful are the feet of the messengers who bring this good news.

Happy Christmas. Amen

Video of the service including the above address can be found on the St Paul's Lutheran Church Youtube page <https://www.youtube.com/@stpaulslutheranchurchboxhi1133>

And his gift today is life...

the life of Christ for you.

The life of Christ in you.

Go and tell everyone you love,
that God is here for them.