



The Wartburg Project

Christmas, 2015

“Christ, the Savior, is born!”

God bless your worship this Christmas!

St. Luke 2:1-20

Jesus Is Born

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³And everyone went to register, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, his wife,^a who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child.

⁶And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all people: ¹¹Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ^b the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind.”^c

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Now let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Permission is granted to pastors to use our version of Luke 2:1-20 in Christmas worship services.

May God bless you with a blessed, Christ-centered, merry Christmas!



The Wartburg Project (WP) is a 501(c)(3) parasynodical organization in fellowship with ELS and WELS (with our own EIN). Donations are speeding up the process of producing a translation by granting “release time” for the editors to focus on this work more. We thank all who have offered prayers for this project and its participants. We thank those who have given donations. Information about WP is available at the website (wartburgproject.org).

^a5 Some witnesses to the text omit *his wife*.

^b11 *Christ* is the Greek word for *Anointed One*. The Hebrew/Aramaic word is *Messiah*.

^c14 A few witnesses to the text read *among people of his goodwill*.