

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday December 18, 2023 - Isaiah 25: 9

9 In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

Read Isaiah 25 for meditation and inspiration.



THIRD WEEK IN ADVENT

Dear Lakesiders and friends,

"I am the handmaid of the Lord, let what you have said be done to me" (Luke 1:38).

Many years ago, Mark Twain wrote the following Christmas Holiday message in a New York City daily newspaper.

“It is my heart-warm and world-embracing Christmas hope and aspiration that all of us -- the high, the low, the rich, the poor, the admired, the despised, the loved, the hated, the civilized, the savage -- may eventually be gathered together in a heaven of everlasting rest and peace and bliss -- except the inventor of the telephone.”

I daresay if Twain were alive today, he might instead deny "everlasting rest and peace and bliss" to the inventors of Twitter, Facebook, and TikTok! Of course, the Good News of the Christmas Event is that there are no exceptions to God's Love for His human creatures -- not even the inventors of social media! In and through the Lord Jesus Christ, God became one of us to tell us that He loves every one of us, without exception.

Christmas was not just a starlit night in Bethlehem; it had been behind the stars forever.

There was Christmas in the heart of God when He made the earth and then gave it away to us.

There was Christmas in the heart of God when He sent us His prophets.

There was Christmas in the heart of God when He sent His Son to earth and gave Him to us.

As Jesus grew up, there was Christmas wherever He went -- giving sight, giving food, giving life -- for Christmas is giving.

But Christmas is also for receiving. In John's Gospel, it says: "And from his fulness have we all received, grace upon grace." (John 1:16). And it is by grace alone we are saved through faith.

In the Love of Christmas,



Roger

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Thanks to Dad Hengeveld (See Luke 2:1-16)

12-20-2001

SORRY FOLKS, WE'RE BOOKED SOLID ... GOD HIMSELF COULDN'T GET A ROOM HERE TONIGHT

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Thanks to John Michael Sullivan (See Luke 2:1-16)

12-23-2005

AT LEAST WE CAN SAY THAT HE WAS BROUGHT UP IN A STABLE HOME

THE RECTOR DROPS IN ON THE PAGEANT REHEARSAL

