

Jesus' "Understated" Incarnation
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I find it amazing what simple few words the Spirit inspires Luke to use to record the birth of the Incarnate Savior of the world!

To be sure we witness the angel, his joyful declaration, the multitude of angels and their glorious song...the joyful shepherds and the message they share, and soon the mysterious magi and their precious gifts. But before all that, Luke describes the most significant miracle the world has witnessed to date with such understated brevity. "And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:6-7 There, we have the mystery of God coming among us in the flesh...all summed up by God in just 44 words.

Our Savior comes so humbly, with such seemingly insignificant beginnings because He comes to exchange places with us, taking our humble place...even our place of death as sinner, and placing us, by His grace, in His place as everlasting and glorious children of God! It's an amazing gift that may seem [and it is!] quite contrary to the sin-fallen world.

Has this past year been tough? Have your hardships been humbling? Has isolation weighed down your heart, and have your trials made you feel insignificant when compared to the suffering you've witnessed in the lives of others this year? Today take heart! And know that this humble loving Savior, Jesus, comes for you where you are! He comes gently and humbly so as to not overwhelm us, and He comes to give you the most precious gift – Himself. And with Himself, at the cost of His life, the gift of His eternal grace!

"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." (Lutheran Service Book #361)

Merry Christmas