

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Father, today we join the angels from on high who sing GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST AND PEACE TO HIS PEOPLE ON EARTH! We rejoice with angels and archangels and the whole company on heaven. We praise you for your love and join the shepherds in telling everyone we meet about the Incarnate son of God!

During these dark days of fighting a pandemic, the star of Bethlehem brings a special measure of comfort and joy! Much is said about immunization in our day-to-day life here and now, but your Son brings the greater good: immunization from sin and death!

As we celebrate Jesus birth, help us keep in mind that every contact with you and your church – even tonight – is a preparation for His return for which we anxiously wait.

Bless the works of the church to spread the Good News of Jesus' birth. Help us to proclaim peace in His name and to live in peace with one another. He came to save all. Let us speak to all – the poor, the weak, the children, the sick, the dying, those imprisoned, the destitute, and the homeless, those who reject your Son, or know him not, and let us show our love for them by sharing the love the babe in the manger came to bring! In the name of Jesus, Amen!

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“A KING IN DISGUISE”

Text: Luke 2:6-7 “While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.”

INTRODUCTION – When her baby was born, Mary wrapped him in swaddling clothes and placed him in a manger. The simplicity of the event, the humble surroundings, the young couple, all betray the historic, theological, spiritual significance of the birth of this King. He is, fort the time being a King in disguise. Kings are born in palaces, in important cities, of proven pedigree. Not Jesus! He is the Son of God, Savior of the World! The angels sang at his birth, and so do we in that we today and every day!

1 – The Lord’s plan unfolds – one day at a time!

2 – The Creator of the Universe is disguised in a baby.

3 – The idyllic scenes of Christmas are a war zone.

4 – The kings of the world give our orders.

5 - The King in the manger follows orders.

6 – We join the angels in the celebration!

7 – Glory to God in the highest!

CONCLUSION – By His incarnation, our dear Lord Jesus entered the battlefield to fight for the church. He came to fight off Satan and to abolish sin and death. He came to save us and give us eternal life. All of this is by grace, not by our merit! This if the gift of God, absolutely free. You and I are now free to celebrate life to the fullest! Amen!

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