Tuesday, December 20

Read Matthew 1:18 – 25

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins. Matthew 1:21

This is why He came. Sure, He's the perfect example for how we should live, and all that, but that's not *why* He came. The real reason? It's there, right there, in His name: Jesus (Joshua, Yeshua, whichever version you come across of the same Hebrew name), "the LORD is salvation." And if the LORD is salvation, and this Child has come to save His people from their sins, that means that this Child… is the LORD, the God of all creation, become incarnate. And why did He become incarnate? The angel reveals that to Joseph, and us, too: to "save his people from their sins." This is the whole point, the whole reason: He came to save us… to save you. And there was only one way to save us: to take upon Himself the punishment that was rightfully ours. This is why J.S. Bach ends his majestic Christmas Oratorio with a text set to a familiar tune: "Herzlich tut mich verlangen," known best to us when sung with the text "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded," associated strongly with Christ's Passion. Jesus is born to save His people by dying on the cross for them; *this* is why He came.

Jesus, thank You for Your birth, life, death, and resurrection;
thank You for coming to save Your people from their sins. Amen.

Chris Schelp