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January
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HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Words from the Cross

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*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude
of the heavenly host praising God and saying,
“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth
peace among those with whom he is pleased!”*

Luke 2:13-14

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I always appreciate what Luther has to say on many topics, but he really seems to find his range around Christmas time. So, I will let him speak on the text above:

While Christ’s birth goes unnoticed on earth, it’s being highly honored in heaven—a thousand times more highly. What kind of honor is this that all the angels in heaven can’t contain themselves for joy? They burst forth and let the poor shepherds in the fields hear them preaching, praising, singing and pouring out their joy beyond measure. What did all the joy and honor of those in Bethlehem—even of all the kings of the earth—compare to this joy and honor?

Notice how lavishly God honors those who are despised by the world. Here you see that God’s eyes are turned toward the low places, for God sits above the angels and looks down to the depths. The angels were not sent to princes or powerful people, but rather to the uneducated, lowliest people on earth. Didn’t they want to speak to the high priests, the highly educated men in Jerusalem, who had much to say about God and angels? No, the ones worthy of receiving such great honor from heaven were the poor shepherds, who were considered nobodies by the world.

God completely ignores what is high. Still, we race around madly to reach useless heights on earth in order to be honored in heaven. But God’s eyes are only turned to the depths. So all we end up doing is stepping out of God’s line of sight.

If for some reason this Christmastide you feel down or depressed (which is not uncommon), or if things are not going well for you on the health, financial, or relationship fronts, remember that God’s eyes are fixed on you, particularly at such times. You are honored in heaven, and God sent His Son into the world for you, to save you from sin and to one day lift you up out of the depths and into heaven to be with Him forever. So what can we do but rejoice with the angels and sing the praises of the One who has called us out of the darkness and into the light of His unending day. Glory to God! Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Skelton

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