



A Sweet Season Devotion

[Please provide: hymnals and accompaniment (if desired)]

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. Luke 2:20

Each of us has experienced sweet seasons of our lives. Those are the days of great celebration or joy as a family, as a congregation, or as members of the LWML. For example, when the LWML gathers together in district or national conventions, it is often a very sweet season of celebration, fellowship, and service. Once the event is over, there is the long bus, plane, or car ride home, and we are back to our routines once again.

One Christian woman used to say, “Stop the clock,” whenever there was a time of celebration in her life, especially when children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren would gather. She wanted the moments to last as long as possible.

In Luke 2:20, the text for this devotion, the shepherds experienced that “sweet season” moment as they went to the birthplace of Jesus. They had been in their fields when they heard the announcement of the angels. Wow! That was an amazing moment. They went to Bethlehem and saw the baby lying in the manger, just as the Lord had made known to them. Wonder of wonders, they saw the Savior, Christ the Lord! Then they returned to their flocks, back to what they had been doing before. Except now it was different. The birth of Jesus changed their world forever.

In their initial excitement, the shepherds told everyone what they had seen and heard. Luke 2:17 says, “*And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.*” That excitement would be with them for a long time.

We, too, have had sweet seasons in our lives, when we grasp the extent of God’s love for us sinful and fallen creatures, forgiven by the blood of Jesus Christ; times that we share what God has done for us. As His dearly loved children, forgiven and restored, we return to the places where we live and work and share that love of God with those He places in our paths.

Jesus’ birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension means we have a sweet season each time we gather in His name. When we meet in Word and Sacrament with the fellowship of believers, we receive the forgiveness of sins, grace, mercy, and strength to share what He has done for us.

As believers we also look forward to the time in which we will be gathered again together, with those who have gone before us, around the heavenly throne with our Lord. There with the angels we shall see Him face to face. Living in heaven will be the sweetest season of all! That is an event that we can all look forward to one day.

So, no matter what the season of life you are in as you read or hear this devotion, may you rejoice with the shepherds and remember all that you have seen and heard about Jesus and His

saving love. May you look forward to the best season of life that is to come: the one Jesus is waiting to celebrate with us in heaven.

Prayer: As a closing prayer, either sing or speak the words of “Angels We Have Heard on High,” LSB 368, LW 55, or “Go Tell It on the Mountain,” LSB 388, LW 504.

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