



Week 6

Sermon Series: Songs of the Savior

Sermon Title: The Third Song

Sermon Text: Luke 2:1-21

Group Week of: April 30, 2023

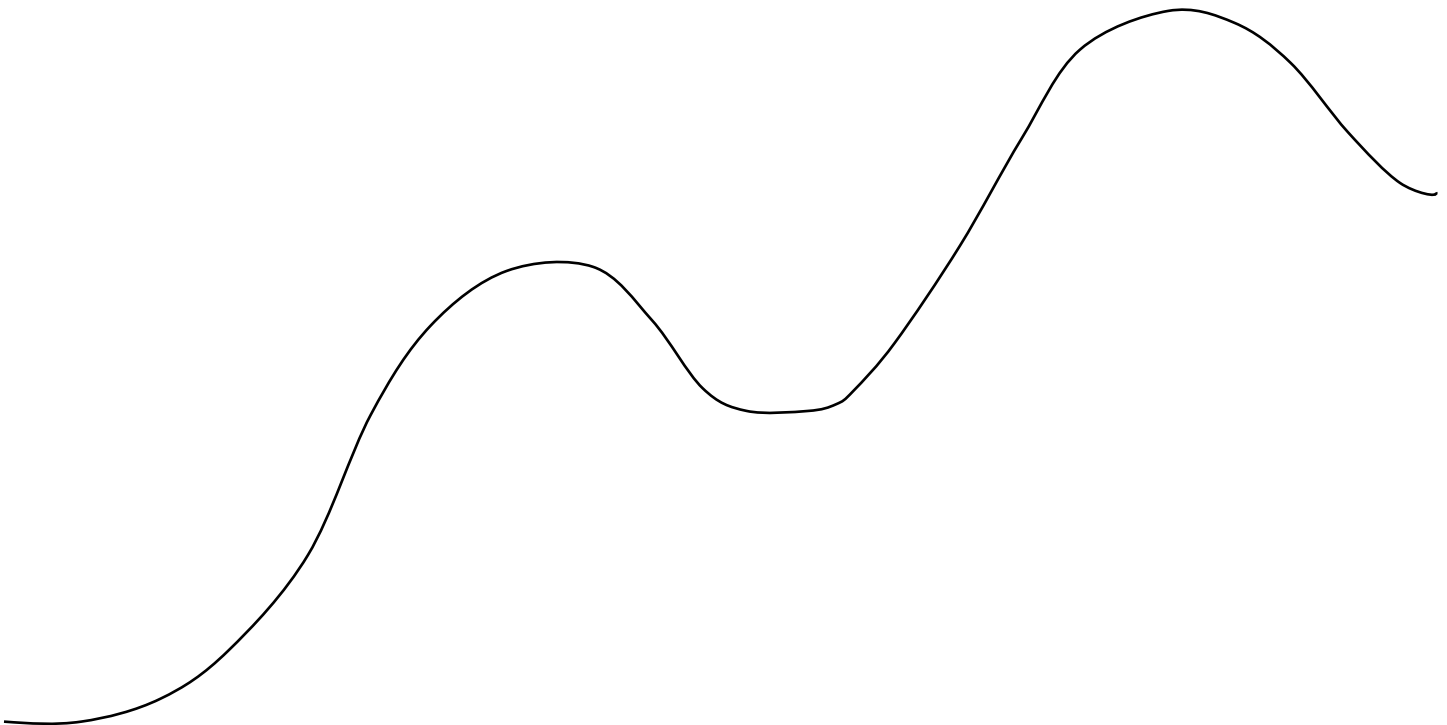
Sermon Date: May 7, 2023

Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies

Day 1	Jesus' Birth – Matthew 2:1-12
Day 2	Without a Roof – Matthew 8:18-20
Day 3	God's Dwelling – 1 Kings 8:27-30
Day 4	Meditating on God's Deeds – Psalm 77
Day 5	Praise For God's Deeds – Psalm 71:15-24

Instructions

- 1) Pray for the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to His words.
- 2) Read the passage.
- 3) Using the "Story Arc" below, insert the verses according to how you see the story begin, grow, climax, fall, and finish.
- 4) Write out the main lesson(s) of the story.
- 5) Write out some of the other lessons along the way.



Textual Questions

- 1) What is (are) the main lesson (lessons) that you see God teaching through Luke in this passage?
- 2) What reason(s) might Luke have to give contextual details regarding Caesar Augustus and Quirinius?
- 3) What responses do the shepherds have to the appearance and news of the angels?

Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) During COVID, we all learned how easily our personal lives can be affected by a global event. This is also true at national, state, and city levels. When you think about your life being affected by a decision made by politicians in Washington D.C., Olympia, or even in Yakima's city hall, how do you typically feel? Do you have any thoughts about God? If so, what are they?

- 2) Ceasar Augustus is remembered for the administrative reforms and peace he brought to the Roman Empire. Part of those reforms was the censusing of the Roman world for taxation purposes. For this reason, the people of Israel (and many other nations) resented these censuses and saw them as a burden that would simply lead to heavier taxes. Yet through that, God brings His Son to Bethlehem that He might fulfill the promise made in Micah 5:2. What does this teach you about those troublesome decisions in D.C. and Olympia?

- 3) The shepherds, like many others, were terrified when they saw the angel and the glory of the Lord. What do you think is so terrifying about the glory of the Lord and His angels? Should the terror that filled these shepherds exist in any form in the heart of a Christian? Why or why not?

- 4) The announcement of the single angel immediately crescendos into words of praise to God from an army of angels and a blessing of peace. They glorify God as they watch God pour out His love and mercy upon those He favors. Does God favor some people and not others? If so, are you able to worship God and declare His praises as the angels do, or is this more of a difficult thought that just leads to more questions? Discuss this aspect of God's mercy and your praises or questions with your group.

- 5) The shepherds find Jesus in the manger. To think that God sovereignly moves Ceasar to call the census, but also sovereignly moves people to Bethlehem such that Mary and Joseph must sleep in a manger rather than home is perplexing. Why might God will for Jesus to be born in a manger instead of a house? What do you think Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds learn about God through this unique entrance of the Messiah into the world?

- 6) The shepherds leave with worship flowing out of them for the things they had heard and seen. Mary stores up the events and ponders them in her heart. As you think about the Messiah coming to earth are you filled with things to ponder or words of worship? Whatever the case, write it out below and share those things with your life group.