

Sunday Morning 12-30-18

Pre-service Psalter 4:3, 4 (standing)

Silent Congregational Prayer

Votum and Salutation

Psalter 422:3, 5

Reading of the Law: Exodus 20:1-20

Response to the Law: Psalter 389:5

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-20

Congregational Prayer

Psalter 187: All (offering)

Text: Luke 2:15-20

Theme: The Shepherds & the Newborn Savior

1. They have heard of Jesus

2. They seek Jesus

3. They find Jesus

4. They testify of Jesus

Prayer

Psalter 163: All (offering)

Doxology: Praise God...

Benediction

Family Sermon Discussion Questions:

- 1*. Why was it so special that the shepherds had heard about the birth of Jesus directly from heaven?

- 2*. What can we learn about the shepherds by the fact that they kept saying to each other over and over again, "Let us no go even to Bethlehem?"

3. Why was it so important that the angel had told them that they would find Christ, the Lord, *as a babe lying in a manger*?

4. How does the Holy Spirit draw sinners to Jesus today?

5. How does the encounter of the shepherds with Joseph and Mary confirm that faith is the evidence of things not seen?

6. How does the conduct of the shepherds confirm the biblical truth that "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh"?

7. What disturbing conclusion must we draw from the fact that those heard the shepherds speak about their encounter with Jesus only *wondered* at what they heard?

8. What remarkable connection is there between vv. 13-14, and v. 20?

Sunday Evening 12-30-18 (NY Eve Service)

Pre-service Psalter 7:1, 3 (standing)

Silent Congregational Prayer

Votum and Salutation

Psalter 332:1-3

Scripture Reading:

Reading of Psalm 90; 1 Peter 1:17-25; 2:1-3

Congregational Prayer

Psalter 247:All (offering)

Text: 1 Peter 1:24-25

Theme: *Profound Realities at Year's End*

1. *The extreme frailty & brevity of life*

2. *The enduring Word of God – the gospel*

Prayer

Psalter 107:All (offering)

Remembering those who have passed away

Doxology: Psalter 422:8, 5

Benediction

Family Sermon Discussion Questions:

1. Why does Peter, in the context of our text, connect holiness and the new birth?
2. What is the dramatic contrast between our lives and the Word of God?
3. Why is it so humbling and instructive that our lives are compared to grass?
4. How does our text emphasize the extreme brevity of life?
- 5.* What important connection is there between the written Word of God and the Living Word of God, the Lord Jesus Christ?
6. Why is the Lord Jesus Himself the good news of the gospel?
- 7.* How do we know from our text that the gospel is addressed to us personally?
8. Why is it such a precious truth to the believer that the Word of the Lord endures forever?

* Questions for younger children