



The meaning of good news in the Greek is *euaggelizó* meaning glad tidings. It is also where we get the word evangelist. It puts a different slant on what evangelism is really all about.

First Reading Isa. 62:6-12

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 97 – A.P.B.A. page 324

1 The Lord is king let the earth rejoice:
let the multitude of islands be glad.
2 Clouds and darkness are round about him:
righteousness and justice
are the foundation of his throne.
3 Fire goes before him:
and burns up his enemies on every side.
4 His lightnings light the world:
the earth sees it and quakes.
5 The mountains melt like wax before his face:
from before the face of the Lord of all the earth.

6 The heavens have proclaimed his righteousness:
and all peoples have seen his glory.
7 They are ashamed all those who serve idols
and glory in mere nothings:
all gods bow down before him.
8 Zion heard and was glad,
and the daughters of Judah rejoiced:
because of your judgements O God.
9 For you Lord are most high over all the earth:
you are exalted far above all gods.
10 The Lord loves those that hate evil:
the Lord guards the life of the faithful,
and delivers them from the hand of the ungodly.
11 Light dawns for the righteous:
and joy for the true of heart.
12 Rejoice in the Lord you righteous:
and give thanks to his holy name.

Second Reading Titus 3:4-8a

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is sure. I desire that you insist on these things, so that those who have come to believe in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works; these things are excellent and profitable to everyone.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke, Chapter 2 beginning at verse 1

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.



¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they



were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.



⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



This is the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Imagine this, for a while an oddly bright star hovers over Bethlehem. Herod had ordered a census in which people living elsewhere had to travel back to their home towns. The whole region witnesses this astral phenomenon. Then out in the country the night sky is lit up and voices in the sky are heard. Many would be asking nervously, what does this mean? Then shepherds come into Bethlehem full of people from all over Israel. They talked about what they have seen and heard. How this had led them to a baby and this baby would be the Messiah. From that day on word is spread all over Israel, is this the day of our Lord? Is this the prophesy of old being fulfilled?

Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ... while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us



The Angels brought the shepherds "good news." Then the shepherds spread this news and many were amazed. Jesus came to be Lord, to reign in our hearts. He invites us to invite Him to have a hope we have never had. When our souls are touched this way we experience that Jesus is real and no longer a children's nativity story. He is still amazing and worth talking about. Meaning talking about the good news of God's hope and grace we still participate in today. Meaning how this hope and grace affects us in our conduct, our relationships and the peace He brings our souls. No wonder He is called our Saviour who brings joy to the world, peace on earth, good will to everyone. It really can be a happy Christmas if we accept the gifts He brings.

Let us pray

Almighty God, who gave your only begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of the Virgin Mary:
grant that we being born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who
lives and reigns with you and the same Spirit,
ever one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**