

Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus
that all the world should be registered.

This was the first registration,
when Quirinius was governor of Syria.
All went to be registered each to their own ancestral city.

Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth,
to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem,
because he was descended from the house and family of David,
to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was pregnant.

While they were there, the time came for her to give birth.
And she gave birth to her firstborn son
and wrapped him in swaddling cloths,
and laid him in a manger,
because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields,
keeping watch over their flock by night.
And an angel of the Lord stood before them,
and the glory of the Lord shone around them,
and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid;
for look, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:
to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you:
you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths
and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,
praising God and saying,
"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among all people whom God favors!"

Text is an arrangement of the NRSV with minor revisions to facilitate storytelling.

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven,
the shepherds said to one another,
“Hey, let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place,
that the Lord has made known to us.”
So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph,
and the baby lying in the manger.
When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this
child.

And all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.
But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.
The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God
for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.