



The Song of the Angels

The shepherds were guarding their sheep in a field near Bethlehem when an angel came down with a special message from God. The angel told the shepherds not to be afraid because she had good news to share. On this night, Mary gave birth to Jesus, the savior! The angel told the shepherds that they would find the baby Jesus lying in a manger in Bethlehem.

Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven also appeared. They were praising God. They said,

“May glory be given to God in the highest heaven!
And may peace be given to those God is pleased with on earth!”

New International Reader's Version - Luke 2: 13-14



After the angels left, the shepherds decided to travel to Bethlehem to see for themselves the child that the Lord had promised. They found Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus just as the angels had told them. The shepherds told Mary and Joseph about the angel's visit and what she had told them, proclaiming that Jesus was the Savior. Mary thought a lot about the angel's message.

As the shepherds returned home to care for their sheep, they praised God and said wonderful things about God.

God chose the shepherds, very ordinary people, to be among the first to hear the special message that Jesus the Savior was born. The angels proclaimed God's goodness and they told the shepherds that Jesus is the way to peace.

Pope Francis understands that faith in Jesus is the path to peace. Take some time to think and reflect on Pope Francis' thoughts on peace.

- ❖ "...peace calls for daily commitment -- it's homemade -- starting from God's gift, from the grace which he has given us in Jesus Christ."



- ❖ “Peace is a gift of God, but requires our efforts. Let us be people of peace in prayer and deed.”
- ❖ “If following Jesus seems difficult, don’t be afraid, trust him, be confident that he is close to you, he is with you and he will give you the peace you are looking for and the strength to live as he would have you do.”
- ❖ “We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love. Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach peace.”
- ❖ “Peace must be built on justice, on integral human development, on respect for human rights, on the protection of creation.”
- ❖ “Let us pray for peace, and let us bring it about, starting in our own homes.”



Let us pray (choose one or both of the following)

From the day of our birth, O God, you are with us, surrounding us with your love, drawing us forward into your reign. Let your presence sing out from all creation so that every event, every encounter, reminds us that you are here. Conscious of your abiding peace, may we live in union and charity, as we have been called to do. We ask this in the name of Jesus, living sign of your love and peace. Amen.

or

Song, [“Angels We Have Heard on High”](#)

References

- ❖ Bible for Today’s Family, Luke 2: 8-20
- ❖ Closing prayer from *Intercessions of Mercy*, Joy Clough, RSM, editor
- ❖ [Peace Quotes by Pope Francis](#)
- ❖ [Catholic Exchange: “The Song of Angels”](#)
- ❖ Images
 - Page 1, header image - [“Shepherds Worship Jesus” from www.LumoProject.com](#)
 - Page 1, image on left - [“The Angels’ Good News” from www.lambsongs.co.nz](#)