

121921

The Gospel Begins

Mark 1:1-4

The Good News

Vol. 01

FOR ANYONE, AT ANY TIME, AND ANY PLACE

FREE

EXTRA!



EDITION



JESUS HAS COME!

Mark
says He is
Messiah &
Son of God

BETHLEHEM. A group of shepherds have come forward claiming to have seen the promised Messiah. The men say that they were keeping watch in the field when an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in

the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

SOURCE LUKE 2:8-14

Background: For the final Sunday in our Advent Beginnings series, after exploring Matthew, John and Luke's birth narratives, we will explore Mark's birth narrative... but Mark doesn't have a birth narrative! However, Mark does share good news: "Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Son of God" (1:1). Throughout the birth narratives of the other Gospels, we see each character respond to the good news in different ways. But, all respond by changing their normal routines and reorienting their lives around Jesus. How do you respond this Christmas to the good news that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Son of God? Join us this Sunday as we prepare for Christmas as an entire church family.

Sermon Text: Mark 1:1-4 (ESV)

1 *The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*

2 *As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,
"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,*

3 *the voice of one crying in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,'"*

4 *John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.*

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- a. As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you the most?
- b. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- c. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?

2. Sermon questions

- a. After exploring each Gospel's birth narrative, which one will you live in this last week before Christmas?
- b. Which characters from the birth narrative do you most identify with?
- c. How do you respond to the good news this Advent season?
- d. What would it look like in your life for Jesus to increase and you to decrease (like John the Baptist)?
- e. What would it look like practically in your life to live in the hope that Jesus is coming again?