

The Perfect Present

by Karen Maio

Christmas is over. The tree has more needles on the carpet than on its branches. The decorations have been stripped and shoved back into the basement crawl space. The cards and letters have been tossed, while the photos have been set aside to go into the scrapbook. The fruitcake, uneaten, is growing mold, while the cookies, eaten, are growing on the hips. Then there are the gifts - the sweater has to be returned - too big; the new jeans have to go back - too small; the game had a piece missing; the toy truck is already broken. The shoes were the wrong color, the sweatshirt was the wrong brand, and the cd was a duplicate. And the handmade ceramic chicken? Hmm...let's not even go there.



Only one Christmas present was perfect. Wrapped not in shiny red and green paper, but in swaddling clothes; not from some fancy mall or big box store, but from our heavenly father, was the perfect one-size-fits-all gift of our loving Savior, Jesus. He's never too big and important to listen to our prayers, He's never too small and weak to handle any and every situation. He is the only true God, and he came to redeem all people of every nation and color. Salvation is complete - nothing missing that we can or have to provide- and ours through faith in Jesus's atoning death and resurrection. How priceless!

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

Let us all with gladsome voice
Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,
His own Son has given.
To this vale of tears he comes,
Here to serve in sadness,
That with him in heav'n's fair homes
We may reign in gladness.
O Lord Christ, our Savior dear,
Bless us and be near us.
Grant us now a glad new year.
Amen, Jesus, hear us!

(Christian Worship Lutheran Hymnal, Text: Ander Theil Des Dressdenischen GesangBuchs; translated by Catherine Winkworth)



Season: Epiphany

Video: 20. Spread the Joy!

Devotions: 30. Given to You

93. 4th of July

196. Santa Claus

Prayers: 17. Dearest Jesus, Christmas Day will soon be upon us...

18. Dear Morning Star who shines so bright...

Super Girl: 95. So, here we are right back in the busiest, most stressful time of year...

Scripture References: Genesis 22:2; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:18; John 3:18, 36; John 6:40; John 11:25; Romans 5:8; Romans 8:32; Ephesians 2:4

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