



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY December 30 & BEYOND”

“Jesus Is Simply the Word of God”



There is a very powerful section of the Bible, given to us by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit through the writing of John the Apostle, which describes for us the coming of Jesus the Savior. It speaks of simplicity; it speaks of divine timing; it speaks of ancient times; the description draws us in. But it says nothing about a manger scene, or shepherds, or wise-men. John leaves that to his fellow Gospel writers Matthew and Luke. What words, then,

can match such a description?

Here are two of the sections of the first chapter of the gospel (the “good news”) about which I’m describing. May I leave it to you to apply the description I provided to these passages?

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son,[d] full of grace and truth. 16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son,[e] who is close to the Father’s heart,[f] who has made him known.

The Church’s liturgy continues this Sunday (the Sunday after Christmas) ringing in the celebration of the Word of God, Jesus, with a joyful noise. We will hear again of uplifted voices, trumpets and horns, and melodies of praise. We will hear the ancient Jewish prophets once again tell of Israel’s liberation from captivity by God’s mercy and eternal love. O radiant Zion!!

Both the prophet and psalmist lead us who come and worship with the singing of God’s power and salvation. God has shown the might of His holy arm, they say. If

this should remind you of the mighty and miraculous works of God which caused the people of Israel to be able to escape from the bondage of the Egyptian Pharaoh, then you are exactly right in making the connections. And the songs they sang following their salvation! The songs of Miriam, Moses' sister. The song of Moses, himself.

The coming of the Word of God into the world (and as we encounter him as the Christ child) fulfills all that the Exodus and the return from exile prefigured. Yes, pre-figured. God's eyes were wide open then, so to speak, and wide open with the incarnation of the Word of God.

In the Word of God come to us (his name in this manner is Emmanuel, God-with-us), God sent the only possible solution to the end that all nations covering the earth will see the victory of God over the forces of sin and death.

And so, our Gospel for the first Sunday after Christmas reveals that Jesus is in fact the Word of God, the one through whom the universe was created, the one through whom the universe is sustained.

In speaking to us through His Son, God has unveiled a new age, the last days. That's the NEW Zion, and the NEW Jerusalem!! And my friends all of God's people will be singing and rejoicing those same loud and beautiful songs about God's plan for us, and his creation. The new age is a new creation. In the beginning, God spoke His Word and light shone in the darkness. Now, in this new age, He sends us the true light to scatter the darkness of a world that has exiled itself from God.

He is the one Isaiah foretold – who brings good tidings of peace and salvation, who announces to the world that God has come to dwell and to reign (see Rev. 21:3–4). So we sing a new song on Christmas Day, and we take the time for 12 days to keep singing that new song about Christ being among us. It is the song of those who have believed in the Christ child and been born again – by grace given the power to become children of God.

(with credits for portions of these reflective words to Scott Hahn)

Fr. Robert G. Eaton, Interim Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 147:13-21 Galations 3:23-25, 4:4-7 John 1:1-18

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: **The First Sunday after Christmas**

8:00a Low Mass (Church)

10:30a Solemn High Mass (Church)

—The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue—

Note: Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

MONDAY: 7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: **New Year's Day**

Noon Mass – Feast of the Holy Name (St. Mary's Chapel)

FRIDAY: AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)

SATURDAY – Society of Mary Day of Devotion

11:00am Rosary (St. Mary Chapel)

11:30am MASS (St. Mary Chapel)

Noon Potluck Luncheon (Parish Hall)