

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS
IS THE WORD DWELLING WITH ME?

December 25, 2022, 11:00 am

The long-awaited Son is born. The Word through whom all things were made has made His home with humanity. He has brought new life which is the light of the human race. The light of the world which enlightens everyone has shone, and darkness cannot overcome it. 'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light'. Christ is born to bring life and light. Have I also seen the light, or I am living in darkness?

'In times past, God spoke in various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, He has spoken to us through His Son through whom He created the universe'. The message spoken by the Son is peace, and that was what the angels sang to the shepherds. He has announced salvation and that the Lord is restoring Zion.

John tells us that the Savior was in the world, but the world did not know Him. He came to His own, but His own people did not accept Him. We have gathered to celebrate the coming of the Savior into the world; have we accepted Him? Are we living according to the flesh or by the Spirit? Can we truly say that we are children of God? Through our baptism, we were born of the Spirit and clothed with Christ; are we living according to human choice and by our own decision or by God?

The Word-made-flesh who dwells among us is full of grace and truth, and we are reminded by John that it is through Him that we have received grace upon grace. This is because 'while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ'. Is the grace of Christ the force behind all my activities, or am I relying on my human ability and wisdom?

Today, we are reminded of who Christ is: He is the Word who is God. The world was made through Him, and He sustains everything. He is life and the light of the world. So, in Him I live and move and have my being. The light is so powerful that the darkness cannot overcome it. He enlightens everyone. This means I cannot know and understand God's message and plans for me without making room for Him in my life. He gives people the power to become

the children of God, that is those who accept Him. He is full of grace and truth, and He gives grace to all.

St. Paul's letter to Titus, read last night, makes it clear why Jesus was born. According to St. Paul, "The grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to reject godless ways and worldly passions and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world" (Titus 2:11-12). So, the Savior has come as our teacher and guide. He is to guide us into all truth. Does the world need Jesus as a trainer of godly life? We see and judge things in subjective ways today, so I determine what is morally good for me. In this case what Jesus wants me to do and not to do becomes irrelevant to me.

As we rejoice because the Savior is born, we are to reflect on the lives of those who played their part in fulfilling God's plan. John the Baptist prepared His coming by preaching to the people to repent from their sins. His message is relevant to me even now. I am to reflect on Mary's 'yes' to the Lord; Her desire to submit Her will to His. The birth of Christ teaches me how to be humble and lowly and how to submit my will to the will of God. I am to be generous and kind as God has been to me by sending His Son into the world to live among us. It brings me joy and hope.

