

Nativity of the Lord

December 25, 2008

“For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon His shoulders dominion rests. They name Him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace”

—Isaiah 9:5

Our Gospel for this Christmas Day proclaims to the shepherds and to us that “For today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you whom is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” (Luke 2:11-12). It is this infant whom Isaiah foretells will be born to us, who shall be named the Prince of Peace, for His reign shall be characterized by peace. It is a peace not only of this world and between its people, but also a peace within our hearts. This infant is Jesus, the Word made Flesh and true God from true God. As Son of God, this is the Prince who shall inherit, from His Father, dominion over the entire world on the last day on which all mankind will be judged.

This Prince was not born in riches or with renown, rather He was born in humble and simple surroundings. He was born as the ultimate gift for us, the gift of the Way, the Truth and the Life to the Father's salvation. As Word made Flesh, He experienced the same human condition to which we have all been born. And as with us, He was given the option of choose freely to submit to the will of God. In that submission to God's will, He freely chose to suffer and die on the cross that we might have the opportunity to share with Him the eternal life of salvation in God's heavenly kingdom.

Prior to His death and suffering He taught us by word and example the Way by which we too could come to receive the blessing of God's eternal salvation. It is in understanding and accepting His Way, His Truth and His Life that we can have His Peace within our hearts. Through that Peace in our hearts, we can in turn gift others in this world by being an example of Christ in their lives. In turn, as a community family of believers, we can bring Christ's Peace to this world. Truly, the Prince of Peace has come, and it is for us to re-gift His gift of Peace by sharing that gift with others.

Readings:

Isaiah 9:1-6 <http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/isaiah/isaiah9.htm>

Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13

<http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/psalms/psalm96.htm>

Titus 2:11-14 <http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/titus/titus2.htm>

Luke 2:1-14 <http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/luke/luke2.htm>