

Light in the Darkness

This Week's Readings at Mass

- Isaiah 52:7-10 • The One who brings glad tidings
- Hebrews 1:1-6 • God speaks through his Son
- John 1:1-18 • In the beginning was the Word

There are several beautiful Christmas readings telling of Jesus' birth, but the chosen Gospel reading for today is one that doesn't even mention Jesus' birth or infancy. It comes from the beginning of John's Gospel and hearkens back to before the beginning of time. It evokes memories of the first story of creation in the book of Genesis, a story which began with the same words as this Gospel, "In the beginning..." Rather than a story of Jesus' birth, the reading is a poetic meditation on Jesus' identity and mission. Rather than focusing on Jesus' humanity like the birth stories do, John's Gospel focuses on Jesus' divinity.

Jesus wasn't just born in Palestine about 2,000 years ago. John tells us Jesus existed "in the beginning with God." He wasn't created by God, he already "was," and all other things "came to be through him." He is the light that "shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

The reading continues on to tell us that this Jesus, this "Word," this "Light," eventually became a human being and lived as a human being on this earth. From there, John jumps to Jesus' adulthood when John the Baptist recognized Jesus for who he was (someone who has existed for all time) and pointed others to him.

In short, this is a Christmas Day reading like no

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"In the beginning was the Word...And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."

Sheepish Question:
Knowing Jesus dwells among us, how shall I share his presence with others I care about?

other. As poetry and metaphor, it's not meant to be approached rationally with the mind, but meditatively with the heart.

Questions of the Week

- 1 What line or verse most stands out for you in the reading? Why?
- 2 Reflect on a time when you experienced light shining in the darkness and not being overcome by the darkness.

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