

Christmas Day 2024
Sermon – Saint Joseph Parish
Father Craig Looney
Hebrews 1.1-12 St. John 1.1-14

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In the beginning was the Word...our friend Saint John writes...and the Word was with God and the Word was God...and the Word was made flesh...and lived among us.

We normally hear these words in the Last Gospel read at the conclusion of every Mass. Today this is the Gospel appointed in the Prayer Book for Christmas Day. We will hear Luke's account of the Angels announcing the birth of Jesus to the Shepherds in its place at the end of today's Mass.

The birth of Jesus is the story of the *INCARNATION*...the Word made Flesh...God became a human baby boy...born in a barn...the humblest of births. He is our *EMMANUEL...GOD WITH US*. He is the Light of John's Gospel. He leads the world out of darkness and sin and death...and the Light of Christ can never be put out. Jesus the boy learned to walk among us so one day we might walk with him in heaven...forever.

God has revealed his love for us in Jesus Christ, our Savior, whose birth we celebrate today with hymns of joy and praise. The "child for us sinners" will grow up to give himself for us. He will rescue us from darkness and evil and bring us into his light. The Christmas Story is one we must not keep to ourselves...we must tell others...we must be willing to share the truth of the Gospel...and God's love for mankind...in a world desperate for peace and order.

Today we join with the Angels and Saints of Luke's Gospel and shout *GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST HEAVEN, AND PEACE ON EARTH TO THOSE WITH WHOM HE IS PLEASED!*

Today We see his glory (light)...the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

O come, Let us adore him!

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