

Homily – Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day) Gospel: John 1:1–18

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Gospel we hear today is unlike any other Christmas story. There is no manger, no shepherds, no angels singing in the night. Instead, Saint John takes us back to the very beginning of everything: **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”** With these words, John lifts our eyes beyond Bethlehem and into eternity. Before the stars were formed, before time began, before creation itself, the Word already existed. And that Word—God Himself—**“became flesh and dwelt among us.”** This is the heart of Christmas.

The God who created the universe did not remain distant. The eternal Word did not shout instructions from heaven. He entered our world, took on our humanity, and pitched His tent among us. God chose to speak not only through prophets or commandments, but through a human life—through Jesus.

John tells us that **“all things came to be through him.”** Every sunrise, every heartbeat, every breath we take has its origin in the Word. And yet this same Word became small enough to be held, vulnerable enough to suffer, humble enough to be born into poverty. Christmas reveals a God whose greatness is shown not in domination, but in love.

John also tells us something sobering: **“He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him.”** The light entered the darkness, but the darkness resisted it. This is not just a statement about the past; it

is a question for us today. Do we recognize Him when He comes? Or are we too busy, too distracted, too comfortable to receive the light?

Yet John immediately gives us hope: **“To those who did accept him, he gave power to become children of God.”** Christmas is not only about who Jesus is; it is about who we are called to become. In Christ, we are no longer distant creatures—we are sons and daughters of God. We belong to Him.

The image John uses is powerful: light shining in the darkness. Darkness in Scripture represents fear, sin, confusion, suffering, and death. We all know that darkness. We see it in our world—in violence, injustice, division. We experience it in our own lives—in grief, doubt, loneliness, and broken relationships. Christmas does not deny the darkness; it proclaims that darkness does not have the final word. The light shines, and it cannot be overcome.

John also tells us, **“From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace.”** God does not give sparingly. He gives Himself completely. In Jesus, grace is no longer an abstract idea—it has a face, a voice, a heart. Grace is God bending toward us, meeting us where we are, and lifting us into new life.

This Gospel reminds us that Christmas is not just sentimental. It is revolutionary. If the Word truly became flesh, then every human life has dignity. Every person matters. Every act of love, mercy, and truth participates in the light of Christ. When we forgive, when we serve the

poor, when we choose compassion over indifference, the Word continues to dwell among us.

And John ends with these words: **“No one has ever seen God. The only Son... has revealed him.”** If we want to know what God is like, we look at Jesus. In Him we see a God who heals, who welcomes sinners, who weeps with the sorrowful, who lays down His life for His friends. Christmas tells us that God is not far away. God has a human face.

Today, as we celebrate the Nativity of the Lord, we are invited not only to admire the light but to walk in it. To receive Christ is to allow His light to shape our choices, our relationships, and our lives. The world does not need more noise or power; it needs light—quiet, steady, faithful light.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May we welcome the Word made flesh with open hearts. And having received His light, may we carry it into a world still longing for hope. **“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” Amen.**