**My Words In His Mouth**

**Deuteronomy 18:15-19**

Rorate Coeli – Advent 4

12.19.2021

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

I’d like to read our text to you again, it is truly a wonderful lesson from lips of Moses, as the Holy Spirit moved him to speak it.

“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ And the Lord said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.’”

You are probably wondering this morning, “Why do we have these Scripture lessons? This coming Friday is Christmas Eve and Saturday is the birth of our Savior – Christmas Day. What is this all about? This is not Christmas-y! How come we are not yet celebrating Christmas?”

Hmmm, when can we celebrate the birth of a baby? Is it acceptable to celebrate the birth of a child six days before it is born?

I know, some people are having a problem getting into the Christmas spirit this year. They do not truly feel like putting up the tree! They do not feel like wrapping up the presents – or even buying them in some cases!

I am almost tempted to say, “Wonderful! That is not what Christmas is about anyway!” There are a million and one feel-good movies about people falling in love for Christmas. There are all sorts of movies about regaining hope in people by “believing in the spirit of Christmas.” Pauline and I watched a wonderful shorter movie just the other day, it was very nice.

But as with almost all of such movies, there was – and is – something missing.

There was no Jesus!

It is so easy to get caught up in what we think Christmas is all about.

Will all the children be coming home to celebrate?

Will all the presents be coming under the tree in time?

Will all the proper foods be prepared in time for those coming over?

If everything is not right…if all our expectations are not 100% correct…if anything is out of place in what we want it to be, then we lose the Christmas spirit.

Did you notice what took place there? And just so you know I am not just talking about you, I have to make sure I do not get so focused on those things that I forget something. For too often, when people speak about the fact that they have lost the Christmas “spirit”, they have already removed their focus from what it is all about – Christ.

This text is perfect for us this last week of Advent, for it is all about looking forward to Him who the Lord God was going to raise up, a prophet like Moses – the One to whom they were to listen. At the writing of this text, Moses is getting ready to depart from them, he is an old man, and Deuteronomy is his last word to them.

In this passage, God is having them recall what the Israelites said at the foot of Mt. Horeb after coming out of Egypt. At that time all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking. They knew God was present! They were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.” (Ex. 20:18-19)

This is why God is promising to dos something different. He is going to raise up a prophet like Moses – one in human flesh – to whom they shall listen. This One shall have God’s Word in His mouth – just as it was promised that Moses would. But, it is going to be a different word than that from the mouth of Moses, and different from the word from the other prophets – for they were servants of the word from Moses.

All the prophets repeated the Word of God that came through Moses. That word was the Law! It pointed forward to the One who was going to come – the One who will have God’s Word in His mouth. Their word always pointed forward to One who was to come with a different, a fulfilling Word – the Gospel, the Good News!

The Lord is going to put His Words into His mouth, for they will be different than the Law. These will be words of peace and forgiveness, not words which terrify. These Words will bring peace to mankind from God.

It is again foretold by an angel to the shepherds on the Judean hillside. “Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.”

Moses, speaking by the Spirit’s guidance declared, “The Lord your God will raise up for you prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen.”

This promise is fulfilled from the womb of Mary. In her tabernacled the same God who spoke to the Israelites, taking on human flesh. It is to her Child that you should listen. He is the Word of God, and He speaks whenever His servants speak in His name. He tabernacles among us today.

Not everything we desire to have coming to us this Christmas may be coming, but we have something better. The promised Coming One has come. The promised Coming One is coming today, God’s Word is in His mouth – God’s Word of peace and forgiveness.

He comes to you as He has promised, and He comes with greater gifts than any we might place for one another under the tree. He comes with a meal that is so much better than anything we could prepare, or even purchase from the finest five star restaurant. He comes as better family than even our own, for He unites us to Himself for all eternity – raising us from this life to life eternal.

All these are His God’s Word of promise and life in His mouth.

Do you listen to Him? Do you hear from the cross that it is finished – for you? Do you hear that all is accomplished – for you? Do you understand that He who came in your flesh, took your sins into His flesh?

He is Coming to speak to you – to lift you up in Himself – to grant you His life – to fill you with joy and peace.

The Word of God speaks – His Word fills the mouths of those who speak His Word to you.

Do you listen to Him as He speaks to you? Your sins are forgiven!

Do you listen to Him as He speaks to you? Take eat; this is My body, given for you.

Do you listen to Him as He speaks to you? Take drink; this is My blood of the new covenant, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

Listen to Him, for it is the One promised long ago who speaks to you. It is He who proclaims to you, “Go in peace!’ In the name of Jesus. Amen.