

## NAME OF JESUS

This is a special Sunday | named in the lectionary as Name of Jesus. As the 8th day after his birth, it commemorates the circumcision of Jesus, which is when, in accordance with the Law, Jewish newborns received their name.

The day this Sunday is assigned in the lectionary is the first day of the new year - January 1st. And so (having come on a Sunday this year) we begin this new year ( 2023 ) in Jesus' name, under his name, through his name. We enter this year in this way to do all in the name of Jesus

In our reading from Numbers we'll hear the Aaronic Blessing - the blessing given to Moses' brother Aaron with which to bless the Israelites. "So they shall put my name on the Israelites," says the Lord, "and I will bless them." We are not the Israelites, but we also are the Israelites. All our texts for today affirm the power of the blessing we are given in baptism, the name we're given at baptism: Beloved child of God - the same name given to Jesus at his baptism. This name is active and powerful (in us and through us) each day of this new year, just as the name of Jesus itself is described as being a powerful actor in our world and in our lives (Phillippians 2:10-11).

It's the first day of a new year. It's a special day, but Christmas will soon be over and we will soon return to the ordinary. But we **carry the name of Jesus and "the mark of his cross received in baptism" not only in extraordinary times, but in our ordinary, everyday lives.**

And so, in our ordinary, everyday lives,

If you eat, if you drink, should you marry, if you set out on a journey, do all in the name of Jesus, calling upon him to help you. And having invoked him in all that you do, then apply yourself to the thing at hand... Do everything in the name of the Lord, and wherever the name of the Lord is set up, all things prosper. If the name of Jesus has power to drive away demons, if it can banish illness, much more will it aid your own actions.

- John Chrysostom

Today, this first of days, let us set up the name of our Lord, that we may walk with confidence (faith) toward the good work now laid before us, to do it all in the name of the Lord.

**AMEN**

**We too have been to the stable, we too return to our tasks praising God.**

Bless you - not a polite pleasantry, but a prayer for divine visitation.

### **John Chrysostom**

There will be nothing evil, nothing impure, in our invoking of the sacred name. If you eat, if you drink, should you marry, if you set out on a journey, do all in the name of Jesus, calling upon him to help you. And having invoked him in all that you do, then apply yourself to the thing at hand. Should you wish to speak concerning any business, invoke the name of Jesus beforehand. Do everything in the name of the Lord, and wherever the name of the Lord is set up, all things prosper. If the name of Jesus has power to drive away demons, if it can banish illness, much more will it aid your own actions.