**A Great Light**

It is Christmas Eve and we are all excited to be here waiting and watching for our Lord who came as our Savior. Yes, we are remembering the first time He came, to us as the true light. Yes, He is the true light that would eclipse all other lights; even sun light. Also, we are anticipating His second coming because it has been predicted by some scholars that our Savior will come back again on a Christmas Eve day!

How amazing it would be for Jesus to find us at His second coming, celebrating His first coming by worshiping in His Church. Jesus told us that His second coming would be like a flash of lightening in the sky. Our hope is that before the end of the night, we might experience that light.

In our first reading, Prophet Isaiah painted a picture of rags to riches. Rags could be compared to a picture of heavy darkness in a land of gloom and misery. While riches could be compared to a great light that eclipses the darkness. The light came to remove all misery and gloom in the land.

Isaiah’s picture continued by explaining that the light which has shone would lead to unfathomable joy. The rejoicing that would take place, would be like a rejoicing that happens after a hard fought battle had being won. However, that battle that Isaiah talked about, is not about a human made battle, but a spiritual battle against sin and the Devil.

Isaiah then revealed to us that the light would be a Son born to us whose yoke would be easy and His burden would be light. This Son would be called many names, **“Wonder-Councilor,”** because He is the source of all wisdom and His wisdom could never be matched.

He would be called **“God-Hero,”** because He would rule the world with justice and lay down His life for the salvation of all. He would be called **“Father-Forever,”** because His love would be forever. He would be called **“Prince of Peace,”** because the peace He would bring would not be an earthly peace but a heavenly peace.

In our second reading, St. Paul in his letter to Titus gave us a snapshot of what the Light came to do. He said the Light, who is the Son of God has come to save us so we could live peacefully forever with Him in His heavenly kingdom. The Son of justice whose yoke is easy and burden light would teach us to reject sin and godless ways in this age so we can become children of God.

Paul asks us to wait for the second coming of our Lord. It is what we hope for. Our hope is to see Him come back in glory and majesty so we can get the eternal reward He promised us at his first coming. It would be a reward that we do not deserve. It would be a gift from our God. Our receiving this reward, would be through our perseverance and diligence in avoiding what is evil and doing what is good. It is then we would become adopted children of God.

In our Gospel reading, St. Luke narrated for us when and where the Light of the world was born. We are told that it was during the time of Emperor Caesar Augustus who asked that everyone should be enrolled in their own ancestor place. Joseph, then took the expectant mother, Mary with him to Bethlehem the city of David. It was there that Mary delivered the Son of God, wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger because there was no room in the Inn for them.

It was no coincidence that it was to shepherds that the angel of the Lord first delivered the great news of the birth of the Messiah. It was not delivered to a king, queen, Pharisee, or Scribe. The significant of this could be, what the Messiah first coming was all about. He came for the poor and lowly and not the rich and powerful.

Secondly, the significance of His birth in a manger which is the feeding trough for animals, also points to His mission of coming as a poor suffering servant who came to serve and not to be served. Thirdly, it served as a sign as the angel said, for the shepherds to know who to look for. I can imagine, there would not be many babies born and laid in a manger in Bethlehem. Fourthly, it could also indicate that He would become a meal for all who would believe in Him. He was pointing to the Eucharist.

As we joyfully come to receive Him in the Eucharist, let us remember to always imitate Him in His humility in coming to us.