

DECEMBER 25, 2017



SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

MASS DURING THE DAY



ISAIAH 52:7-10

PSALM 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6

HEBREWS 1:1-6

JOHN 1:1-18 OR 1:1-5, 9-14

REFLECTION

The reading from Luke is what we mostly associate with Christmas—the story of the angels, the shepherds, and the birth of Christ in Bethlehem. The Gospel according to John is a different approach to the Christmas story. What does it mean that Christ was born? Mary treasured the events of the Nativity in her heart. But John draws us to meditate on Christmas also with our head. The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. The light has dawned in the darkness. We have seen his glory. And in him, and only in him, we see God. And as we celebrate the birth of a child, we give thanks for our becoming God’s children. In Christ we become children of God, for he is the eternal Son of God. In him we are born again—not by emerging from the womb again but by being brought forth from the waters of Baptism. Born, not by our will, but by the will of God—his work, his doing, his grace upon grace poured out in Christ, born in Bethlehem. Born for you. Born to live for you, born to die for you, born to be resurrected for you, and born to reign eternally for you. Even now, he remains the Word of God made flesh—divine but also human.

ACTION

This Christmas, try to be the eyes and feet and hands of Christ in your home. Try to enflesh Christ today in your family by having fun together. Play a game together. Help each other cook some great food. Simply tell your family and friends that you love them. Enflesh the joy and love of Christmas in your family today.



JOURNALING QUESTIONS



- In what way can you be like a child in sharing the Christmas miracle? How can you enflesh the love of Christ in your family today?