

## Second Sunday after Christmas

### John 1:1-18

**1 In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. 4 All that came to be had life in him, and that life was the light of men, 5 a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. 6 A man came, sent by God. His name was John. 7 He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. 9 The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him 13 who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. 14 The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.**

**15 John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.' 16 Indeed, from his fulness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, 17 since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.**

Other readings: Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2,8-12 Psalm 147 (148) Ephesians 1:3-6,15-18

This Sunday of the Christmas season offers the opportunity to reflect quietly with the help of the Scripture readings on the deeper meaning of the coming of Christ. Our first reading, from the extensive writings of the sage known as Ben Sira, offers a reflection on how 'Wisdom' pitches her tent among the people of God. The one who was from the beginning 'takes root in a privileged people'. These words are fulfilled in the becoming flesh of the Son of God. This is momentarily expressed in the first chapter of the Fourth Gospel, read today: 'the Word was made flesh and lived among us.'

John the evangelist calls Jesus 'the Word', for in him God has spoken his fullest word to the human race. The Prologue also refers to Jesus as 'the true Light', for he brings truth and direction in our darkness. The darkness of sin and death cannot overcome the light of Christ. Many will reject the Word, but those who accept him become children of God. Our gospel also refers to the witness of John the Baptist, who points to one greater than himself.

We have all received from the fulness of the Word. In the opening of the Letter to the Ephesians we bless God who has chosen us in Christ to be adopted sons and daughters.

*How can we ever fathom the marvelous love of God who humbles himself to share in our humanity?*

*Do I appreciate or simply forget that I am an adopted child of God?*

*We pray that the feast of Christmas will shed light on our darkness.*

*Let us open our hearts to the grace and truth which come to us in Christ.*