

January 3 Tuesday

The holy name of Jesus

Reading 11 JN 2:29–3:6

If you consider that God is righteous, you also know that everyone who acts in righteousness is begotten by him. See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope based on him makes him self pure, as he is pure. Everyone who commits sin commits lawlessness, for sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who remains in him sins; no one who sins has seen him or known him.

Responsorial Psalm PS 98:1, 3CD-4, 5-6

R. (3cd) **All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.**

Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done wondrous deeds;
His right hand has won victory for him,
his holy arm.

R. **All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.**

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation by our God.
Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands;
break into song; sing praise.

R. **All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.**

Sing praise to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and melodious song.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
sing joyfully before the King, the LORD.

R. **All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.**

Alleluia JN 1:14A, 12A

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.
To those who accepted him
he gave power to become the children of God.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospel JN 1:29-34

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.' I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel." John testified further, saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from the sky and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."

Reflection:

The two great themes in John's gospel are that the Word of God in Jesus gives Life and Light. Later, he will say, "*I am the Resurrection and the Life*". He brings life in all its fullness. Not just biological life but the life of the whole person, what psychotherapist Carl Rogers called "the fully-functioning person". So often we are told that most of us just use ten percent of our actual potential. As Tony de Mello would say, much of the time we are only half alive or even virtually dead! Again Jesus said, "*I am the Light of the world.*" The theme of the struggle between Light and darkness pervades John's gospel. Jesus throws light on the darkness of our human situation. He is the Way: he is Truth-Integrity-Wholeness and he is Life, life in abundance, in all its fullness. He provides the vision (being able to see through the darkness) for us to make our way in this world of 'flesh' (sarx). And now, just as it was in Bethlehem two millennia ago, he is still in the world, the world which was made through him, and the world which still, in large part, does not know him, a world of violence, anger, hostility and, above all, of fear. Floundering in the darkness of our neon-lit world, many cannot see him, many do not take time to share his vision. He came to his own people and they did not accept him. The Jews first and so many others after (including those with the name/label 'Christian'). What about me?.