

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) - Mass During the Day

ISAIAH 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings glad tidings,
Announcing peace, bearing good news,
announcing salvation, and saying to Zion,
"Your God is King!"

Hark! Your sentinels raise a cry,
together they shout for joy,
For they see directly, before their eyes,
the LORD restoring Zion.
Break out together in song,
O ruins of Jerusalem!
For the LORD comforts his people,
he redeems Jerusalem.
The LORD has bared his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations;
**All the ends of the earth will behold
the salvation of our God.**

Handel got this right in his Messiah.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=udlKV_Zt3Vo

For the entire the Messiah
Handel picked the perfect texts.

Isaiah looks BACK to when the Jews
returned from Babylon after 70 years,
celebrating as they went back UP to the top
of the MOUNTAIN, Jerusalem.

And he looks AHEAD into Messianic Times
when ALL God's People, not just Jews, will
hike up the mountain where God Dwells.

[Remember all **gods** dwelt in the **clouds** on
the **mountain tops**. Everyone knew that.]

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

R. (3c) **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.**

The LORD has made his salvation known:
in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice.
He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness
toward the house of Israel. **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.

salvation = saving actions

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. . .**

HEBREWS 1:1-6

Brothers and sisters:

In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways
to our ancestors through the prophets;
in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son,
whom he made heir of all things
and through whom he created the universe,*
who is the ***refulgence** of his glory,

First through PROPHETS
now through the SON--
Who was there at the creation!
*See the Gospel of John: **In the
Beginning. . .!!!**

* from Latin, shining like a '**flash of lightning**'

the **very imprint of his being,*

When he had accomplished purification from sins,
he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
as far superior to the angels
as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say:

You are my son; this day I have begotten you?#

Or again:

I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me?#

And again, when he leads the firstborn into the world, he says:

Let all the angels of God worship him.#

Paul says ### all three of these
mean that Christ is MORE than any
Angel or Prophet.

Isn't that what John says at the
beginning of his Gospel today?

Alleluia

A holy day has dawned upon us.

Come, you nations, and adore the Lord.

For today a great **light** has come upon the earth. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

GOSPEL John 1:1-18

1 In the beginning was **the Word**,
and **the Word** was with God,
and **the Word** was God.

[V = Vide = SEE John says: a new 'creation'
like the creation in Genesis Ch 1]

2 He was in the beginning with God.

XT WAS even before he was born of Mary

3 All things came to be through him,
and without him nothing came to be.

[I mentioned that verses were added later.]

What came to be **4** through him was **life**,
and this **life** was the **light** of the human race;

{note the illogic of v. **4** in the middle of nowhere}
Hebrew POETRY:

5the **light** shines in the **darkness**,
and the **darkness** has not overcome it.

life – light - darkness

6 A man named John was sent from God. 7 He came for testimony, to testify to the **light**, so that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the **light**, but came to testify to the **light**. 9 The true **light** which **enlightens** everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He was in **the world**,
and **the world** came to be through him,
but **the world** did not know him.

11 He came to what was **his own**,
but **his own** people did not accept him.

12 But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, 13 who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh
and made his dwelling among us,
and we saw his glory,
the glory as of the Father's only Son,
full of grace and truth.

The WORD of God is now 'in the flesh'
just like the BREATH {SPIRIT} of God
moving over 'nothingness' created the World.
--This time 'kicked up' a notch! In the
Incarnation, God-in-the-flesh.

15 John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me **because he existed before me.**' 16 From his fullness we have all received, ***grace in place of grace**,¹⁷ because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, **##who is at the Father's side**, has revealed him.

because he existed before me. Here again John points out that Xt **was** God, **has been** God, before he was even born. He always **was, is, and will be** God.

This idea is clearly stated later by another John (John of Patmos) in the last book of the NT, The Book of Revelations, also called Apocalypse.

Revelation 1:8

I am the Alpha and the Omega,' says the Lord God,

*who **is,***

*who **was,***

*and who is **to come**, the Almighty.*

[Alpha and Omega; A and Ω are the 1st and last letters of the Greek Alphabet.]

***grace in place of grace**

John says: God graced us, His People, by His Presence in the Tabernacle (Tent) during the Exodus through the DESSERT! And His Presence in His Temple. Now ON TOP OF THAT He adds His Presence in the PHYSICAL Person of Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ, Messiah who is PHYSICALLY in the FLESH present. [And for Catholics and Orthodox, in the Real Presence in the Eucharist. So the Grace of the OT is TOPPED by this grace of the NEW Testament.

##who is at the Father's side, This term used often in SS refers to the King's Spokesman who always stood with the King at his right hand. He expressed the will of the king. He handled everything and made sure it was done. That is the image here. Xt is here to make sure we know what the Father wants, what his WORD is, and to carry it out.

CHRIST IS GOD

Compare HEBREWS: **through whom he created the universe**,* so Xt was there in the beginning, creating with the Father and the Holy Breath.

and ***very imprint of his being**, He flashes like blinding lightning, illuminating the Darkness with the Glory of God because of his **being**, his **ESSENCE** (from the Latin ESSE =to be).

He is equal to the Yahweh you Jews have always known.

Don't both of these dove-tail with John's main point that XT **IS** God, **Was** and **Will BE**.

He is the EMMANUEL, the *With-Us-God*?