

# THE MESSIAH IS HERE!



## I. A LOOK AT THE THREE READINGS

### FIRST READING (Is 52:7-10)

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains/ are the feet of the one bringing **good news**,/ Announcing peace, bearing **good news**,/ announcing **salvation**, saying to Zion,/ “Your God is King!”/ <sup>8</sup>Listen! Your sentinels raise a cry,/ together they shout for joy,/ For they see directly, before their eyes,/ the LORD’S return to Zion./ <sup>9</sup>Break out together in song,/ O ruins of Jerusalem!/ For the LORD has comforted his people,/ **has redeemed** Jerusalem./ <sup>10</sup>The LORD has bared his holy arm/ in the sight of all the nations;/ All the ends of the earth can see/ the **salvation** of our God.

**THE FOCUS:** **Salvation**

### COMMENTARY

- This poetic oracle from Trito-Isaiah conveys what happens when the Messiah ushers in.
- Its poetic device (called metonymy, when a part stands for a whole ) weaves the three component factors of the messianic experience:
  - a) the feet (v.7) refers to the messenger of the good news, beautiful, full of peace, heralds to Zion, the holy mountain, that God is King.
  - b) sentinels, the watching arm of a body of army (v. 8)- stands for the people of Israel who have long waited for the Lord’s return to Zion.
  - c) baring of the holy arm refers to the action of Lord, aptly picking up the metaphor of the watchmen, making nations see wonderful works of God or in another expression making all the ends of the earth see the salvation of God.

### REFLECTIONS

This text , like a Psalm (e.g vv. 9-10) reveals the joy in the announcement of the coming of the Messiah.

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**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** (Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6)  
**ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH HAVE  
SEEN THE SAVING POWER OF GOD.**

### SECOND READING (Heb 1:1-6)

<sup>1</sup>\*In times past, God **spoke** in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; <sup>2a</sup>in these last days, he **spoke** to us through a son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe,/ <sup>3b</sup>who is the refulgence of his glory,/ the very imprint of his being,/ and who sustains all things by his mighty word./ When he had accomplished purification from sins,/ he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high,/ <sup>4c</sup>as far superior to the angels/ as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs./ <sup>5d</sup>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”?/ <sup>6e</sup>And again, when he leads the first-born into the world, he **says**:/ “Let all the angels of God worship him.”

**THE FOCUS:** **Speaking through His Son**

### COMMENTARY

- The Reading has two parts:
  - I. *Jesus as the definitive word of the Father (vv1-3a)*. First, God spoke decisively through the prophets, and then he has fully and finally revealed himself (character and will) through His Son: made heir of all things as He is creator of the universe; refulgence of his glory,

imprint of his being, and sustains all things by his mighty Word.

II. *Saving acts of Jesus (vv3b-6)*. The Son’s roles are: provides purification for sins, meaning sharing our humanity, suffering and dying so that he may fulfil his priestly role of making atonement for sins; sits at the right hand of the Majesty on high which means He is the favoured one and superior than the angels who are even commanded to worship the Christ.

**REFLECTIONS**

The angels, prominent during Christmas, are heralds of the message of salvation.

**GOSPEL READING** (Jn 1:1-18 or 1-5, 9-14)

<sup>1a</sup>In the beginning was the **Word**,/ and the **Word** was with God,/ and the **Word** was God./ <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God./ <sup>3b</sup>All things came to be through him,/ and without him nothing came to be. What came to be/<sup>4c</sup>through him was life,/ and this life was the light of the human race;/ <sup>5d</sup>the light shines in the darkness,/ and the darkness has not overcome it./ <sup>9h</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world./ <sup>10</sup>He was in the world,/ and the world came to be through him,/ but the world did not know him./ <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own,/ but his own people did not accept him./ <sup>12i</sup>But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, <sup>13j</sup>who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man’s decision but of God./ <sup>14k</sup>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 FOCUS:** The Spoken Word

**COMMENTARY**

**Logos**, is the greek word for Word in this Reading. The other greek word for Word is

**Rima** and refers to the spoken word. So Word here is deeper in meaning as it connotes the Wisdom idea which is the creative activity of God— birthing of Life. Furthermore this Life also brings light that has conquered darkness even if this Light is rejected by many. For this creative act is of God. And the evangelist John tells us that Jesus is this Word who became flesh (v.14). And so this is something that is a radical idea Christians announce to the whole world. And the evangelist will invoke the witness of John the Baptist in proving that Jesus is already with God even in the very beginning of time (Wisdom of God): ”From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace (v. 16).” He is greater than I, John the Baptist professes and greater than Moses who gave the Law, the evangelists says, because only Jesus, the only Son can reveal the “Father’s side.”

**REFLECTIONS**

The prominence of Jesus is highlighted in the Prologue of the Gospel of John and there are different themes that describe Jesus: Word, Light, Glory, Grace and Truth.

**II. TYING THE THREE READINGS TOGETHER DEVELOP YOUR HOMILY/SHARING**

In the First Reading, Isaiah describes the joy we feel when the Messiah has come. And the Second Reading talks of its fulfillment in Jesus. Furthermore, the Gospel Reading talks about this fulfilled event as the coming of the Logos, the Word of God, our Light, our Truth, our Glory and Grace.

**III. OUR CONTEXT**

- 1. Verbuhay wishes a meaningful and prayerful season for you and your loved ones.
- 2. Give Love on Christmas Day!

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