

አንኳን ለብርሃን ልደቱ አደረሳችሁ።
May you dwell in the light of His birth.



HOMILY FOR THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD and SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST

Behold a new and wondrous mystery. My ears ring with the Shepherd's song, piping no soft melody, but blaring full force a heavenly hymn. All the Angels sing. The Archangels harmonize. The Cherubim chant their joyful praise. The Seraphim exalt His glory. All join, promoting this holy feast, beholding the Godhead here on earth, and man in heaven. He Who has always been above, now for our redemption dwells here below; so that all who have been oppressed may now, be raised by divine mercy.

What shall I say! And how shall I describe this Birth to you? For this wonder fills me with astonishment. The Ancient of days has become an infant. He Who sits upon the sublime and heavenly Throne, now lies in a crib. And He Who cannot be touched, Who is simple, without complexity, and bodyless, now lies subject to the hands of men. He Who has broken the bonds of sinners, is now bound by infants' bands. But He has decreed that poverty shall become honor, infamy be clothed with glory, and total humiliation the measure of His Goodness.

For this, He assumed my body, that I may be changed by His Word; taking my flesh, He gives me His spirit. Thus, He bestowing and I receiving, He prepares me to treasure Life. He takes my flesh, to sanctify me; He gives me His Spirit, that He may save me.

Come, then, let us celebrate this Feast. Truly wondrous is the whole story of the Christ's Nativity. For this day the former slavery to sin is ended, the devil confounded, the demons flee, the power of death is broken, Eden is unlocked, the curse is lifted, the Covenant of Mercy dawns, sin is removed from us, error driven out, truth has been restored, the talk of kindness multiplies, and spreads on every side, a heavenly way of life has been planted on earth, angels communicate with men without frightening them, and men now talk with angels.

Why is this? Because God is now with us on earth, while representing man in heaven. On every side grace begins, again to penetrate creation. He became Flesh. He did not become God. He was, already, God. Wherefore, today, He became flesh, so that He Whom heaven could not contain, a manger would receive. Placed in a feed trough, He, by whom all things are nourished, then received infant's food from His Virgin Mother. The Father of all ages, as an infant at her breast, nestles in the virginal arms, that the Magi may more easily see Him. Since this day the Magi too have come, and taken a stand against tyranny; and the heavens give glory, as the Lord is revealed by a star.

Through Him, then, Who out of confusion has cleared the path by His Cross, to follow Him as the way, the truth, and the everlasting life, with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we offer all praise, worship, and thanks, now and for ever. Amen.

A paraphrased excerpt from St. John Chrysostom's, "Homily on Christmas Morning"