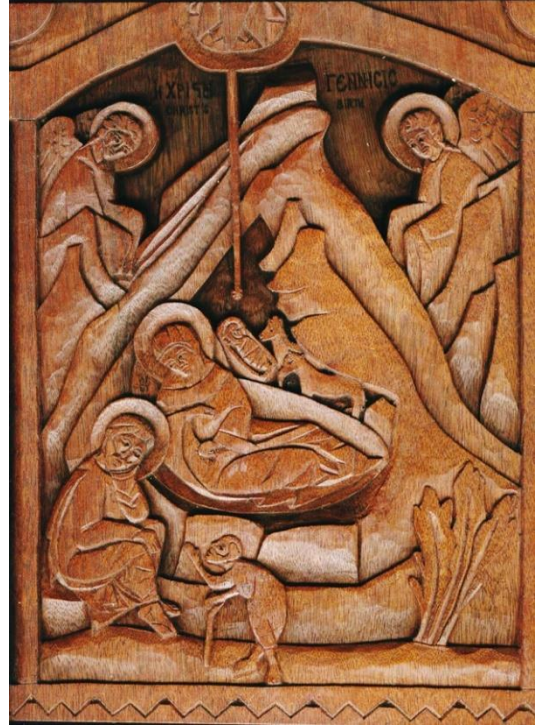


My beloved Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

These words, originally from the 38th Oration of St. Gregory the Theologian, later recast as a hymn by St. Kosmas of Mayum in Gaza, encapsulate a great mystery. God, who is beyond all the mutability in this world, chooses to enter into our world once and for all. God is with us!

The Son of God comes to unite divine Glory to human frailty and weakness, to birth; so also eventually to a death, which he destroys by the Resurrection. The Glory of God is beyond the capacity of human beings to touch, it comes on Sinai in fire and thunder, unapproachable. We cannot see God and live. So God comes to see us, to BE us, to be for us our very own eyes to see God in the midst of human frailty and death, and to live.



So the immeasurable one becomes small; a little child, an only child. The joy of a young Mother, yet all the weight of the hope of the long-suffering People of God weighs on him. Even his Mother's hope of salvation: he "put down the mighty from their thrones and exalted the lowly." The lowly shepherds rejoice, the Kings bow down, and the wicked of the world fear even this humbled state of the King of Heaven born as a weak infant. Let evil fear humility. Let the meek and the weak rejoice, God's strength is poured into every weak heart that seeks strength in faith. Christ is born because evil will not be victorious, God will choose not to participate in the violence of the world that cannot accept to receive him: at once a child and the Glory of Heaven.

God is unspeakable mystery to the human understanding. He is the mystery which is the Reason for the whole universe. He becomes a real human infant without speech: God humbles himself to our condition. How many times have we found ourselves troubled, oppressed by our inability to express the most meaningful things. Christ is here to be the Word which teaches us in our childish distress. We must learn to understand his ruling as King through humility. We must learn to pray. We must learn to be created by him as "good." We must learn to hope for the "rest" which comes from God for the sake of worshiping him. He comes to teach our tongue to sing, and call all creation with us to sing, "Alleluia!" and "Glory to God in the Highest and on earth Peace!"

In the world that we have made for ourselves there is violence, enmity, hardness of heart, hatred of our neighbor, greed and a disdain for generosity. There is only one true way out, it is to call upon Emmanuel, God with us, God made human and sing these songs of praise, "Alleluia!" and "Glory to God in the Highest and on earth Peace!"

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

In Christ,
Fr. Elijah Mueller



PS: Please support our parish and donate to help us in our work of prayer and our witness within our community at the University of Chicago, Hyde Park, and the broader South Side. We are small but growing community and we need all the support we can get from our members, friends and "alumni." We are thinking of you all, and praying for you. Please remember us as you celebrate. May God give us all joy together in the Holy Spirit, showing his presence to us all in this day of wonder and peace.

Send donations to:
St. Makarios Mission
c/o Fr. Elijah Mueller
1100 E. 55th St.
Chicago, IL 60615

Christmas services,
Prefestal Vespers 12/22-23, 5pm at Calvert
Christmas Vigil and Liturgy, 12/24, 5pm at Calvert