

Singing Our Faith

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – January 14, 2018

Praise to You, O Christ, Our Savior

Refrain



Praise to you, O Christ, our Sav-ior, Word of the Fa-ther, call-ing us to life;



Son of God who leads us to free-dom: glo-ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!

Verses



1. You are the Word who calls us out of dark - ness;
2. You are the one whom proph - ets hoped and longed for;
3. You are the Word who calls us to be ser - vants;
4. You are the Word who binds us and u - nites us;



you are the Word who leads us in - to light;
you are the one who speaks to us to - day;
you are the Word whose on - ly law is love;
you are the Word who calls us to be one;



you are the Word who brings us through the des - ert:
you are the one who leads us to our fu - ture:
you are the Word - made - flesh who lives a - mong us:
you are the Word who teach - es us for - give - ness:



glo - ry to you, Lord Je - sus Christ!
glo - ry to you, Lord Je - sus Christ!
glo - ry to you, Lord Je - sus Christ!
glo - ry to you, Lord Je - sus Christ!

D.C.

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In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

– John 1:1-5

Above are the beginning words of St. John's gospel account, which we heard proclaimed at the Christmas liturgies. As we venture into Ordinary Time when the scriptures unfold the ministry of Jesus, this Sunday's gospel reading is of John the Baptist proclaiming Jesus as the Lamb of God. Although we will not hear the opening of John's gospel this Sunday, the gospel we will hear comes later on in the same chapter. With this context in mind, I chose the opening hymn, "Praise to You, O Christ Our Savior." Jesus is referenced as "The Word" 10 times in this hymn, including a specific naming as "Word-made-flesh." Bernadette Farrell, contemporary composer and hymn writer, calls Jesus the "Word-made-flesh who **lives** among us." The use of the present tense was certainly intentional. As the Church teaches, and as this hymn text points out, Christ is "speaking to us today" as the Living Word of God; he "binds us and unites us" in the sacrifice of the Eucharist.

Besides the connection with John's gospel, this hymn bridges the seasons of Christmas and Ordinary Time in several ways. The first stanza references the Word who "calls us out of darkness and leads

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us into light,” recalling the words of the Prophet Isaiah we heard on Christmas, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.” The Christmas season and the beginning of Ordinary Time present several milestones in Jesus’ life: birth, childhood, presentation in the temple, baptism by John, and the beginning of his ministry. Today, John proclaims him as “The Lamb of God.” While John’s followers and Jesus’ new disciples may not have known exactly what John meant, we are privileged as 21st century Christians to know the fullness of John’s proclamation.

Like last week’s Epiphany readings and hymns, these words surpass the superficial, materialistic interpretation of Christmas by guiding us to a **living** and applicable meaning of the Incarnation. Let us cherish the past weeks spent reflecting on the Word-made-flesh, and take those new perspectives into our Ordinary Time journey.

Stephen Eros

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