

A Sermonette & Prayer -

On The Nativity of our Lord JESUS CHRIST

**for our hospital cancer & grief support groups
CHRISTMAS dinner, December, 2019**

by Chaplain Robert Baral

On CHRISTMAS Day, December 25th, we will again celebrate The Nativity of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, Who has come into the world to redeem mankind from sin and darkness and bring us into The Peace of GOD's Kingdom, now on earth in part, and some day in Heaven in full.

Almost simultaneously, the first candle of HANUKKAH is lit on December 23rd, recalling the cleansing of The Temple in Jerusalem under the Maccabees in 164 BC, and how the holy oil in the lampstand was sufficient for only 1 day, but lasted for 8 days, shining forth GOD's Peace. ¹

¹ Article, "The Eight-Day Miracle of the Oil on CHANUKKAH: Truth or Tradition?"
Maria Merola. 12/04/2011.
<https://doubleportioninheritance.blogspot.com/2011/12/eight-day-miracle-of-oil-on-ch-anukkah.html>

I MACCABES 4:55-56

55 And all the people fell upon their faces, and adored, and blessed up to Heaven, Him that had prospered them.

56 And they kept the dedication of the altar eight days, and they offered holocausts with joy, and sacrifices of salvation, and of praise. ²

JESUS CHRIST is The Eternal Light of GOD's Peace, Who forever shines in the temple of our lives, our souls and our very being, our eternal Festival of Light. Like the Maccabees, like the Apostles, like Holy Mary, and like our Savior Himself, we too battle through struggles and losses that are mixed with joys and blessings.

And we know the outcome, as Saint John writes of in I JOHN 5:4-5, that our faith in Him is the victory that overcomes the world:

4 For whatsoever is born of GOD, overcometh the world: and this is the victory which overcometh the world, our faith.

5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that JESUS is The Son of GOD? ³

² DRA, I MACCABES 4:55-56

³ DRA, I JOHN 5:4-5.

Many in our fellowship here have lost loved ones. Many of us have battled through cancer. Here we have found loving one another as GOD loves us lightens our burdens and reminds us of GOD's Love.

And in all the times of our lives, those filled with tears of both joy and of sorrow, we know The LORD GOD Himself is with us to strengthen us as He walks with us in this life and, we pray, into Heaven forever.

So the prophet Isaiah foresaw The Nativity of our Redeemer, as in ISAIAH 7:14:

Therefore The Lord Himself shall give you a sign. Behold a Virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and His Name shall be called EMMANUEL, ⁴ "GOD with us!" ⁵

And when GOD's fullness of time had come, Saint Luke records in LUKE 2:10-11,

10 And the angel said to them: Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, that shall be to all the people:

11 For, this day, is born to you a Saviour, Who is CHRIST The Lord, in the city of David. ⁶

⁴ DRA, ISAIAH 7:14.

⁵ Hebrew Word Study, "GOD with us, EMMANUEL." Wonder Israel. 11/15/2015. <https://wonderisrael.com/emmanuel/>

⁶ DRA, LUKE 2:10-11.

Let us pray:

In The Name of GOD The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit:

Where ever we walk, from The Father, may The Light of GOD's Peace be upon us and our loved ones, as we journey together with Him and one another, on the paths of our lives.

What ever the burden, from The Son, may our hearts and souls receive comfort and rejoicing in the everlasting arms of Divine Mercy, even as we ask for the prayers of our loved ones in Heaven, and all the holy Host Above.

And what ever the need, from The Holy Spirit, may we all approach This Newborn Child in The Manger, GOD's Love for us Incarnate, with joy and homage, rekindling once again The Light of His Peace within us!

AMEN.