

BEHOLD YOUR KING

Thursday, December 18

Reading: Hebrews 2:14-18; 4:14-16

Translated French Poem:

*The ardent light of our faith guides us all to the infant's cradle, as in other times a brilliant star led the kings of the East there.
The King of kings is born in a humble stable; you, the might of your day, so proud of your grandeur, it is to your pride that God preachers.
Bow down before the Redeemer!*

English Hymn:

*Led by the light of faith serenely beaming / With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming / There came the wise men from Orient land
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger / In all our trials born to be our friend
He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger / Behold your King; before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King; before Him lowly bend!*

“Led by the light of faith serenely beaming” – This verse focuses on the visit of the wise men.¹ As the star guided them to the Christ Child, so faith is our light to lead us to Christ. The wise men’s journey should remind us that we are on a journey of faith. It begins with a search for God’s salvation and finding it through faith in Jesus. It will not be completed until we reach eternity and stand in His presence for all eternity.

“In all our trials...He knows our needs, to our weakness is no stranger” – The book of Hebrews explains why Jesus had to become a Man. He understands what we are going through because He has experienced it as well. He was tempted so “He is able to help those who are being tempted” (2:18). He suffered pain and suffering so He can empathize with weaknesses (2:17; 4:15). He did this to break the power of Satan and death and to make atonement for our sins (2:14, 17).

“Behold your King!” – We usually picture a king as some majestic figure sitting on a throne giving orders and using power. But ‘O Holy Night’ reminds us that King Jesus was first seen in humility – in “a lowly manger.” When He returns, it will be in power and glory to judge and reign (see Revelation 19), but for most of the book of Revelation, Jesus is pictured as “a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain” (Revelation 5:6, et al.). Jesus conquered Satan, sin, and death by dying! His greatest power was displayed through weakness.

2 Corinthians 13:4 For to be sure, He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by God’s power.
Likewise, we are weak in Him, yet by God’s power we will live with Him in our dealing with you.

Often, we see Jesus best in our times of trouble because that is when we need Him the most. As the Lord told the Apostle Paul, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9). To which Paul replied,

“Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me...For when I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

What should the thought of why Jesus came cause us to do in response?

¹ Like most Christmas carols, O Holy Night ignores the fact that the wise men did not find Jesus in a manger, but in a house (Matthew 2:11).