

GRACE UPON GRACE

John 1: 1-14

Monday, December 25, 2017

As a child growing up in the Episcopal Church this was the most familiar Scripture reading to me. I sang in the Junior Choir as soon as I was old enough and while that choir sang at the children's service every Sunday, I don't remember that we had a Gospel passage read to us each week. But that choir also sang for the Christmas Morning service and this was the Gospel reading then, as now. And I remember it from then, as an adult now in the Senior Choir. This was read from a pulpit that was elevated high and so we had to raise our eyes towards heaven. I remember the church being dim. And I remember a great sense of mystery, awe, and intimacy for all since that church was full even though it was large.

In the beginning was the Word, Logos. Look at these other meanings of Logos: ground, plea, expectation, speech, account, reason, proportion, discourse. It also came to mean a principle of order and knowledge to philosophers. Think on these as they relate to Jesus.

He is our ground, the foundation for our lives. His plea was in His life, and it calls to us. We have expectation of life in and with Him. He gives us speech when we don't have the words on our own. The account of his life in the Gospels is the story we tell to the nations.

That story is what it means for the world that Jesus, God, came in lowliness, to live among us as an itinerant preacher, and to die a criminal's death, for us.

John says Jesus is the Light of the world. He is the illumination to guide our paths. Light can also be the look or expression in someone's eyes. What shines from our eyes? What do others see in us? Light, an area brighter or paler than its surroundings; do we show as brighter, or at least paler, than the darkness around us?

Jesus, Incarnate God, Logos. Born in the night past, adored by shepherds and angels. "Alleluia" the angels sang. "Alleluia" the earth replies. "Alleluia" we reply with heart and voice this day as we rejoice in this yearly celebration of the coming of Emmanuel, God with us.

Prayer: Alleluia! Praise God, for the Light in the darkness, the Guide for my path. Help me be the light for others to see Christ through me. Praise God, Amen.

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