

Homily: This is My Son: The Christ Child

It all began with the first two human beings God created. And they had it perfect. They lived in a perfect world that lacked all of the problems and struggles that you and I experience today. Everything and everyone were at peace. There were no natural disasters, there were no diseases, no cancer, no crime, no war, no killing, no death. Everything was perfect, including Adam and Eve. They were made in the perfect image of the Holy God. Except Satan came disguised as a serpent, and convinced them that they really weren't perfect. They were lacking in knowledge that only God Himself had. But if they ate of the fruit of this particular tree, they would receive the knowledge they lacked, the knowledge of good and evil, and then truly become perfect like God.

Now Satan is the king of half-truths, a little truth mixed in with a whole bunch of lies. They already knew what was good. That was the gift of being created in the image of God. In fact, all they knew was good. When they disobeyed, when they broke the only commandment God had to give them, 'Don't eat from that tree in the middle of the Garden', they fell. They lost the inherent knowledge of what is truly good. And that knowledge was replaced with the knowledge of evil; a constant self-centered desire to please oneself and serve oneself over and above the Creator God and fellow man.

But the LORD still loved His precious created human beings. He came to them, pointing out their sin, and yet pointing them to a great promise. One of Eve's descendants would come and make right once again all that they had made wrong. And through the work of this Promised One, paradise would be restored. And so, the waiting began. Eve thought her firstborn son Cain was the one. What he turned out to be was the first murderer. With each successive generation sin, and hate, and war, and all the problems we know of today just kept getting worse. Despite this, the LORD kept His promise alive to send this Promised One, revealing more and more about who He would be and what He would do through His prophetic words of Scripture. And those who put their trust in this great promise by His gift of faith were declared to be right with God, set aside for that perfect eternity the LORD promised would come.

And then, 2,000 years ago, the Heavenly Father made good on His promise when He sent His Only Son, God the Son, whose divine nature took up residence in a human baby boy, the Christ child. The miraculous birth that only the LORD Himself could bring about. This special child, born Christmas Day, would grow to be Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. By His suffering and death, He would pay the ransom price to save us from the eternal dying our sins earn for us. Instead, He took all of them to the cross and died to remove them from your permanent recorded forever. And by His gift of faith, the power to believe that all He did in His life, death, and resurrection was for you, so that you are declared to be right with God. You are declared to be the perfect child of the Heavenly Father. And He promises that when Jesus returns on the Last Day, He will make you completely perfect, body and soul, ready to live forever in the Garden of Eden He will restore on the New Heaven and New Earth

That is the most wonderful gift of love, worthy of our praise and worship. Join with me as our children tell us all about it. And join in as we sing praises to our God who came to save us. Amen.