

## **“We Came To Worship Him”**

### **Feast of Nativity**

**Father Luka Sidarous**

**Jan 06, 2020**

In the name of The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit, One God, Amen.

The word that the Magi spoke to King Herod about the birth of Christ: "We have seen His star in the East and we came to worship Him." Saint Matthew 2:2

What did the Magi see? They saw the star. And the Bible does not mention details about this matter.

They saw His star. The sign which points to Him. And they knew that He was a king. This is the whole matter. So they endured all of the difficulties, travel and they left their people and their countries. According to the scholars, it possibly took months of travel until they arrived and worshiped Him.

But what did we see? They saw the star, but we have seen His glory. The gospel during matins, according to St. John says: "we have seen His glory." Who's grace descended? "For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." Saint John 1:17.

And we saw His Cross which carried our sins and purchased us with His blood.

The Cross is before our eyes.

He has done more for us than we asked for or understand; for every one of us.

Isn't He the one who covers sin?

Doesn't everyone say "He is my Saviour?"

"Born unto you today is a Saviour" Saint Luke 2:11.

They heard the word but didn't understand.

But for us; we hear the word on the day of the birth of my Good Saviour.

Who died for me.

Who covered me throughout life.

Who carried my pains and my sicknesses.

Who was whipped because of my sins.

And was crushed because of my iniquities.

Because of me, He became as a human in the world and endured humiliation unto death for me.

He took what was ours and gave us what is His.

The One who gave me His Spirit and allowed me to eat His body.

I cannot count...

So the whole Gospel is for me. All of the stories and miracles

The raising of the dead and healing the lepers; This is me!

And the opening of the eyes of the blind; that is me!

So today, when I say that I came to worship Him then it need to be truthful.

What Magi? I came to worship my Saviour!

I should cast myself upon Him and wish that my life is full of worship.

My days and nights worshiping with all my heart.

With all awareness and all feeling, and all my strength.

Worship under His feet and kiss His feet and tell Him "I Thank You!".  
I Thank You because You humbled Yourself and emptied Yourself.  
I thank you because You appeared in the world as a human like me.  
I will worship Him a worship of thanks.  
I will kneel before Him in reverence and bend my knees before Him.

What is beautiful about our Church is that our worship is constant kneeling,  
Prostrations and kneeling and kneeling.  
We kneel before You Our God, we kneel before You.  
Kneeling and kneeling without ceasing.

Our Lord Christ, to Whom is glory, talked about "worship" with the Samaritan Woman:  
She said: "You [Jews] say that worship is in Jerusalem and we say that worship is in Samaria." Is the story messed up or what?  
He said "My daughter the hour is coming, and it is at hand"  
That means this hour is now when the true worshipers "will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth." for these are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.  
God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." Saint John 4:23.

That is why I am saying, my beloved, distinguish for yourself between the times that one worships according to the flesh, a physical act to be seen and the times when one is in a state of repentance and devotion of the heart and devotion of the intentions and a strong humility to bow before God. With the Spirit.

It's a big difference, when a person worships in spirit and truth.  
We emerge from the presence of God filled with grace.

The brother, the iconographer who wrote the icon in the East (of the Church) wrote these verses that I just mentioned about worshiping. Believe me, without asking, he wrote it. It is written in English around the icon of the Pantocrator. "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth;" Saint John 4:23

Very, very good. Beautiful. And I ask, in Christ Jesus, that this is truly our life in the Church. That we are coming to worship. What can occupy you when you pass through the doors of the Church? Why are you here? I came to worship! "We came to worship Him."

May God grant us all that this never leave our consciousness as we enter the church. Keep your intentions clear. Why are entering? I am coming to worship! I am coming to worship a true worship before my Lord and Saviour and my God.

Every time we worship we make the sign of the Cross, because this is the sign that the Magi saw. It became in us not just a physical symbol in the sky. No. This symbol became a mark.

The mark of God within us! And the mark of God upon our heads. So we do the sign of the Cross. Every time I kneel on the ground and say "Lord, I have sinned before heaven and before you!" "I do not deserve to be called your son."

I kneel and do the sign of the cross. Which is the symbol of salvation. The symbol of life. The symbol of my following to Christ. My world. Worship in our church is all kneeling. "We came to kneel before Him."

Don't let anything deter you from the goal or distance you from the goal.

"I went today to meet so-and-so." What a shame?

"I'm going to church to meet so-and-so."

What are you going to do with them?

"Oh, you know, we have business together." or "Oh, it's the only day off so we talk and chat and so-on." "I'm just going to church for the sake of going." Isn't today the feast? Oh, I'm just going out of tradition.

Beware of this.

I am going to worship! There is nothing in existence that can occupy my mind. Then I see people that I don't like." How? As soon as I look at people and see what they are wearing or what they have, my mind is gone. Please Keep your goals clear. We came to worship Him. There is nothing else.

Who did you see at church? I didn't see anything. What occupied your mind there?

Nothing! "Well those people are bad and those people are no good, and those people's story." No, no, no. I don't know. I come to worship and leave full of grace.

In appearance, when God emptied Himself and took the appearance of a slave and became a small child. All of the signs of glory and all of the signs of divine glory. He emptied Himself of them all. It's strange. Even when one thinks. The thinking is: The great God, the Creator, The unlimited. How would he look in the appearance of man?

The thoughts of people will show you the height of grandeur and the height of luxurious palaces of the world and what glory and people.

He said "no, no, no." Not even a house. What then?

A stable for animals? Is that right?

Not even a bed or sheets? A manger?

What is this? What emptying is this?

But once we knew Him.

He says "for I know in whom I have believed." 2 Timothy 1:12

Of course. Once we knew Him, and we began to worship Him in spirit and truth, What's the remaining part?

He said that He is coming again!

His first coming was the incarnation, the first coming.

What? He said I am coming. "I am coming forth quickly"

For the worshipers, for those who love,

For those who love the Cross,

For the holy,

For those washed by the Blood,

For those who have been cleansed from sin,

For those wearing the white garments.

He said "I am coming."

And the struggles that you endured for Him!

He said "Fear Not."

He said "I am coming and My reward with Me."

My goodness!

The reward doesn't cross people's minds.

How are You coming?

Same as You came the first time?

No. The angels told the apostles on the day of His ascension: "Men of [Israel]," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back." Acts 1:11 Coming how? Coming on the clouds of Heaven.

The first time a few people saw Him.  
The world is drowning. Nobody knows.  
He said no. How will He be known?  
Like lightning. When lightning strikes in the sky  
Is it possible for anyone not to see it? Like lightning!

And the mark that we said is the mark of the Christians that we worshiped and knelt in-front. Will be kept by Christ in heavens. In that time, the sign of the Son of Man will appear. When? When the sun darkens. and the moon stops giving its light. and the stars of the sky shall fall and the heavenly powers will be shaken, but the Cross will cover over everything.

The Cross will cover over the light of the sun and moon and all these things.  
"I am coming soon! My reward is with me" Revelation 22:12  
He will come as it says, with power and great glory.  
And the host of the holy angels with Him.

What is this? This is the second coming!  
This is the second coming!  
The reward for the sadness,  
The reward for the affliction of those who carry the Cross.  
Pain and suffering, a narrow door, a difficult path, worship.  
Fasting, prayer,  
Crucifying the flesh and its passions.  
What is all of this?  
Enduring and with thanksgiving.  
And no complaints.  
His reward will be very great!

The King sits upon the throne of His glory  
And gathers His elect from the corners of the earth and say:  
"Come, you who are blessed by My Father."

We expect His second coming with little patience.  
All the helpless, the weary,  
The hurt, and the sick.  
The oppressed in every place.  
And those tortured for His name!  
Tell them that He is coming.

And when He said, "I am coming" of course, the people listening were poor humans,  
To His words, He attached this divine message: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away." Saint Mark 13:31.

This is what instilled hope in us.  
That He is coming.  
Your reward is safe. When you keep Christ's commandments.

Today, my beloved, the world is drowning in sin.  
It forgets that Christ is coming.  
Sin has become a source of pride for the evil.  
All of the immorality and lewdness  
They take great pride.  
They forget that He is coming.  
He is coming and He will judge everyone according to their deeds.  
To Him is glory forever. Amen.

JAN. 6, 2020

# FEAST OF THE NATIVITY

Fr. Luke  
Sidarous

