

## *“He is the Son of God”*

All Christian traditions celebrated the birth of Jesus recently. As we begin a new calendar year, the church introduces us to Jesus’ public ministry, which became manifest at the River Jordan when John baptized Jesus. John the Baptist recognized Jesus not as his cousin, but God gave him a signal: “On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.” John the Baptist called Jesus, “Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” A prayer we recite every time we are preparing to receive the “Body and Blood of Christ” at Mass.

Though John did not hesitate to call Jesus “the Son of God,” he also had his moments of doubts. He sent his disciples to ask Jesus whether he is the Messiah or to wait for another one. Jesus’ response was very similar to what he told his fellow villagers in Nazareth. Go and report to John what you see – “the blind see, the disabled walk...” In other words, ushering a new era, when God’s glory will be made manifest, especially among the dispossessed and marginalized.

In the first reading, we are reminded of our call to reflect the glory of God in our life. However, our call is for others as Isaiah tells us, “I will make you a light of the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.” Jesus public ministry prepares us to be “light to the nations.” In the responsorial psalm, we are invited to be witnesses and proclaim, “I announced your justice in the vast assembly; I did not restrain my lips, as you, O Lord, know.” St. Paul in the second reading reminds us that we are “called to be holy” in solidarity with who profess Jesus as their Lord. We are called so that our lifestyle to reflect God’s merciful love, sharing the good news of salvation “everywhere.” We are especially called to be signs of hope and God’s active presence in the areas, where people are overwhelmed the conditions of daily living; therefore, unable to discern the Holy Spirit hovering over them. If we are convinced that we are called to be the “light of the nations,” we will not keep our God given light under the table. As followers of Christ, we have public mandate to lead by example witnessing, “God is real.”

Fessahaye Mebrahtu