

Homily for the second Sunday after the Nativity

Scripture: Sirach 24: 1-2, 8 - 12, Ephesians 1: 3-6, 15 - 18, John 1: 1- 18,

When I was younger, I remember getting lost on a family trip. We had stopped at a busy place, and for a moment I turned away – and suddenly the people I knew were gone. I didn't know where to go or what to do. I remember the fear and confusion of those few minutes, until I finally heard my name being called. That familiar voice cut through the noise, and everything changed. I wasn't alone anymore. I had been found.

That story helps us enter into today's Scriptures, because all three readings speak to us about a God who does not remain silent or distant, but who comes looking for us, calling us by name, and choosing to dwell among His people.

In the first reading from Sirach, Wisdom speaks almost like a living person. She comes forth from the mouth of the Most High and is given a place to live among God's people. This Wisdom is not simply intelligence or good advice. It is God's own presence—God choosing to guide, teach, and remain close to His people. From the very beginning, God's desire has been to be with us.

Saint Paul continues this theme in the Letter to the Ephesians. He reminds us that we have been blessed in Christ with every spiritual blessing. Long before we could find our way on our own, God chose us. He adopted us, not because we earned it, but because He loves us. Paul prays that the "eyes of our hearts" may be enlightened – so that we may recognize the hope we already possess.

Then, in the Gospel of John, we hear the great proclamation: "In the beginning was the Word." This Word is not just spoken; this Word is alive. The Word is Jesus Christ, through whom all things were made. He is the light that shines in the darkness, a light the darkness cannot overcome. And then comes the heart of our faith: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."

God does not call out to us from afar. He steps into our confusion, our fear, and our brokenness. Like the voice calling my name in that crowded place, Christ enters the noise of our world and says, *you are not alone*. He knows us. He seeks us. He stays with us.

John also tells us something difficult but honest: not everyone recognized the light when it came. Some turned away. Others did not receive Him. That remains true today. Christ is present in Scripture, in the Eucharist, in our parish community but we must choose to listen for His voice and welcome His presence.

So today, we are invited to reflect as a parish community: **Do we recognize the Word dwelling among us?** Do we allow Christ's light to guide our decisions, soften our hearts, and shape how we treat one another?

If we do, Saint John tells us something extraordinary happens we become children of God. Not because we are perfect, but because we are loved. May we ask for the grace to hear His voice, to trust His light, and to welcome the Word made flesh, who continues to dwell among us today. Amen.