

EPIPHANY GREETINGS!

The Lord God says to the Suffering Servant:

It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of the house of Israel I have kept. I will make you a light for the Gentiles that you may bring my salvation to the end of the earth. (Isaiah 49:6)

Moses was the servant of God, but Jesus was the Suffering Servant, the Lamb of God for the new passover, the passover of the new covenant. The light which enlightened the children of Israel en route to the promised land, became the light that enlightens the people of all the nations of the world so that they have become a promised people under the promised Son, on a promised planet under the Prince of Peace.

In the Epiphany of the Lamb of God, we receive the revelation of the new passover of the promised people entering the principality of peace. God presents that as the sufficient challenge for the Suffering Servant, whom we confess to be Jesus the Christ.

Let's turn it from a global to a local perspective. It is not enough to have this planetary vision, thus says the Lord to his servants: I will make you a light for your sisters and brothers, for your spouse, parents, children, neighbors, fellow workers, your friends and enemies - that you may bring my salvation to your particular corner of the world.

That happens when we receive the Lord Jesus Christ, and we don't hide his light within us, under a bushel, as it were, but place it on a lampstand so it gives light to all in the house.

From the passover of the new covenant we now need many personal passovers from lethargy, resignation, corruption, insensitivity and irresponsibility before our Lord to thoughtful and prayerful concern for others.

The light of God is not merely knowing but also loving. We bask in its radiance as we feel loved and have love engendered in us to share. Faith engenders love. Love becomes work, God's work, which engenders our epiphanies, and our work, which is service to others. Service is love in work-clothes.

So it is not enough that light be for the far corners of the world. It needs to shine through you into your very own corner, your nook, your niche. You need to passover from darkness to light, from apathy to passionate concern, from prejudice to human solidarity, from a life of lamentation to a chorus of praise. Let your epiphany shine for your family, your circle of friends, your colleagues at work, your classmates....

Let Christ shine and let a dazzling Epiphany enlighten and warm the little corner where you are, and just watch

the splendor of the sunrise
to the brightness of Christ's glory. Amen.