

Christmas Mass Dawn A

Merry Christmas! REJOICE – Christ is born – Alleluia!

Readings we heard are from the Christmas Mass at Dawn – at dawn we go from darkness to light
AND today – literally, the light of Christ comes into the world
New Dawn, unlike any other – the world is forever changed

In today's Gospel the shepherds come – Shepherds who, at night, are watching the flocks
At night, in the dark – AND ANGELS COME! Glorifying God, announcing the birth!
So they go to see – at dawn
They go from the dark to light – from night to day
They are AMAZED and they leave Glorifying and Praising God
And now so do WE

But we know the reason for OUR amazement is not Christ's birth
We know that what's important is His resurrection
Christmas is important because of EASTER!
Without EASTER Jesus is just another prophet
Jesus rose from the dead, defeated death, defeated satan
And through Jesus we are redeemed

Our first reading says it plainly: **“The Lord proclaims to the ends of the earth
Your savior comes, You are a Holy People, Redeemed of the Lord”**
Not just in Bethlehem, Not just in Israel - “The Lord proclaims to the ends of the earth”
From Israel to the ends of the earth – NORWOOD is as far from Israel as you can get
WE are the ends of the earth – and what is proclaimed about us?
Your savior comes, You are a Holy People, Redeemed of the Lord!
OUR savior comes, WE are a Holy People, Redeemed of the Lord!

- Reminds me of the story of Grandma’s Goose
 - Bobby and Sally visit Grandma on the farm over Christmas
 - Bobby got a new Slingshot for Christmas
 - “Remember the goose” got Bobby to do Sally’s chores
 - ALREADY FORGIVEN
 - This is the way it is with us - we sin
 - God waits for us to return to Him (and when we do)
 - Forgiveness is already there – because just like the 1st reading says:
Our savior comes, We are a Holy People, Redeemed of the Lord”

I don’t care who you are, what you’ve done, how many times you did it – you can be FREE
Jesus took your sin It was nailed on the cross with Jesus We are redeemed

The reason Jesus comes at Christmas is EASTER

We are redeemed

We rejoice at Christmas, because Jesus is born.
We rejoice at Christmas, because Jesus died on the cross & rose from the dead.
We rejoice at Christmas because Jesus has delivered us
Jesus has claimed a people as His own – *and here we are.*

Jesus is born this day to bring salvation to creation – to each one of us – rejoice and be glad!