

Today we celebrate the Sunday after Theophany, the Gospel is according to Matthew, 4:12-17. It is written that when Jesus Christ heard that Saint John the Baptist had been arrested, He traveled to Galilee leaving Nazareth. By doing this, the words of the Prophet Isaiah were fulfilled. Among these words, we find that Jesus Christ is called a great light for those who sat in darkness, and that He dawned on the shadow of death.

Dearest ones, it is so fitting the Sunday after the Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, that we read this Gospel. After Christ appeared to the world, His light left a mark upon all. What does this mean to us? God revealing Himself to us helped us understand Who He is; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and how He loved us so much that He bestowed on us eternal life. It is with His light that we find in all—ourselves, others, the world—that what He created is good.

Yet, are there times in which we find ourselves struggling in darkness? Is there sometimes a distortion of the pureness of God? Is there sin to which we find ourselves repeating? Be of good cheer, for regardless of what darkness or distortion may occur in the world, the Light of God has overcome it, and as such we find good and all can be restored. Jesus Christ proclaimed, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Let us as icons of Christ, whether damaged or hazy, know that we have beheld the True Light, let us seek forgiveness—restoration, venerating one another with love, respect and understanding as we are all created by God in His image and likeness; in His name let us pray, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever amen.