

GOSPEL PEARLS

Jesus first

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In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him.

But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

Jesus is the true light who illumines mankind. By meeting Jesus, we know the Father who sent him. Faced with this call, each one of us has the power to choose: to place God in the first place in our life, or to place ourselves and our own desires first. It is a choice that we are called to make moment by moment. When, instead of the divine will, which we know through Jesus, we freely and fully prefer our own will, we reject the Light of Christ and prefer darkness. May this Holy Christmas be the occasion for us to place Jesus in the first place in our heart, so that we may not shamefully hide our works in darkness, but rather joyfully bear witness to the happiness inherent in enduring trials in the light of Christ.