



Midweek Meditation



"Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!" I Corinthians 9:15

For most, Christmas was over twelve days ago. The presents have been opened with many being returned or exchanged. Radio stations that had been playing Christmas music have long since gone back to normal programming. Trees have been put away or recycled. Christmas is now in the past tense.

But in the church, Christmas is not over until Epiphany, which is today, January 6. And in a very real sense, Christmas is never over, because Christ is born within us again and again as we hear His words and receive His Sacraments. And this is good, for we need Christmas...we need Christ, Immanuel: God with us, not just once a year, but day after day throughout our lives. We live in a world of sin and death, a world of greed, hatred, quarreling, and selfishness. And we ourselves are part of the problem. But Christmas means that we have a Savior from sin and death throughout the year, throughout our lives. Christmas means that God stepped into our sin-torn world to give us hope always. Christmas means that even when the presents have been opened and put away, or returned, the gift of God to us continues: forgiveness of our sins and eternal life in Christ Jesus. Jesus makes every day Christmas for us, for He is the Gift that God keeps on giving.

Grant, dear Father, that we who have celebrated the birth of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, may continue to rejoice in what He did for us, even as we continue to receive His gifts. Amen.