

“GLORY TO THEE, WHO HAS SHOWN US THE LIGHT”

A large advertising billboard once had this message: “The darkness can kill you.” It was an ad for electric light bulbs, but what it said is profoundly True: DARKNESS BRINGS DEATH. People like the light and fear the darkness. The first thing you do when you come into a dark house is turn on the lights. Even plants seek the brightness of the sun.

One of the most profound statements that Jesus made during His years among us was this: “I am the light of the world. Whosoever comes after Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

What a name this is for our Lord! The Light of the World. Everything outside of Christ is darkness. But with Christ, there is light. It is no accident that burning lamps and candles are closely associated with the Christian faith. When a baby is brought for Baptism, the sponsors hold lighted candles to symbolize that this is now a child of the light, a child of Christ. Candles are lit for every service. And when a person dies and is brought to the church for burial, again lighted candles are placed about the body, to show that even in death there is a lighted way to go to Christ.

Jesus also referred to His followers as light . . . “You are the light of the world . . . So let your light shine, that men might see your good work and glory your Father who is in heaven . . .” Just as, for example, the moon reflect the light of the sun, so we are to reflect the light of Christ.

We are the ones who can now dispel the darkness of fear, despair, evil and sin in the world. There is an old saying that Christ now has no hands but our hands to do His work on earth, no feet but ours to carry Him to the sick, needy, poor, and outcast; no tongue but our tongues to teach and comfort and do His bidding in the world. Surely there is much truth to this concept.