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4 Friday

FRIDAY in Christmastime

1 John 3: 7 - 10

Ps 97: 1, 7 – 9

John 1: 35 - 42

“We have found the Messiah”. What an astonishing thing to say ! It’s what Andrew said to his brother Simon the morning after he’d met Jesus and gone and stayed with Him. How excited he must have been. And Simon accepted this huge great news and went along with Andrew to meet Jesus, who then gave him a new name, “Rock”, Peter. In this Christmas season, in liturgical readings, we hear of many others who also ‘found the Messiah’. They didn’t all say so, in so many excited words; but finding the Messiah was what happened. The shepherds, wise men from the east, Simeon and Anna in the temple, John the Baptist and people with him at the Jordan river, guests at a wedding in Cana. Later in Jesus’ life, other people who accepted Him as the promised Christ, right up to the Roman soldier who saw Him die on the cross and said “truly this man was God’s Son”.

“We have found the Messiah” is also the astonishing thing we say in these weeks by our celebration of His birth, Christmastime. May our excitement have been like Andrew’s: a marvellous discovery, to be shared with others, and not merely a short-lived excitement of lights and tinsel and toys. May we truly have given witness to this extraordinary birth, of God come among us, bringing His peace and light and justice and healing. And may we have appreciated a little more deeply this year how this Messiah whom Andrew so excitedly recognised and proclaimed is the same Lamb of God that the Baptist pointed out to him.

“Lord Jesus, you are the Christ, the Son of the living God”