

## **The Glory of God is made Manifest in the Salvation of Sinners**

"The Word became flesh and set up His sanctuary among us," writes the holy Apostle John, "and we saw His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and Truth."

These words could be set as the headline for the season of Epiphany, which, in the life of the Church, follows after Christmas. "Epiphany" is the English form of a Greek word that means "manifestation" or "revelation"; and the theme of the season of Epiphany is how it is made manifest that our Lord Jesus is not only the eternal Son of God and God Himself from eternity, who had had Himself born into our kind, but also makes His glory manifest, and exactly what His glory is.

During the season of Epiphany, we hear much about the miraculous works of our Lord Jesus, healings and the casting out of demons. It is easy to come to think of these miraculous works as mere demonstrations of just how powerful God is; Holy Scripture, however, and particularly the Gospel according to Saint John, points out that His miraculous works point far beyond themselves, and even beyond the benefit they brought to those who were healed of various diseases and delivered from demons. They serve to show that our Lord Jesus is the Saviour sent from God, according to His promises, to set sinners free from the power of Satan, and to deliver us from all the sufferings sin has brought upon the world.

It was for this purpose the Son of God came to us; not to make life in this world a little bit better, but rather to rescue sinners from the eternal death and damnation we have earned with Him, with our ungodliness and impurity, and win us instead for His eternal heavenly life in the fullness of His goodness and His glory.

Again, the Gospel according to Saint John points it out in particular, that this is how God is glorified, the eternal Father as well as the eternal Son: in the sufferings and death of the Son for the salvation of sinners.

"God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but rather have eternal life". This is how good God is, and how He is good; this is His glory! Nothing is greater or more glorious than His love for us sinners, and what His love has done for us.