

In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

The Apostle addresses the Christian directly – “you are all sons of light and sons of day.” The Light that is the Life of men has redeemed you. The Light shined in the darkness. God is Light. This world is fallen and dark. God became Incarnate and dwelt among men. The darkness could not comprehend the Light. Sinners could not receive Him, sinners could not believe in Him.

Each sin you have committed has been a taste of that darkness. Men sin in darkness to cover their transgressions, if that were possible. Those who get drunk, the Apostle writes, get drunk at night. To drink to excess is sin. It is gluttony.

But more, it dulls self-control, so that words and actions are unbridled. It quells conscience, and opens the door to behaviors that sober men, men whose conscience is not silenced, would never engage in. And then in a stupor, the sinner sleeps, dormant when the light comes and it is time to work.

Like drunkenness, sinners yield to temptation. And having sinned, their consciences are muted, and they sin all the more. And then in their darkness, they cannot do the works of light. So the darkness overcomes them. The Apostle writes that this is the way of darkness, not of light.

Consider the darkness you have engaged in. Consider how your lusts and desires, your jealousy and pride, have muted your conscience, that you think, speak and do that which you

know to be wrong. And remember – there is no place for darkness in the light. The sinner cannot stand before God.

But do not despair. For the Apostle’s Word is a Word for you. You are not of the night nor of the darkness. The Light has come into the world, and He is the Life of men – He is your Life. He Who is light undimmed veiled Himself in your flesh to buy you back from darkness.

That darkness, the darkness of sin and death, engulfed Him. And from the sixth hour till the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land, as darkness seemingly overcame the Light. Darkness is the stuff of death, and in that darkness He who is the Life suffered death.

Those who sleep sleep at night, the Apostle writes. For three days He slept, dead in the stone tomb, surrounded by darkness. But then, in the shadows of the morning of that bright first Easter morn, the Light overcame the darkness. He awoke from that three-day sleep. He conquered death. He conquered sin. He conquered darkness. And this He did for you.

So you are all sons of light and sons of the day, the day of resurrection, the eternal day of light and life. In Him you also trusted, after you heard the Word of Truth, the Gospel of your salvation. And that you believe, that you receive the Gifts of His cross and empty tomb, to you God gives His Spirit.

He gives you the Spirit that proceeds from the Father and the Son, the Spirit sent by the Son when He went to the Father. And the Spirit is the deposit, the guarantee, the earnest pledge of your redemption. He points you to Christ, in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of

promise. The Spirit is the guarantee of your inheritance, the riches of heaven, until the Day in which the Lord returns to affect the redemption of the purchased possession, you, His Holy Church, to the praise of His glory.

God did not appoint you to wrath. From the foundation of the world He chose you to be His own, to be His child, to be a son of the light and of the day. He vests you in Christ's righteousness, the brilliant robe of holiness and purity He places upon you in your baptism. So yours is the breastplate of faith, the God-given armor that protects your heart, where faith is planted and grows.

And with that faith the God of love places His love in you, that you love. You love God, and as God's gift to you, you love your neighbor. Having faith and love as free gifts, you have the helmet of the hope of salvation.

That hope sustains you here, as the darkness rails against you, as you suffer trials and temptations, as the intoxication of sin bids you partake. You have armor given you by God. You can overcome temptation, for you are sons of light and of the day. You are not of night or of the darkness. You have the sobriety of faith.

Today your Lord gives you, His sons, to eat and drink of the Christ who died for you. The Body given on the cross, the Blood shed at Calvary, He makes your Meal. By His Holy Sacrament He fills you with Himself, that whether you wake or sleep, you live together with Him, until that day when He returns to lead you into His eternal Light. Therefore comfort each other, and edify one another, just as you are doing.

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