



The Nativity of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ
(fresco in Studenica Monastery, 1313-14)

Homily on the birth of the Lord, the Son of God
by St. Nikolai Velimirovic

“I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world.” (John 16:28) The only-begotten Son of God, brethren, begotten in eternity of the

Father without a mother, was born in time of a mother without a father.

That first begetting is an unfathomable mystery of the Holy Trinity in eternity, and the second is the unfathomable mystery of God’s power and love for mankind in time. The greatest mystery in time corresponds to the greatest mystery in eternity.

Without entering into this greatest mystery with the small taper of our understanding, let us be content, brethren, with the knowledge that our salvation had its origin not from man or from earth, but from the greatest heights of the divine invisible world.

So great is God’s mercy, and so great is the dignity of man, that the Son of God Himself came down from eternity into time, from heaven to earth, from the throne of glory to the shepherd’s cave, solely to save mankind, to cleanse men from sin and to return them to Paradise.

I came forth from the Father, where I had everything, and am come into the world, which cannot give Me anything.

The Lord was born in a cave to show that the whole world is one dark cave, which He alone can illumine. The Lord was born in Bethlehem—and Bethlehem means “the House of Bread”—to show that He is the only Bread of Life worthy of true men.

O Lord Jesus, the Pre-eternal Son of the Living God and the Son of the Virgin Mary, enlighten us and nourish us with Thyself.

To Thee be glory and praise forever. Amen.

<http://www.stmichaelshsv.org/homilies.html>

“Out of burning love, O King of all beauty, Thou didst leave the radiance of the beautiful Cherubim, Thou didst descend into the cave of human life,

To despairing men, with a torch and peace. How to contain Thee?—The earth became frightened. Welcome, O Christ! Heaven bears Thee up!”

St. Nikolai Velimirovic