

January 3, 2008  
Thursday the Ninth Day in the Octave of Christmas  
Most Holy Name of Jesus

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

1 John 2:29-3:6

Psalm 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6

John 1:29-34

*You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.*

*Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.*

It is the words, '*in him there is no sin*', that capture my attention today. I am not quite sure why. I am drawn to the present tense of the words. During this Advent season, as I focused on the time of waiting, I became more aware of the reality of Jesus *in my life, now*, rather than the mere celebration of an historical event that occurred some 2000+ years ago. The emphasis has traditionally been one of giving thanks for a gift given. But, this year it became more an act of giving thanks by being present to the present moment, each moment. While I am aware that both are true, I feel the invitation more deeply to live in the reality of the present rather than the celebration of the past. Actually, living in the present seems to be the only real way to celebrate the past. So, given all that, how do I live my life now in way that celebrates the fact that *in Jesus* there is no sin? What does that mean regarding the choices I have to make this year, this month, this week, or this day? How do I immerse myself in Jesus more deeply than I ever have before so that my life makes a difference in our world? I am concerned that as I return to the busy schedule of my 'normal' life, and, as unexpected and often unwanted surprises take up space and energy in my days, I will forget the lessons of Advent and return to the memory of Christmas as if it was one more birthday celebration. I am not concerned that I will forget that Jesus is present among us, I am concerned that I will forget to stay present to that knowledge every moment of every day, that I will forget that every decision, choice, and action is impacted by my presence to the awareness of Jesus *in me and in my life*. I am learning that the sin of the world is that we fail to reveal the face of God to one another, we fail to love one another, and we fail to be peacemakers and reconcilers in a world that longs to know God, Love, and Peace. My prayer today is to not forget.

*Life is lived in the present. Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow is yet to be.  
Today is the miracle. ~ Anonymous*