**Homily for Christmas***Rev. Francis D. Kim*

 Glory to God and peace to people on earth! Merry Christmas! God entered into the world and took on human flesh becoming one of us and ushering in a New Covenant, a covenant of love and mercy. Now, He is with us in our midst. What a wonderful news!

 Sadness should have no place in the birthday of life. Life brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness. This is a day to celebrate! On Christmas, the Lord offers us a deeper joy which comes with knowing that we are loved in a special way by God.

 Jesus came for us all, and today, He can be your Christ, your Savior. Today, you and I can know the Christ of Christmas, who alone can wipe away our tears, lift our burdens, solve our problems, forgive our sins, and make us new.

 Let us look at the Child in the manger. Babies usually wrap in swaddling clothes, but only One Baby was lying in a manger. A baby was born into a broken world.

 The manger is a feeding box. This manger is the sign of what this baby would do for us. It tells the destiny of the baby to feed His people with the Bread of Life. To save His people, He is lying in the feeding box. That baby in the manger grew up to become our crucified and risen Savior, and the world has never been the same. His Birth is so humble, so small, so poor, so meek. The Son of God was born with human weakness. But, His weakness became our strength, became our hope and love.

 When Jesus walked this Earth, He made the blind to see, the deaf to hear, the dumb to speak, and the oppressed to free. He was a man of compassion, love, and selflessness. He gave great hope to people, especially, those who lived in trouble. Your Christmas will be joyful indeed as you discover these truths! Now, God came to us and is lying in the manger.

 Jesus Christ came into the world to save us, to be with us. This is the promise of the first Christmas, of every Christmas, and of this Christmas. So, Christmas is not just an annual holiday celebration. It is about wonderful things: the depths of God’s love for us, promises being fulfilled, salvation, joy, and peace.

 Has this really happened to you and to your life? Remember the Messiah, our Savor has indeed come to you!

 God’s love continues to surround us today and every day. The Child has been born for you. There is no reason. Christ came for you. He wants you. His eternal Kingdom will not be complete unless you are part of it. God accomplished all of His plan for you by sending His only Son into the world.

 Amid the distractions of the season, it is important that we, as Christians, keep the message of Christmas intact. Sing the carols. Light the lights. Eat the festive meals with family and friends. Through it all, let the bold proclamation ring out: Christ, our Savior and our Lord, is born! God is with us! What a wonderful day! What a beautiful gift it is!

 Merry Christmas!