

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent "C" 2009

I. "Brothers and Sisters: rejoice in the Lord always. I say it again rejoice" says St. Paul in the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. The Latin word for "rejoice" is "gaudete". Hence the name for this Advent Mass-"Gaudete Sunday". So we get a break from the somberness of Advent, but there's more to it than that. There's one verse in the Prophet Zephaniah this evening (morning) which captures the theme well. "The Lord will sing joyfully because of you as one sings at Festivals".

II. A lot of people have become familiar with "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" by C.S. Lewis because of the movie. But the first book of the Chronicles is called "The Magicians Nephew". In it the children are taken by Aslan, the Lion back to the moment of Creation of Narnia. They hear the voice of Aslan who is really Christ singing. When His voice goes high, birds, clouds, blue sky appear. At a lengthy turn of Aslan's melody, mountains laboriously raise their heads. Then a low hum vibrates bringing forth the depths of the seas. Creation seems to be made from a melody, a song-and maybe it is!

III. In the science of physics two theories compete to explain what the universe is made of. One is called the particle theory, and the other the wave theory. Even Albert Einstein couldn't reconcile the two seemingly opposite theories. Recently PBS ran a show on what scientists call "The String Theory". Instead of saying waves or particles, they postulate infinitesimal, ever changing, wriggling string-like

articles-something like the notes that come from a violin's string.

IV. C.S. Lewis wasn't too far off the mark. God's joy sings out at every moment, and His song is the earth, the galaxies, the people and plants, soaring hawks, droplets of dew and tiniest snowflake. We are God's song. In the Gospel, people line up and ask John the Baptist "Teacher, what should we do?". Let your life sing just as it is-not what it might have been or fret what might happen in the future. Be satisfied with who you are and what you have because you are God's beautiful melody.