

Ss Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzen: Basil, outstanding in learning and virtue, was born in Caesarea in the year 330. Gregory Nazianzen, a quiet, scholarly man was born in the same year 330 in Nazianzus. Basil formed his own monastic group. Gregory joined him. He allowed monks and nuns to operate hospitals and work outside the community.



First Reading: (1 Jn 2:22-29) Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father. He who confesses the Son has the Father also. Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is what he has promised us, eternal life. I write this to you about those who would deceive you; but the anointing which you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that any one should teach you; as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie, just as it has taught you, abide in him. And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that every one who does right is born of him.

Ps 97:1-4

R./ All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Gospel: (Jn 1:19-28) And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, he did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" And he answered, "No." They said to him then, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but among you stands one whom you do not know, even he who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." This took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

REFLECTION

Believe in the truth, abide in him and do what is right - this is the simple route of a faithful life. We live in a world that is prone to lie resentful to truth. It is in such a context, John the Baptist stands before us as a noble example of humility and honesty. He could have easily kept the people in their false understanding of him as the awaited Messiah. But John is humble, honest and courageous enough to deny the false identities given to him and to present his real identity. **What is really important is to be truthful and faithful, and this is possible only in being humble and docile. This is the only and the right way of being great and important.**