

Advent IV Sermon 3 by Bishop Michael Hawkins

By the Right Reverend Michael W. Hawkins

Bishop of Saskatchewan

There standeth one among you whom ye know not.

The message of today is that Jesus Christ, who came and who shall come again, is with us always. The Saviour born in Bethlehem, and the Judge of all, stands among us always, but we fail to recognize and honour him.

“Wherever two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of you.” Do you know this? He is with us in those words of eternal life which never pass away. Do you know this? He is with us in the holy mysteries of the sacrament of his own body and blood. Do we fail to discern the Lord’s body? He is with us in the poor and needy, in the little children, in the least of his brethren. Inasmuch. The Lord is at hand, he standeth among you, behold the Lamb of God. John invites us

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to see and recognize the Saviour, but he also pronounces judgment on all our willful blindness, our closed minds and hearts and doors and pockets. There standeth one among you, whom ye know not.

What we can know only by faith is the presence of Jesus the Lamb of God, the divine Saviour among us. And this alone is our peace - to know God and his love in Jesus Christ. This is Christmas: the Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, to know God and his love in Jesus Christ. Behold the Lamb of God.