

The Word Became Flesh

December 20, 2020- 4th Advent Sunday

Scripture readings: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 & John 1:1-14

Golden verse: *“The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us, and we have seen His glory.”* John 1:14

This is the shortest Christmas message, which ever was formulated: “The Word became flesh.” What Matthew and Luke describe in a whole chapter, John shares in one sentence: “God became flesh, and made His dwelling among us”. The loving God stepped out from His invisibility and became visible for human kind. God incarnated in Jesus to be not only close to us but also one of us.

God became flesh. If we would try to explain this mystery in a much shorter way, we can use one word: CHRISTMAS. Christmas means INCARNATION. God became flesh, a human being. Somebody said that this is a holy mystery, a happy wonder. John said: We saw the incarnated God’s glory, who was full of grace and truth. Christmas is not a theory about God’s incarnation, but a practical fact.

Who became flesh? The Word of God. God, who with His powerful word created everything, the visible and for us invisible things. When John talked about the WORD, the people in his time had a better and quicker understanding about this message, than we might have right away today.

John lived in a Greek culture, and he wrote the Gospel to his society. When John said that the WORD became flesh, he was using the Greek word LOGOS. “Logos” is the Greek term translated to English as “word,” “speech,” “principle,” or “thought.” In Greek philosophy, it also referred to a universal, divine reason or the mind of God. Logos is the Infinite, Omnipotent, Godly Power who created heaven and earth and the whole cosmos. Logos is behind all the creatures, who were created, and which exist. Logos is the oldest, always existing power, who holds everything together, and who is in this world to keep everything in a sacred order. Logos is the Power who sustains everything and gives us life and light. John said that the Logos became flesh and we, as humans, saw His glory.

It is so interesting, that while the scientists just pussycat around the topic about an omnipotent power who rules in this cosmos, we Christians can confess that we know this Power, because He introduced Himself to us on the first Christmas night. He became flesh and dwelled amongst us. His name is Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

To help you to understand this enormous and mysterious power, I will borrow some scientific examples from atomic physics. What happened on Christmas is exactly the reverse of what happens during an atomic explosion. What happens in an atomic explosion? The material

becomes energy. On Christmas night, the ENERGY was materialized. God's love became energy in Jesus Christ's body.

This Christ Jesus, whose birthday we celebrate, is not just a person who was born, who lived, and died like any other person. Before He was born, He lived in His heavenly glory. Before anything was created, He existed, and after He died, He still lives. In this Christ Jesus, whom we trust, God Himself became a human being. God's word, which created heaven and earth, became flesh.

In John's use of the Logos concept, we find that: Jesus is eternal: "In the beginning was the Word." Jesus was with God prior to coming to earth: "the Word was with God". Jesus is God: "the Word was God". Jesus is Creator: "All things were made through Him." Jesus is the Giver of Life: "In Him was life." Jesus became human to live among us: "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

It is almost unbelievable what happened on Christmas. God became flesh, just because God wanted to come so close to us. In Christ Jesus, our Creator came on earth to embrace us, and showed us that He is not a mysterious invisible God, but He is real and visible, OMNIPOTENT and OMNIPRESENT. In Christmas, God showed us that He came to us to embrace us as our Heavenly Father and to walk with us, to help us, to empower us, and to show us the way we should follow in order to end up in His glory.

God knew that we would never be able to reach His glory, but we would perish. To save us, God sent to us Himself in Jesus, to help us to return to our Creator. God became one flesh with us, to show us that He knows how we feel.

Once, a minister visited a person, who was experiencing difficulties. He talked to him, encouraged him and prayed for him. At the end of his visit, when they were shaking hands, that person said: "Reverend, thank you so much for visiting me. Your visit meant a lot to me. I enjoyed everything that you said. But even more important than the words you shared was the fact that you visited me, realizing that I am in trouble, and I needed help."

This is the real meaning of Incarnation, Christmas. God came to us because He knew we needed help. He knew that you and I need Him. He knew that we cannot exist without Him and that we need Him desperately. God, in Jesus, became our brother, our friend, our mate, and He started to journey with us.

There might be people who would wonder if this is true. I am happy to share with you that, based on my own experiences, this is true. And based on many million Christians' experiences, IT IS TRUE. Based on the disciples' experiences IT IS TRUE. Based on martyrs' experiences, who were not afraid to give their lives for Christ, IT IS TRUE. Based on Constantine the Great's

vision, who saw the sign of Christ and heard the voice saying that “In this sign you will win”, IT IS TRUE.

I am encouraging you, with so much love, to open your heart for this message, and you may experience that this message is true. In Jesus Christ, God is with us. God shares with us every moment. He is there when we are challenged, or troubled, or when we feel helpless. If you accept Christ, your life will be totally different, on this Christmas and after this Christmas, because this message is true. Take the courage to open your heart, and you will feel the joy of this truth acknowledging Christ.

Once, somebody said that “In my heart, I am Christian but, in my head, I am agnostic, neglecting God.” If you might feel the same way, I am inviting you to open your **mind** and allow God to convince you that, on Christmas, God’s love came close to us. Today, this mystery is repeated: God’s love comes close to you, and God wants to move into **your heart and your head**.

Probably, I cannot prove to you that God loves you. We can prove certain things but not everything. Faith in Christ is not a “common sense argument”, but a “heart argument.” It can be proved that 2×2 is 4. But the roots of some spiritual values cannot be described scientifically.

How could we describe scientifically the love of a mother? You cannot see that love, and you cannot touch that love, but you know that love exists. I know this because I have had a mother. And, once upon a time, my mother really loved me.

There are values and facts which can be discovered only through our own personal experiences. For this, we have to come into an existential connection with those facts. This is how we can experience Jesus Christ. Only those who will offer Him their hearts and their brains will experience Jesus. Please be brave to accept what God is offering you in Christ Jesus. As a next step, God will convince you that the Christmas message is true.

If you will believe God, you will experience His power everywhere in the rest of your life. God is calling you now to believe. Be brave to accept His love and to put your trust in Him.

You **HAVE** to believe in Jesus and everything He said. In the Bible, there is a story, about Peter, the experienced fisherman. Peter knew that only during the night he can catch any fish. One night, he was working very hard but he did not catch anything. A few hours later, during the day, the Lord Jesus asked Peter to drop his fishing net next to the boat. Peter said: Lord, I did not get any fish during the night. Now it is impossible to get anything, **BUT** because You say so, I will drop the net into the water. And because Peter trusted what Jesus said, his boat was filled with fish. He experienced something phenomenal, that Peter could never explain.

Please give Christ a chance to work in your life. Be brave enough to trust Him. You will know Him only after you are brave enough to put fully your trust in Him. God never left His people alone. You will experience that Christ will turn into energy in your life. He will be one with you, and you will see His actions, His strength and His glory in your life.

A person, six months after he accepted Christ, said: "Since I accepted Christ in my life and I follow him, I can think clearly, I can see clearly and I am happy."

If you won't receive Him, everything will remain the same in your life. You will continue to be alone with your questions, with your fear, and your doubts. With Jesus, you could feel safe and you could walk into His light.

Christmas is not a wonderful theory, but it is a fact. On Christmas, God incarnated in Christ, so He might be part of your life, that He might be light in you and through you.

This Christmas, Christ is not looking for people who would admire Him, nor for people who would criticize Him, but Christ is looking for hearts, which would open for Him and will include Him. He is looking for humans, who will carry Him and will share Him and His glory.

Would you like to offer yourself to Him today? Amen.