

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
Des Moines, WA  
December 25, 2012  
Christmas Day**

**John 1:9-18**

**The Word Became Flesh!**

- 1. The Word Was Needed**
- 2. The Word Was Promised**
- 3. The Word Was Longed For**
- 4. The Word Was Prophesied**
- 5. The Word Became Flesh**

**Hymns: 55 – 12 – 50 – 47 – 62 Closing: 34**

All Scripture quotations from NIV 1984

*When the time had fully come, God kept his promise of deliverance and sent his Son to mankind: the Word made flesh. He brings God's grace and blessing to us through the good news of the Gospel.*

*The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.*

*He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.*

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

*John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has*

*made him known.*

John 1:9-18

The title is so simple; such a simple title for such a precious treasure. It is the Bible. Literally, it is the Book. It is the Word.

Yet, for many years, that is all it was, or rather, that is all that it seemed to be. It was words that filled a need. It was a book that gave an answer. It was a message that people held onto; a solution that they longed for. It was the topic of conversation between neighbors; it was the promise passed down to children. Yet it was still only the Word.

You have to wonder how many people over the course of the Old Testament years held that opinion. While the message brought hope, while the Scriptures gave promise, was it really anything more than words?

However, it is the direct contrast to that opinion that makes the proclamation from John 1 strike such a resounding cord on this Christmas morning. **"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God."**

What John announces to every person who reads this Good News is that those answers found in the Scripture, those promises given to each generation, they were never just words. They were a certainty. And that is because when God spoke all the words of promise, he was not speaking about something that would happen, or telling his people about someone that would come. No, he was speaking about a solution that was already in place, a gracious plan of salvation that God had planned before creation even started. He was pointing to a Savior that was already there in eternity, a Savior that was with God, a Savior that was God. He was pointing to a Savior that was everything that the people of this world needed him to be. And he spoke about him with certainty, because that Savior was his eternal Son.

So, when God came to Adam and Eve in the Garden, he was not giving them words, he was giving them his Son. When God sent out the prophets to preach and give the people hope, he was not sending them out with words; he was sending them out with his Son. The eternal Son of God was in every message that God ever gave to his people. The eternal Son of God WAS every message that God gave to his people. In God's eyes, the plan was sure to be accomplished as soon as the plan was put in place. There was no hoping, no wondering, no worrying.

Yet, those words and promises found their certainty in human hearts when a great event happened on that

first Christmas. In some of the most beautiful words in Scripture, the Apostle John tells us that **“the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.”** In a miraculous way, God Almighty came down from his throne of glory to live among us. The eternal God came down to earth to live like us. The Creator came to be one of the created. And each and every Christmas that we celebrate gives us an opportunity to remember just what it means that the Word became flesh.

Like those Old Testament people, our lives are filled with doubt. Each one of us knows how often we fail. We know how often we shouldn't do something bad and do it anyways, and we know how often we could do something good and simply don't. We know how often we break promises. We know how often we lie. We know how often we sin. And sin fills us with doubt. It fills us with uncertainty about the day that we will have to stand before our Maker.

Yet, God in his Word promised to send a Savior to take away the guilt of our sin. And when we see that the Word became flesh on Christmas, we know that God has kept his promise. He sent his Son to live the perfect life that not one of us ever could. We know that Christ is fulfilling the first of God's demands for mankind – that they be perfect. And so, the Word became flesh to take away the doubt that our sins cause.

And he also came to take away sin's terrible result. When you and I are born in flesh, it brings certainties along with it. Our sins have consequences, physical and eternal. Being born in sinful flesh ensures that each and every one of us will one day die. It also means that each one of us should be eternally separated from God and punished in the fires of hell.

Yet, God in his Word, also promised that this Savior would take away the results of our sin. When we look into that manger and see the Son of God, we see the Chosen One who would one day die the substitutionary, sacrificial death that each one of us so desperately needed. In the flesh, Jesus is able to take care of the second of God's demands for mankind – that there be payment for sin. And so, the Word became flesh so that he could die, in order that each of us might have the light of life, the assurance of eternal life in the glories of heaven.

And if that were not enough, John tells us that through the Word, we receive one blessing after another. From the fullness of God's grace, seen most clearly in the Word made flesh, John says that we receive grace in place of grace. God's unfathomable love never ends. It didn't happen that Jesus lived and died for us, and then God said that is enough. No,

when the Word became flesh, it opened the floodgates for God's love and blessings to come into our lives. And don't we see that each and every day, in spite of our unworthiness? Through Jesus, we have comfort during the worst pain. We have gladness even on the saddest of days. We have blessing in the midst of struggle. We know and have access to the heavenly Father. Most simply put, we have love. And it never stops showing itself in our lives. The Word became flesh to bring us one blessing after another.

For some, it is just words and promises, it is simply a book. Christians, rejoice that on this Christmas Day, you know that it is much more. God's message is real. His promises are sure. His love and grace fill your lives because Christ your Savior is born! Take this Word out with you in the world. Take it with confidence. Speak about it with pride and joy. Share it with urgency. It is real. It is trustworthy. You know this, because the Word became flesh! Amen.