

The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord
St. John 1:1-14
December 25th, 2020
Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, UAC
Simpsonville, SC
Pastor Jerald Dulas

The True Light Coming into the World

In Nomine Iesu!

In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer in Pulpit before Sermon:

Grant, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, that the new birth of Thine Only-Begotten Son in the flesh may set us free who are held in the old bondage under the yoke of sin; through the same Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever, one God, world without end. Amen.

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior + Jesus Christ. Amen.

At the words in the Creed, “And became man” the Church genuflects. This is not supposed to be something just the ministers do. The whole Church on Earth bends the knee in honor of our Lord’s incarnation—His being born into our flesh. Our Lord’s incarnation—His Nativity in our flesh—is the whole reason that we as the people of the Lord God have salvation. Our Lord’s Nativity in our flesh is the whole reason that the whole world can find atonement for their sins. If the Lord God did not take upon our flesh; if He was not born in our flesh, there could be no salvation for any man. This is why the Church genuflects when she sings those words, “And became man” for it is on account of our Lord + Jesus, the Christ taking upon Himself our flesh that we have salvation.

What a wonderful mystery! And it is worthy of our honor, praise and worship. Our Lord + Jesus, the Christ, has been since the beginning. In the beginning was the Word. God was with the Word. God was the Word, which is the actual word order in the Greek language of that phrase, contrary to any heretics that want to claim that God was “a” word. God was the Word. From the beginning God was the Word. Our Lord + Jesus was from the beginning—from eternity. He was from the beginning begotten of the heavenly Father. He was from the beginning True God, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

This True God Who was from the beginning—from eternity—came down from Heaven and humbled Himself to be born of the Blessed Virgin Mary. That which is eternal; that which is True God entered into time and became man. God became man. True man, born of the Virgin Mary, became our Lord and Savior. If the Lord God had not become man. If that which was from the beginning had not humbled Himself to be born of the Blessed Virgin Mary, there could be no salvation for mankind. We would have no salvation if our Lord + Jesus had not become man—had taken upon Himself our flesh.

No man could have appeased the wrath of the Triune Lord God over our sins. No man could have made satisfaction for his own sins. We break the Ten Commandments daily and often. We disobey our Lord’s Law and will continuously. Even if by some miracle a man could live his life perfectly obeying all the Commandments of the Lord God, he could still not be saved, because we have all inherited the original sin of our first parent, Adam. We bear his sin in our flesh. We were created perfect and in the Lord God’s image, but on account of Adam’s transgression; on account of his simple disobedience of

eating the fruit from the tree which the Lord God had forbade him, we, his children, have inherited his transgression. Adam and Eve, and all their children, including us, have walked in darkness all our lives. We sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

This is why we genuflect when we sing the words, “And became man” for the True Light has come into the world to bring us out of darkness into His everlasting Light. He took upon Himself our flesh—our human nature—but He did not take upon Himself our sin. He did not inherit the sin of Adam, for He was conceived of the Holy Ghost, Who overshadowed the Blessed Virgin Mary, so that our Lord + Jesus could be born for us this day. He is the True Light that has come into the world to redeem us from sin, death and the power of the devil; the powers of darkness that torment and grieve us every day of our lives.

Therefore, the Church bends the knee in honor of our Lord’s work of mercy for us. We bend the knee in thanksgiving for our Lord’s Nativity in our flesh. God has become man. What a wonderful mystery! No other god could do what our Lord God has done for us. Not only because there are no other gods, they are just the work of men’s hands; the paltry grasping of mankind to anything he thinks will give him comfort and peace in this life. There is no peace for the wicked. There is no peace for those who cling to false gods. Their gods cannot save. Their gods leave them forsaken and downtrodden, which is usually a good indication that one has a false god if they are continuously forlorn and downtrodden. The Triune Lord God is the only God. He is the only real God. He has been from the beginning. He has been the Lord God throughout all of eternity. Only He can save.

Only the Triune Lord God in His wisdom and mercy fulfill the petitions of mankind by coming and rescuing us from the powers of darkness. He does for us what no other god could do. He does for us what no other person could do. He defeats death and darkness by taking upon our flesh and fulfilling the Law of God which we are unable to keep. He brings life and light to those of us who sit in darkness and shadow of death by paying the price for our transgressions. That which is eternal saves us by taking upon that which is temporal. The True God becomes true man to rescue and redeem us from sin and death.

Having rescued mankind from our ancient enemies by His own death on the tree of the holy cross, our Lord + Jesus, Who is born for us this day in the city of David, draws all men to Himself by establishing for His holy Church. His Church, His Bride, is established through His Spirit; through the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost creates in us faith. It is the Holy Ghost that creates in us the ability to see the promises of the Lord + Jesus; to see what He has done for us. When we consider the wonderful work that He has accomplished for us by His birth in our flesh, how can we not genuflect in awe and praise and worship? Surely, we are not deserving of such a grand gift.

We daily sin much. There is nothing good dwelling within us. By our actions we make ourselves out to be enemies of the Lord God. It is only by pure mercy that we have a Savior such as the Lord + Jesus born for us. The Word which was from the beginning; the Lord God Who was from beginning has come down from Heaven to be for us the Light that shines in the darkness. Therefore, my dear friends, let us turn away from the darkness of sin and shame. Let us cling to the Light of the world. Let us gladly bend the knee when we hear that He has become man for us. Let us gladly bow the head when we hear His Name spoken into our ears. For the Lord + Jesus, the Savior of the world, the One Who was from the beginning the Lord God, has become man, so that He might lead us out of the darkness of sin, and free us from the bonds which held us in the shadow of death.

God has become man so that we might no longer suffer for our sins. He is the True Light coming into the world to redeem mankind from his sins. He has come into the world to redeem us poor, miserable sinners, and win for us forgiveness, life and salvation. Step out of the darkness of sin and shame, my dear friends, for our Lord + Jesus is the True Light coming into the world, Who has come

to win for your forgiveness of your sins. At the Name of our Lord + Jesus let us bow our heads, and when we hear of our Lord's incarnation—His taking upon Himself our flesh—let us bend the knee in thanks, honor and praise, for our Lord + Jesus has become man for us poor, miserable sinners.

On account of our Lord's becoming man for us, we are no longer be considered sinners, but on account of the faith created in us by the working of the Holy Ghost, we are all saints—holy ones—in our Lord God's eyes. What a wonderful mystery! God has taken upon Himself our flesh. He has become incarnate of the Holy Ghost, and born of the Blessed Virgin Mary for us. Let us give Him thanks and praise on this feast day. Let us sing His praise today, and give thanks for His wonderful work by bending the knee in honor of Him becoming man. In the Name of our Lord + Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer in Pulpit after Sermon:

O Lord God, our heavenly Father, we thank Thee that of Thy great goodness and mercy Thou hast caused Thine Only-Begotten Son to become incarnate, that we through Him might be redeemed from sin and everlasting death; and we pray Thee, enlighten our hearts that we may be truly thankful to Thee for His gracious incarnation and birth, that we may be comforted by the same in all time of tribulation and temptation, and in the end be saved with an everlasting salvation; through Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

The Votum:

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Soli Deo Gloria!