



Gospel: John 1: 1-18

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.
All things came to be through him,
and without him nothing came to be.
What came to be through him was life,
and this life was the light of the human race;
the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.
The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.
He was in the world, and the world came to be through him,
but the world did not know him.
He came to what was his own,
but his own people did not accept him.
But to those who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God,
to those who believe in his name,
who were born not by natural generation
nor by human choice nor by a man's decision
but of God.
And the Word became flesh
and made his dwelling among us,
and we saw his glory,
the glory as of the Father's only Son,
full of grace and truth

Gospel Meditation

Many of the early church fathers have written hymns and homilies in praise of the Incarnation. John the Monk, an 8th century writer, in his *Hymn of the Nativity*, sings of the great exchange in the mystery and wonder of the Incarnation - God becoming man in order to bring man to heaven:

Heaven and earth are united today, for Christ is born! Today God has come upon earth, and humankind gone up to heaven. Today, for the sake of humankind, the invisible one is seen in the flesh. Therefore let us glorify him and cry aloud: glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace bestowed by your coming, Savior: glory to you! Today in Bethlehem, I hear the angels: glory to God in the highest! Glory to him whose good pleasure it was that there be peace on earth! The Virgin is now more spacious than the heavens. Light has shone on those in darkness, exalting the lowly who sing like the angels: Glory to God in the highest! Beholding him [Adam] who was in God's image and likeness fallen through transgression, Jesus bowed the heavens and came down, without change taking up his dwelling in a virgin womb, that he might refashion Adam fallen in corruption, and crying out: glory to your epiphany, my Savior and my God! [Stichera (hymn) of the Nativity of the Lord]

Why was it necessary for the Word of God to become flesh? We needed a savior who could reconcile us with God. Throughout the ages Christians have professed the ancient Nicene Creed: "He became man for our sake and for the sake of our salvation." The eternal Word became flesh for us so he could offer his life as an atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world through the shedding of his blood on the cross. The Word became flesh to show us the infinite love and tender mercy of God for us sinners.

In the feast of Christmas we celebrate present realities - Jesus Christ our redeemer who reigns in heaven and who also lives and reigns in our hearts through the gift and working of the Holy Spirit. And we commemorate past events - the birth of the newborn Messiah King and his manifestation to Israel and to the gentile nations. We thank and bless God for the way in which he has saved us from the power of sin and the curse of death and destruction by sending his son to ransom us and give us pardon and abundant life through the gift and working of the Holy Spirit. Today we celebrate the birthday of our King and Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Copyright 2012-2025 Don Schwager

Reflection

First Reading

Q: Have you seen what you anticipated this Christmas? Why or why not?

Q: What are you joyful for this season? How has God blessed this day for you?

Psalm

Q: How have you encouraged others to pray?

Invite one person to pray with you this week. In your prayer, praise God for his goodness and love.

Second Reading

Q: How was (or is) your worship experience this Christmas day? Was it better than the typical Sunday experience? Why or why not?

Q: Take a few moments out of your Christmas celebrations and give praise to Jesus the Lord, who "sits at the right hand of the Father."

Gospel

Q: How does your Christmas celebrate God's love and faithfulness? How does the Christmas season bring you closer to God?

Sources: dailyscripture.net; uscbb.org; word-Sunday.org



Share the Word Sunday Reflection

FOR DECEMBER 25, 2025

Christmas Day



And the Word became flesh and dwelled among us

First Reading: Isaiah 52: 7-10

All the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God

Responsorial: Psalm 98: 1-6

R: *All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.*

Second Reading: Hebrews 1: 1-6

Let all the angels of God worship him.

Gospel: John 1: 1-18

In the beginning was the Word

"Lord our God, with the birth of your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, your glory breaks on the world. As we celebrate his first coming, give us a foretaste of the joy that you will grant us when the fulness of his glory has filled the earth "

Question of the Week: How do you participate in bringing The Word into the World?