

**Christmas Day Devotion**  
**December 25, 2011**  
**Amazing Grace Lutheran Church – Pastor Chip Wilke**

John 1:1-3, 14, 16-18

***In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made...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...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. (NIV)***

What Child is this? Who is this whose birthday we, along with millions and millions of others, celebrate today? Why do we marvel as we gaze into His manger once again? Why are our hearts filled with joy and what was the reason the angels filled the sky with praise on the night Jesus was born? For answers to these and many of our other questions concerning the meaning of Christmas, we have come to the right place. The Gospel of John gives us some important answers. In this very first chapter John explains what Child this is and what He becomes and what it means for us. On this birthday of our Savior may the Holy Spirit open our eyes & hearts to once again stand in wonder over this truth: **The Word becomes Flesh.**

This is a rather unique name for Jesus, isn't it? John refers to Jesus four times in these verses as the Word. But as we begin to understand who Jesus is we begin to recognize just how fitting this name is for Him. John writes: ***"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."*** Three things to note here - one Jesus always was, He was there way back at the beginning when time began and everything was made, secondly he was with God and is a distinct person, and thirdly he was and is God (the one true God with the Father & Holy Spirit), - uncreated, infinite, eternal God. In fact: ***"He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made."***

In the next verse where John refers to Jesus as the Word he unveils the miracle that is Christmas. ***'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.'*** John tells us this is certainly true. He saw this with His own eyes: ***"We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."*** Can we ever really wrap our minds around then what takes place at Christmas? Him whom the heavens cannot contain is held in a Virgin's arms and laid into a manger. True God who put the stars in their place by His powerful Word becomes a baby in diapers. The One with all power, the God who existed from all eternity and the Lord through whom all things were made, becomes a child who was dependant on his mother. He, who is King of kings and Lord of lords, is born in flesh weak and lowly.

While we may never be able to comprehend the miracle of Jesus being begotten of the Father, of true God being born true man, of the Word becoming flesh and making His dwelling among us, what I pray we all understand it why He did it. He did it for you

and me. It was pure grace, undeserved love that sent Jesus from heaven to earth. Jesus comes to make the Father known to us. He comes to open heaven again. That is why the very God who formed man from the dust came with fingernails, and eyebrows and kneecaps of His own. That is why Jesus, who was before Abraham, was born of a woman. That's why the One who made the forests and mountains would one day be dragged out to a hilltop to be nailed with outstretched arms on a tree. There the Creator of heaven and earth would suffer and die for His creation – to buy us back from sin and death and hell. Peer into the empty tomb and see His linens wrapped and set aside if you have any doubts whether Jesus succeeded in what he came to do!

So this is what Christmas is all about? This is why we have come to worship and adore. This is why we praise with the angels. This is who we receive in the manger of our heart this day? Not just a cute and cuddly baby! No, that lowliness of form is the Creator of all that is, the Eternal God, the Child who makes us God's children. Do you have that child who keeps looking under the tree for one more gift? Even if there is one more gift to be found under there somewhere the presents under the tree will all be gone soon if they are not already. But not the presents our Savior came to bring for ***“from the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another.”*** The Word made keeps coming to us with His grace, he keeps coming to us through Word and Sacraments, and His blessings to us will have no end! Merry Christmas! Amen.