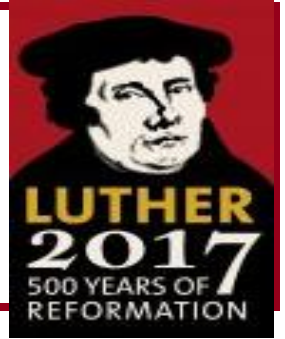


The Incarnation of Immanuel

Isaiah 7:10-14 1 John 4:7-16 John 1:1-18

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Pastor Dave Bolte



IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN, the miracle of Christmas is that God Himself has come into the world!

The Creator of the Heavens and the Earth and everything in them was born in a manger in Bethlehem!

The all-powerful, eternal Lord God Almighty was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

One of the most familiar Christmas prophecies in the Old Testament predicted this. Remember this prophecy from Isaiah?

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. **ISAIAH 7:14**

IMMANUEL is a name that means “**God with us**”. “God with us” could be the summary of the Christmas story in the Gospel of John. Immanuel, “God with us”, accurately describes Who Jesus is: He is the 2nd Person of the Holy Trinity, *God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made.*

Jesus is God with us: He is IMMANUEL!

In the Gospel of John, the miracle of Christmas is that God is with us; God Himself has come into the world to save His Creation.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God**. He was in the beginning with God. . . In him was life, and the life was the light of men. . . . And the Word **became flesh and dwelt among us**, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. **JOHN 1:1,2,4, 14**

God *became flesh*. The Latin word for that is *incarnate*; or *incarnation*. Jesus is God *in the flesh*; born in a manger in Bethlehem.

Jesus is described as “dwelling” among us. The word picture is that He “tented” with us. It is an Old Testament image that goes back to when the Israelites were in the wilderness for 40 years. They were journeying from Egypt to the Promised Land. Moses was leading them, and God was present with them in the **Tabernacle**. The **Tabernacle** was essentially “God’s Tent” right in the middle of all the Israelites’ tents. Literally, The **Tabernacle**, God’s “tent” was right in the middle, and all the Israelites set up their tents by tribes all around it. The **Tabernacle** signaled that God was present with His people; It reminded them that God rescued them from Egypt, He forgave their sins, He heard their prayers, He watched over them, and He protected them from their enemies.

The same words are now used for Jesus. Jesus is right in the middle of mankind. He is born in Bethlehem. Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem signaled that God is present on earth; He came into the world to forgive our sins, He hears our prayers, He watches over our lives, and He protects us from our enemies.

Jesus is God *in the flesh*; God incarnate, who “tents” among us as our Savior! *Christmas is the incarnation of Immanuel*.

Just as God was among His Old Testament people to save them and lead them to the Promised Land; so too Jesus is among us to save us and lead us to the Promised Land of Heaven.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus’ work of salvation is described as **LIGHT and LIFE**. Jesus our God and Creator came into His sin darkened and lifeless world to bring **LIGHT AND LIFE** to all people. **LIGHT AND LIFE** are words of Gospel; they are “good news” to us who so often feel the consequences of the darkness and death of our sin and guilt.

Jesus doesn't save us by His birth in Bethlehem, but by His death in Jerusalem. One way to think about Jesus is that His entire life is a journey to the cross. God "**became flesh**" and "**tented among us**" so that he could pay for our sins and reconcile us to God the Father. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, you have peace with God; your sins are forgiven and you have eternal life. **Because of the "Incarnation of Immanuel", you have been given the LIGHT AND LIFE of eternal salvation!**

Jesus is **Immanuel**, *God with us*

Jesus is God **incarnate**: *God in the flesh*

God became flesh, and **dwelt** among us to be our Savior.

This same God **remains** with us and **dwells** among us through His Word and Sacraments.

The importance of the Word and Sacraments is that God is present with us and He continues to give us the LIGHT AND LIFE of eternal salvation throughout our lives. The altar area is like "God's tent" among us; the pulpit, altar, and baptismal font reminds us that **GOD IS WITH US** through His Word and Sacraments.

The Bible is the "**Word of God**"; it is the **voice of Jesus** as He continues to speak words of **LIFE AND LIGHT** to you. The Lord works through His Word to show you your sin, lead you to repentance, and to forgive your sins. You hear the Good News about Jesus' death and resurrection and faith is created, strengthened, and deepened. The Word of God creates a conviction within you of what is right and wrong; good and evil; truth and error. You live your life in the light of this conviction; and by the truth of God's Holy Word. **Jesus remains with us through His Holy Word!**

Jesus also dwells with us in **Holy Baptism**. In Baptism, you were united to Christ; You were united with God Himself in His death, burial and resurrection; your sinful nature has died and was buried, you now have new life as Jesus dwells with you forever. You are no longer a prisoner of Satan, NOR sin, nor the Law of God. **If you were Baptized, you have been set free!** **In Baptism, your identity is now tied together with Christ.** It changes everything about you. Christ now dwells within you personally; your world view is shaped by Him; your values, morals, and ethics are Christ-centered; your life, words, and actions are formed by His Holy Word. Baptism makes you God's very own: you belong to Him, and He lives within you! **Jesus remains with us through Holy Baptism!**

Jesus dwells with us in **Holy Communion**. Holy Communion is where we receive Christ's very own body and blood into our very own body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. The very real presence of the Lord Jesus is here! In this mysterious miracle, God lives and dwells with you throughout your life; this bread and wine is food that God provides for us as we journey with Christ through life, and one day, through death, and into the Kingdom of Heaven. **Jesus remains with us through Holy Communion!**

We do not worship a distant God; nor an absent Savior! Jesus is our God, Creator, and Savior. He is Immanuel, God with us, Who was born in Bethlehem. He is God incarnate, God in the flesh in order to die and rise again on the third day to give us the LIGHT AND LIFE of eternal salvation. Jesus continues to "tent" among us in His Word and Sacraments.

We do not worship a distant God; nor an absent Savior!

The Lord is with us throughout our lives!

Amen!