

“The Word Became Flesh”

All through the Advent season, we turned our attention to John the Baptist. The past eight sermons which I have written all made mention of John the Baptist. Finally, the Christmas season is here, and we read the appointed lessons for Christmas Day, the birth of our Lord, and once again, here is John the Baptist.

As I mentioned last week, that voice of one crying in the wilderness will not be silenced. John came as a witness – to bear witness about the Light. He was not the Light, but he came for one purpose – to bear witness about the Light of the World that all might believe.

Jesus is the true light. John was telling everyone that the Light, the eternal Word of God, the Messiah, the Christ was

coming into the world. And He has come. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory. And He is full of grace and truth.

John came for one reason – to bear witness about this Light, this eternal Word of God who has now taken on flesh. He is incarnate. That is, He has become “carnal.” If something is “carnal,” it is of flesh. The incarnation of Jesus is what we celebrate today.

The incarnation of the Son of God is what John the Baptist came to bear witness about – so that everyone would believe. It is wonderful that every year, all around the world, people take time to celebrate and give gifts. But don't get distracted from what we are really celebrating. As I said last night, “the reason for the season is your sin.”

There had to be a second Adam born into this world to completely keep and fulfill God's Law because the first Adam didn't. This message of grace and truth must be received. It is like what Luther said in regard to Christ's death and resurrection: "Christ could have died 1000 times and it would be of no use to you if you never heard about it."

John came to bear witness about the Light that all might believe through him. And all who believe in His name, God has given the right to become the children of God. Christ's birth is not the only birth we celebrate this morning. You were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us – and He still comes to us in His flesh. And we have seen His glory – the witnesses of the resurrection have seen His glory. The first-fruits

of the resurrection we have seen in the flesh and blood of the risen Christ.

Christ is born, miracles have happened, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world has come and it would be of no use to you if you did not receive this Good News full of grace and truth.

Rejoice that the Light of the World has come! Rejoice that Christ is born! Rejoice that the Son of God has taken on flesh! Rejoice that faithful witnesses have shared this Good News! Rejoice that you have heard and received this Good News of great joy! And rejoice that you have been born as a child of God!

Amen.