

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Savior

THE INCARNATION OF GOD



And GOD THE WORD, who created all things in existence and through whom all things in existence throughout the universe are sustained and maintained, set aside His prerogatives as GOD to become a human and take the nature of a slave, dying as a criminal on the cross for the sinful actions of humanity, thereby obtaining forgiveness and justification for sinners.

—*John 1.1-3; Philippians 2.6-8; Romans 4.25*

THIS WE CONFESS AND PREACH CONCERNING JESUS THE CHRIST, GOD INCARNATE:

- ▶ Jesus, Lord and Christ, is the unique Son of God, the second Person of the Godhead. He is truly and eternally God, of one substance with the Father. Existing as the Word, He was in the beginning with God the Father, and was God.
- ▶ Like the Father and the Spirit, Jesus the Son, the Word-God, is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, truth, love, and grace.
- ▶ Jesus (His human name) is truly God and truly man, yet one person, the Christ, the only mediator between God and man. Jesus is complete and perfect in His deity and His humanity, yet He is one person, for the two natures are joined inseparably without confusion.

- ▶ In the fullness of time, Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary, apart from the will or action of any man.
- ▶ In this act and process of incarnation, Jesus the Word-God, became a man and took a human nature, including a true human body, soul, mind, will, and emotions. In His humanity, Jesus possessed all the weaknesses of human nature, but none of the sin, nor the sinful nature that characterizes humanity.
- ▶ The incarnation of Jesus initiated the fulfillment of God's plan of redemption for the human race. Jesus exercised the offices of prophet, priest, and king in His role as mediator, and especially took on human flesh that He might suffer in that flesh as a substitutionary sacrifice, to atone for the sins of His people.

A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the Son of David, the Son of Abraham. . . . Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

*“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”
—which means “God with us”.*

WHO IS JESUS?

- ▶ A descendant of Abraham, the father of the Jewish nation
- ▶ The “son of David” (foremost king of Israel)
- ▶ The Christ (Messiah)—the “Anointed One”
- ▶ The son of Mary through conception by the Holy Spirit
- ▶ Jesus, a savior “because he will save his people from their sins”
- ▶ Immanuel, “God with us”

In short, there is nothing ordinary about this one who is known as “Jesus”. As the “seed of Abraham”, he is the one through whom all nations are blessed; as the “son of David”, he is heir to the throne of Israel; as the Christ, he is one designated above all others for the fulfillment of all of God’s intentions and promises; as Jesus, he is designated to be the savior of sinners; as “Immanuel”, he is God, in human form through a supernatural birth.



Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way . . .

HEBREWS 2.14-17

A BAD FAMILY TREE

- ▶ Tamar seduced her father-in-law, Judah; from that incestuous act, two sons were born to Judah: Perez and Zerah (v. 3)
- ▶ Rahab (v. 5), a Canaanite prostitute, was the great-grandmother of David; his grandmother, Ruth (v. 5) was a converted idol worshiper from a nation cursed by God for their immorality
- ▶ The genealogy of Jesus included fifteen kings, half of whom were godly, but compromised; the others were prolific in their wickedness
- ▶ King David's son Solomon was born out of an affair with another man's wife (v. 6)
- ▶ King Ahaz (v. 9) submitted himself to the king of Assyria and set up pagan altars in the Temple of the Lord, sacrificed his son by fire on a pagan altar, and stripped the Temple, in deference to the king of Assyria, of its distinctive representations of God
- ▶ King Manasseh (v. 10), worshiped Baal and the stars; sacrificed his son in the fire; practiced sorcery and consulted mediums and spiritists, "provoking [the Lord] to anger"

- ▶ Into this family tree of saints and sinners, Jesus was born as the son of Mary, through conception by the Holy Spirit, for this singular purpose—

“he will save his people from their sins.”

For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

HEBREWS 2.17

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners . . .

1 TIMOTHY 1.15

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

JOHN 3.17