

Christmas

Pastor Dan Burgess

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). - Matthew 1:23

Forget the presents. Ignore all the food. Enjoy friends and family, but don't let your joy stop there. During this time of year, there is only one reason to have true, lasting joy – God has taken on human flesh, forever. God has taken on “flesh” in many ways throughout time. God walked in Eden (Gen. 3:8). He came to Moses in a burning bush (Exodus 3:6). He led the people of Israel out of Egypt as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night (Exodus 13:21). He literally sat on top of the ark of the covenant between the two cherubim (1 Sam. 4:4). God has been taking on various forms of “flesh” ever since Eden, but they all pale in comparison to what Christ has done for you at Christmas. He took on YOUR flesh.

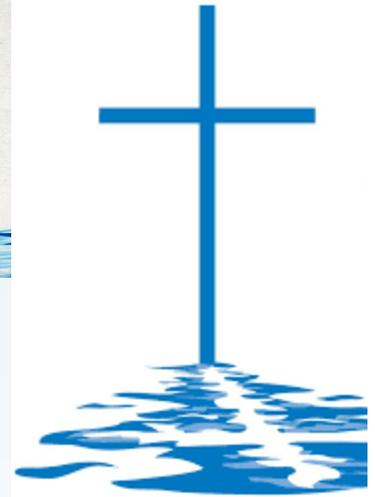
He took on our flesh with all its weaknesses, our flesh with all its temptations, our flesh that is subject to pain, hunger, and tiredness. God took on all these limitations willingly. God could have stayed the way He was. He didn't have to take on our flesh, but He did have to take on our flesh if He wanted to pay the price for our sin, to suffer the punishment we deserve, and to make peace between us and God. Jesus, the Son of God, had to take on flesh to save us; and He did. This is why Jesus is named “Immanuel” which means God with us.

God loves you so much that He never leaves you. Consider St. Paul's words to the church in Rome regarding baptism when he said:

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. - Romans 6:3-5

It was not enough for Jesus just to take on human flesh. He took on human flesh so He could suffer, die, and rise from the dead. Just as Jesus took on human flesh through His incarnation, so now you have taken on Christ's righteousness, holiness, and perfection through your baptism into Christ. In Christ's incarnation, we have truly been given the greatest gift of all time. His death and His resurrection have now become our death to sin and our resurrection to eternal life.

You truly have so much to be thankful for at Christmas, but make sure you look past the lights, the trees, the gifts, and the food. Take joy in what Christ has done for you by coming in your flesh to save you from all sins and even save you from death itself.



Water of Life
Lutheran Church
5430 S. Grand
Canyon, Las Vegas

Upcoming Events

- Sundays: Worship at 8 and 10:30 AM
- Confirmation, Mon., 4:30 PM
- Prime Timers, Tues., 9:30 AM
- Wed. Advent Worship, 7 PM
- Preschool Chapel, Wed. 9 AM
- Christmas for Kids, Dec. 8, 10 AM
- Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal, Dec. 15, 10 AM
- Children's Christmas Program, Dec. 16, 10:30 AM
- NO Dec. 16, 8 AM Worship
- Christmas Eve Candle-light Service, 7 PM
- Christmas Day Praise Service, 10 AM