**All Life Comes From the Word!**

**John 1:1-14**

Christmas Day 2022 – 12.25.2022

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Today, we are here to celebrate a birthday, but who is this Child whose birth the angels heralded? What is it about Jesus, the Christ, that the whole nation takes a national holiday to rejoice at His birth? Well maybe most people think of Christmas as a day to exchange gifts in some sort of holiday spirit, something on which most people cannot even agree on in definition. Many people try to think of Christmas but would exclude the Child born two thousand years ago.

But you are here to celebrate a birth. Why? What is so special about this one Child?

Our Gospel illuminates the importance of this Child, for it reminds us that He has been from before the world began, He is the eternal Word. F rom our text, we learn much about Christ, the Word of God incarnate. Verse one says, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. While verse 14 makes a further connection, And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

This Child, the Christ-child, is the Word of God made flesh. He was in the beginning when all was made, He was with God, and in fact, the Word was God, and that this Word still is God. Our text explains what this Word has done: He was in the beginning with God. AND… listen closely, all things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Yes, all thing were made through Him.

From the Genesis account of creation, we know that God spoke things into being. God said, “Let there be light,” and it happened. The Word of God caused the reality to exist. Six times Genesis recounts for us God's saying something, and that something was created by the Word spoken. In each case, the Word of God caused the reality to come about and exist. that Word of God is still in force today, causing all life that comes into existence, creation continuing.

Is God still speaking as that creative Word, bringing about ne life? You might say, “Yes!” God spoke saying, “Be fruitful and multiply.” It is this Word which causes all life to reproduce. That Word of command is still in force. That Word, spoken millennium before is still producing life. If God were to speak a word ending that command, all life would cease to procreate. There would be no more new life in any of the species because God's Word would have removed the power to multiply.

Too often, the procreation of life is said to be in the hands of the individual species. You know how science textbooks say that new life comes about? There is the male and the female of the species that mate, and bingo, things happen, and there is an offspring. God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply.’ (Gen. 1) God’s Word brought about life in the beginning, that creative Word is still effectively bringing new life into the world today.

What about you? Do you view it that way? Do you see the Word of God, Jesus Christ, as He who brings about all life? Is it the Word of God, Christ, who people see as that which brings all things into being?

Our Gospel lesson answer for us. *All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.*

When Adam and Eve fell, darkness covered the soul of mankind, a darkness so deep that even light is not powerful enough to overcome it. Man's free will rejects God, it is a darkness that covers our benighted planet. Paul writes to the church at Rome:

For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. (Hear how the darkness covers men's hearts?) Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. (Romans 1:21-23)

Today we see this all over. Creation is elevated, God is devalued. People worship creation, ascribing the bringing about life of to a chance process called evolution. Many people today believe that all plants and animals evolved from lower life forms. If God was involved, He simply set things in motion, and all life simply developed on its own. Even man, who the Word created as the crown of His creation, whom God gave dominion over all life, is seen as just another animal.

Look at your own body. Could that have evolved from primordial mud? Your blood vessels, veins, arteries, and capillaries if put end to end would reach around the world two and a half times. Such complexity happened by accident? It takes an enormous amount of faith to believe such a thing. But people deny God?

We like to think that we control over our own lives. Our lives and the lives of our children were made, not by the whim of our parents, or even by an ooops! God chose who we would be, when we would be, and when our children would come about. The Word planned even the ooopsies, at the beginning of creation, He decreed that they would be born. Not only did He decree they would be born, He knew the name of every person who would ever live, and what their life would be like, when spoke in the garden, "Be fruitful and multiply."

But today, the darkness is pervasive - denial of that Word rules in our world.

Christmas Day is the celebration of the Word becoming flesh to dwell among us. It is the day God bestowed upon the world His gift to bring about life – life eternal to all who believe. His creatures now bow down before a decorated tree and reach beneath it with such joy for the man-made gifts wrapped in pretty paper, ribbons and bows. They thank Santa, family, and friends for the gifts they receive, while the Word of God Incarnate, who gave them life, hears little thanks or praise this day.

We are all guilty, to some extent, of worshiping the creation rather than the Creator. We are all guilty of getting swept up in the spirit of this age and the rapture into which Satan has turned the birthday party of God's Word.

Some will take today and claim worship of the Word made flesh as their first priority. They will state how they have come to faith, and that they have chosen to worship God first this day. They declare that they have decided to follow Jesus and not the world. In this claim, they are also worshiping the created rather than the Creator. They are claiming themselves responsible for their faith and have rendered null and void, the very gift God wishes to give them. They rob God as they claim responsibility for what they believe – by claiming that their faith is their own work.

Faith is not your work. Faith is not something you do. You cannot decide to follow Jesus. Faith is God's work, the work of the Word of God. Look at our text. *He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

God's own did not receive Him. That is, the Jewish people, God's chosen Old Testament church, denied the Christ. And those who did not deny Him, those who did come to faith, did so not because of their own will, not of their own blood, or of the will of their flesh. Those who believe on His name do so because of the will of God. Their faith was born of the Word coming to them and changing their heart to a believing heart. God's Word creates life – and life eternal through faith. God's Word makes a believing heart.

God's will brought you here today. He did it by working through the Word you have heard unto this very moment. That Word of God, Christ Jesus, sends His Spirit to make hearts believe unto life everlasting. The Word of God is still the creating Word – creating faith – creating life eternal.

The Word of God comes to you again, today. The Babe of Bethlehem comes to you.

A pastor speaks, and the Word of God forgives sins – The Word causes the reality to exist.

God’s servant speaks The Word of Christ, and The Word causes the reality of Christ's body and blood to be present in the Sacrament of the altar. In that holy meal, sins are forgiven, and eternal life and salvation are given as the gift.

Dear friends in Christ, the Child of Bethlehem is the Word Who spoke long ago and brought your life into the world. He died for your sins, to redeem you. And when He gather you together with those who share that same faith with you, He gives you Himself, in Word and Sacrament.

These are God’s Christmas gifts to you. Rejoice in His Holy Name, for your life – now and forevermore – comes from the Word.

Amen.