



4. GLORIA & THE WORD

*Glory be to God on high:
 And on earth peace, good will toward men.
 We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You,
 we give thanks to You, for Your great glory.
 O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.
 O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
 O Lord, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
 You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
 You take away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
 You are seated at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
 For You only are holy.
 You only are the Lord.
 You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father.
 Amen.*

Luke 2:10-14

Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

"Glory to God in the highest,

And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

(Excerpt from the Gospel for Christmas Eve Midnight)

John 1:14

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.

(Excerpt from the Gospel for Christmas Day)

1. What do the angels announce in **Luke 2**? What did this mean for people on earth?

2. The angels sing what we know as the “Gloria in Excelsis,” (Glory to God in the highest). Besides the Psalms, it is the oldest song we have in our liturgy. We sing here after the Kyrie and before the Lessons because... (See **John 1:14**)

INCARNATION

3. Define Incarnation:
4. Why did Jesus need to be “made man”?

Galatians 4:4-5: But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Romans 5:19: For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous.

1 Peter 3:18: For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

Hebrews 2:14: Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.

Jesus had to become true man in order to _____
and to _____.

5. At the same time, Jesus was also true God. He had to be true God in order that His fulfilling the law for us and His suffering and dying in our place might _____.
6. When Jesus entered into the world, He **humbled** Himself. To humble Himself means He refrained from always and fully using the divine attributes communicated to His human nature, and becoming obedient to the point of death.

Philippians 2:7-8: Christ emptied Himself by taking the form of a servant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Hebrews 2:9: But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

“I believe in Jesus Christ...Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.” (The Apostle’s Creed, Humiliation.)

7. What comfort does the incarnation give us?

2 Corinthians 8:9: For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

Hebrews 2:17-18: Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

THE WORD

8. What is God’s Word about?

John 1:14: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us

John 5:39: You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

John 14:6: Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 17:3: And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

John 20:31: but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

9. When we read Scripture, we look for _____. We ask “What is God teaching me about _____?” but we don’t stop there. We ask, “Where is the _____?”

10. Most Christians confess these three attributes of Scripture (and so does Scripture itself):

Inspired – “Breathed by God”	<p>2 Timothy 3:16: All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, and for training in righteousness.</p> <p>2 Peter 1:21: In fact, no prophecy ever came by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were being carried along by the Holy Spirit.</p>
Inerrant – “without error”	<p>John 17:17: Your Word is truth.</p>
Infallible – “unable to err”	<p>Hebrews 6:18: It is impossible for God to lie.</p> <p>John 10:35: Scripture cannot be broken.</p>

But Scripture is more than simply true information...Lutherans confess Scripture is also...

	<p>Psalm 119:105 Your Word is a lamp to my feet and light for my path</p>
	<p>Luke 16:31: ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’</p>
	<p>Romans 1:16: For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.</p>

11. What is the difference between “The Bible contains God’s Word” and “The Bible is God’s Word”?

12. Most Human words are _____. But God’s Word is _____.

13. If the point of Scripture is to bring sinners the comfort of the forgiveness of sins, what should the point of every Christian sermon be? Of the hymns Christian sing together?

14. The 3rd Commandment, which we looked at last lesson, is the commandment that guards God’s gift of preaching and His Word. **“You shall keep the day of rest holy. What does this mean? We should fear and love God, so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.”**

If the Divine Service echos the message of God’s Word – which is not primarily what God wants us to do, but what God has done for us – how does this affect our perspective on the time we spend together in God’s Word?

You shall the day of rest keep free That you and yours may restful be
As God from labor rested too. So now may He work in you. Have mercy, Lord! (ELH 490 v. 4)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Which parts of the Bible are to be accepted as God's Word? Are any parts not to be accepted as God's Word? (see passages above under #10).

How do we reconcile the fact that Scripture can be difficult in some places, but that it is also clear? What is it clear on?

Why is it important that a church confesses and teaches that the Bible is not just true, but also clear, sufficient, and powerful?

Recall the difference between Law and Gospel (lesson 3) and apply the knowledge from this lesson:

- True or False: God's main purpose in giving us the Bible is to give us a guide for getting to heaven.
- True or False: Because Jesus fulfilled God's Moral Law, that means it doesn't apply to us anymore.
- True or False: The Law reveals my sin, so that I know how much I need a Savior.

MEMORIZE: The books of the Bible (the order)

MEMORIZE: The Apostle's Creed & the Explanations to the Apostle's Creed