

CHRISTMAS DAY

THE
WORD
MADE
FLESH



Crowned with Glory

THE WORD MADE FLESH

Crowned With Glory

A SERVICE FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

INDEX

Notes/Ordering Information	5
Newsletter/Bulletin Notices	6
Order of Service.....	7-11
Complete Script for Leaders.....	12-22
Music Guide	23-32

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THE WORD MADE FLESH

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ABOUT “THE WORD MADE FLESH: CROWNED WITH GLORY”

On Christmas Day, we rejoice that the little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay is our King of Kings forevermore. The Word Made Flesh reigns over heaven and earth, and we are loved and forgiven members of the Kingdom of God to life everlasting. Hymns include “O Come, All Ye Faithful” “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” and “Of the Father’s Love Begotten.” Use with *The Word Made Flesh* series or alone.

Other coordinating resources are available. Call Creative Communications for the Parish at 1-800-325-9414, or visit us on the web at creativecommunications.com for current pricing and availability.

Signature collection WD7SK

Complete collection WD7CK

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NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us on Christmas Day, when we rejoice that the little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay is our King of Kings forevermore. The Word Made Flesh reigns over heaven and earth, and we are loved and forgiven members of the Kingdom of God to life everlasting.

BULLETIN NOTICE

Welcome to Christmas Day! We rejoice that the little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay is our King of Kings forevermore. The Word Made Flesh reigns over heaven and earth, and we are loved and forgiven members of the Kingdom of God to life everlasting.

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ORDER OF SERVICE

At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.

Philippians 2:10

Opening Hymn..... O Come, All Ye Faithful (Adeste Fideles Irregular Meter)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him born the king of angels:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him.
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal.
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him.
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him.
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

- The **Confession and Absolution** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

C **Almighty God, you sent your Son to be our Savior, yet we turn away from your love and seek to follow our own sinful desires. You have given us your Word, but instead we listen to the tempting voices of the world around us. We do not love others as we should, and we keep the Good News of salvation to ourselves. Have mercy on us, and forgive us for the sake of Jesus.**

P God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son to save us. Jesus took our sins onto himself and carried them to the cross, and for his sake, God forgives our sins. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C **Jesus, we worship you and adore your holy name, the name above all names.**

- The **Prayer of the Day** is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

P Lord and Savior, you are the Word, the Word who was with God in the beginning, the Word who is God. All things were created in and through you. You humbled yourself to be born among us as one of us. You humbled yourself to the point of death on a cross for the sake of our salvation. Raised from death, you are exalted to the highest place and given the name that is above all names—Jesus, the name that we love. As we celebrate your birth, lead us in the power of the Holy Spirit to follow in your footsteps, to love others as you love us and to be bold witnesses for you so that others will come to know and worship you as Lord. Amen.

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Vom Himmel Hoch LM, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

“From heav’n above to earth I come
To bear good news to ev’ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing.

“To you this night is born a child
Of Mary chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth
Shall be the joy of all the earth.”

- The **Children’s Sermon** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

Needed: a picture of a crown of thorns (or a picture of Jesus on the cross wearing the crown of thorns) and a picture of a golden crown

- Ⓟ Today we are celebrating the birth of Jesus our Savior. The Bible calls him the King of Kings. That means Jesus is the greatest of all kings. He is greater and more powerful than any king on earth. He is a king, but he was not born in a palace. He was born in a stable in the little town of Bethlehem. Baby Jesus slept in a manger, a feeding trough for animals, not the place where we might usually find a king. Jesus came to be a different kind of king.

The first crown that Jesus wore was not a golden crown like this one (*show the picture of the golden crown*). Do you know what kind of crown Jesus wore? (*Let children answer.*) When Jesus died on the cross for our sins, he was crowned with thorns (*show the crown of thorns*). His enemies wanted to make fun of him for being a king. But Jesus wore that kind of crown for us because he is our Savior. That is why he was born in Bethlehem. That is why he came to live on earth. He came to die on the cross so our sins can be forgiven.

On the third day after he died, on the first Easter morning, Jesus rose up from death. He won the victory over sin, death and the devil! He ascended into heaven and he rules as our King. He is crowned with glory and honor because he won the victory—for us! Because Jesus died and rose from death, because he is crowned with glory and power, our sins are forgiven, and we will live forever with him. On this Christmas morning, we give thanks to Jesus our King, the King of Kings, our King crowned with glory. Let’s pray:

Jesus, King of Kings, thank you for dying on the cross for us. Thank you for being our great King. Happy birthday, King Jesus! Amen.

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Vom Himmel Hoch LM, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart
For you to dwell within my heart.

Glory to God in highest heav’n,
Who unto us his Son has giv’n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.

- The **Old Testament Reading**, Psalm 97:1-12, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad! Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne. Fire goes before him and burns up his adversaries all around. His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles. The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth. The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory. All worshipers of images are put to shame, who make their boast in worthless idols; worship him, all you gods! Zion hears and is glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O LORD. For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods. O you who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the lives of his saints; he delivers them from the hand of the wicked. Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart. Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!

- The **Epistle Reading**, Philippians 2:5-11, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- The **Gospel Reading**, John 1:14-18, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

- The **Sermon Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune *Divinum Mysterium* 87 87 877, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead.

Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heav'n adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing.
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory
Evermore and evermore.

- The **Sermon** is delivered by the pastor:

☐ Merry Christmas! Joy to the world! The Savior reigns! As John's Gospel proclaims, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth...For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace" (John 1:14, 16).

Dear friends and fellow pilgrims, how is it that we have come here, to the crèche, to gaze upon this tiny babe who is our King of Kings and Lord of Lords? In this journey through the desert of Advent, we have contemplated the meaning of nourishment, of hospitality, of God's steadfast fidelity and our participation in the divine plan of salvation, and now, we stand before the manger made a throne.

Paul's retelling of the Incarnation in *Philippians 2* has almost none of the set dressing of our familiar nativities. However, like *Matthew* and *Luke*, it reads rhetorically as a statement against imperial pomp and patriotism, with its methods of violence. And like the Gospels, Paul hopes to show us that through Christ, we learn how best to be ourselves, to be fully human within the grace of God.

To be truly ourselves, the famed hymn from Paul's letter to the Church at Caesarea Philippi urges us now to emulate the divine mind in its astounding humility, a humility that abides in Christ who "emptied himself" (2:7) in his Incarnation, becoming obedient to the point of what looked to many to be a shameful death, usually reserved for bandits and traitors. It is in his