

Christmas Eve

Reading of the Word

1. John 1:1-5, 14 (ESV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴**In him was life, and the life was the light of men.** ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.... ¹⁴**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.**

2. Matthew 1:18-25 (ESV)

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹**She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.**" ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³**"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).** ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. **And he called his name Jesus.**



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3. Luke 2:1-7 (ESV)

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴**And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem,** because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷**And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.**

4. Colossians 1:15-20 (ESV)

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶**For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities** - all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹**For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,** ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, **making peace by the blood of his cross.**



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