

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE ONE-OF-A-KIND WORD

THE WORD-FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

We have seen his glory,

the glory of the one and only Son,

who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

JOHN 1.14

WHO IS THE “WORD”?

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

JOHN 1.14

- ▶ Orthodox Christianity stands unique among all beliefs, and all representations of Jesus by other beliefs, whether Buddhism, Islam, LDS, or Jehovah’s Witnesses.
- ▶ Who is the Word that became flesh? Throughout the prologue to his gospel, the Apostle John presents all that distinguishes Jesus in his uniqueness as the Word, full of grace and truth.

¹ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

JOHN 1.1-2

▶ The Word is God (v. 1)

- ▶ The One we know best as *Jesus*, was in existence at the beginning, before anything else existed (Genesis 1.1), as the *Word*. He existed not as the first of creation, but as God—fully divine in essence and eternal in existence: *“I tell you the truth: before Abraham was born, I am!”* (John 8.58). The early church fathers contended against any lesser view of Jesus, understanding the implications of this truth: no one less than God could sufficiently atone for our sin.

² *He was with God in the beginning.* ³ *Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.* ⁴ *In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.*

¹⁷ *For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.* ¹⁸ *No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.*

- ▶ The Word was with God , in closest fellowship with the Father - v. 1, 18
- ▶ The Word is the means of creation and the source of all life - v. 3-4
- ▶ The Word is the one and only Son of God - v. 14, 18
- ▶ The Word incarnate—*“became flesh”*—is Jesus Christ; as such, he and he alone is the source of grace, truth, and salvation - v. 17