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THE ROBE OF HUMAN FRAME

Why did Jesus have to come among us as a human being? Why didn't He come as an angel or some other kind of being that is stronger and more powerful than us? While angels may be a source of endless fascination to the Christian and to the world, they have no power to save us. In this week's sermon, we will hear why taking on the "robe of [our] human frame" was not only a good idea but also necessary for our salvation. Angels are wonderful, but they are not Jesus. He came as one of us so that He could redeem us as His own.

OPENING SENTENCES

LSB, p. 229

- P** O Lord, open my lips,
C and my mouth will declare Your praise.
- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C make haste to help me, O Lord.
C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

PSALM

Psalm 91:9–13, 15–16

- P** Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—
the Most High, who is my refuge—
C no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near
your tent.

- P** For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.
- C** **On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.**
- P** You will tread on the lion and the adder;
- C** **the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.**
- P** When he calls to Me, I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.
- C** **With long life I will satisfy him and show him My salvation.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

HYMN

“My Song is Love Unknown” (*LSB* 430)

430 My Song Is Love Unknown

- 1 My song is love unknown,
My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown
That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I
That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh and die?
- 2 He came from His blest throne
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know.
But, oh, my friend,
My friend indeed,
Who at my need
His life did spend!
- 3 Sometimes they strew His way
And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day

Hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!"
Is all their breath,
And for His death
They thirst and cry.

4 Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries!
Yet they at these
Themselves displease
And 'gainst Him rise.

5 They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful He
To suffering goes
That He His foes
From thence might free.

6 In life no house, no home
My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb
But what a stranger gave.
What may I say?
Heav'n was His home
But mine the tomb
Wherein He lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend!

+ Readings +

READING

Micah 5:2–5a

P A reading from the fifth chapter of Micah.

²But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for Me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore He shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of His brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴And He shall stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the
LORD,

in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now He shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

^{5a}And He shall be their peace.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

READING

Hebrews 1

P A reading from the first chapter of Hebrews.

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our
fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days He has spoken to
us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through
whom also He created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory
of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the
universe by the word of His power. After making purification for
sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name He has
inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are My Son,
today I have begotten You”?

Or again,

“I will be to Him a father,
and He shall be to Me a son”?

⁶And again, when He brings the firstborn into the world, He says,

“Let all God’s angels worship Him.”

⁷Of the angels He says,

“He makes His angels winds,
and His ministers a flame of fire.”

⁸But of the Son He says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, Your God, has anointed You
with the oil of gladness beyond Your companions.”

¹⁰And,

“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,
and the heavens are the work of Your hands;

¹¹they will perish, but You remain;
they will all wear out like a garment,

¹²like a robe You will roll them up,
like a garment they will be changed.

But You are the same,
and Your years will have no end.”

¹³And to which of the angels has He ever said,

“Sit at My right hand
until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet”?

¹⁴Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

PASSION READING

Mark 14:12–31

P The Passion of Our Lord according to St. Mark, the fourteenth chapter.

¹²And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, His disciples said to Him, “Where will You have us go and prepare for You to eat the Passover?” ¹³And He sent two of His disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, ¹⁴and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says, Where is My guest room, where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?’ ¹⁵And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us.” ¹⁶And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as He had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁷And when it was evening, He came with the twelve. ¹⁸And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me, one who is eating with Me.”

¹⁹They began to be sorrowful and to say to Him one after another, “Is it I?” ²⁰He said to them, “It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with Me. ²¹For the Son of Man goes as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.”

²²And as they were eating, He took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is My body.”

²³And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank of it. ²⁴And He said to them, “This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

²⁶And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of

Olives. ²⁷And Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away, for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’” ²⁸But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” ²⁹Peter said to Him, “Even though they all fall away, I will not.” ³⁰And Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.” ³¹But he said emphatically, “If I must die with You, I will not deny You.” And they all said the same.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Responsory (Lent) *LSB 231*

L Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

L In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

L Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

HYMN

“O Love, How Deep” (*LSB 544:1-2*)

544 O Love, How Deep

1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
Beyond all thought and fantasy,
That God, the Son of God, should take
Our mortal form for mortals' sake!

2 He sent no angel to our race,
Of higher or of lower place,
But wore the robe of human frame,
And to this world Himself He came.

Text: attr. Thomas à Kempis, 1380–1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819–85, alt.
Text: Public domain

SERMON

+ Canticle +

- L** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
C and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Magnificat

LSB 231

- C** My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;
I for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.
II For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.
I For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;
II and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.
I He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
II He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.
I He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.
II He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.
C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Presentation of Offering

+ PRAYER +

KYRIE

LSB, p. 233

- C** Lord, have mercy;
 Christ, have mercy;
 Lord, have mercy.

Lord's Prayer

- C** Our Father who art in heaven,
 hallowed be Thy name,
 Thy kingdom come,
 Thy will be done on earth
 as it is in heaven;
 give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

COLLECTS

P O Lord, hear my prayer.

C And let my cry come to You.

P Lord Jesus, You loved us with all You had. We give thanks that You became one of us, no matter the pain, so that You might redeem each of us as Your own. Hear us, Jesus Christ, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

LSB, p. 234

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

LSB, p. 234

- P** The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C Amen.

HYMN

“All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night” (*LSB* 883)

883 All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night

- 1 All praise to Thee, my God, this night
For all the blessings of the light.
Keep me, O keep me, King of kings,
Beneath Thine own almighty wings.
 - 2 Forgive me, Lord, for Thy dear Son,
The ill that I this day have done,
That with the world, myself, and Thee,
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.
 - 3 Teach me to live that I may dread
The grave as little as my bed.
Teach me to die that so I may
Rise glorious at the awe-full day.
 - 4 Oh, may my soul in Thee repose,
And may sweet sleep mine eyelids close,
Sleep that shall me more vig'rous make
To serve my God when I awake!
 - 5 When in the night I sleepless lie,
My soul with heav'nly thoughts supply;
Let no ill dreams disturb my rest,
No pow'rs of darkness me molest.
- △ 6 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.
Text: Public domain