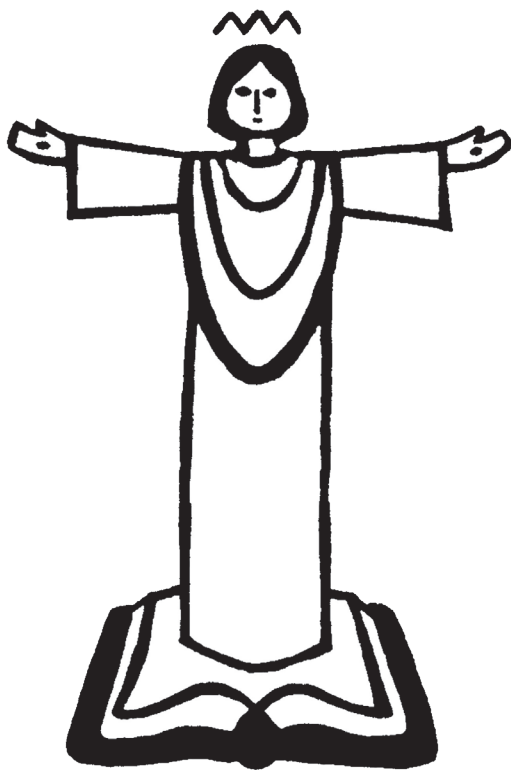


A LUTHERAN WELCOME TO THE BIBLE



Illustrations and Hand-Lettered Text
from the Works of Daniel Erlander

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God Comes to Us

God comes to us as news. The Bible carries this news.
At the heart of this news? Jesus.

Christians use the phrase *God's Word* to describe a number of things. We use it to reference the Bible (and usually capitalize the W). We also apply this term to preaching, proclamation, and other events that happen during worship.

When Lutheranism began about five centuries ago, one of the biggest achievements was translating the Bible into a language everyone could read. This gift of language opened the scriptures to all people, not just the scholars and priests.

Then and now, Lutherans pay special attention to the language we use. At the heart of Lutheran thinking is how our words and actions carry and celebrate the God who meets us in person through Jesus.

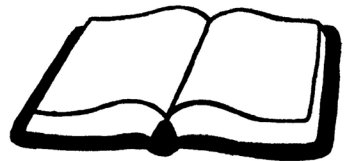
But above all, when we speak of God's Word, what we mean is Jesus. Jesus is...

- God's direct and living address,
- the Word who speaks a new creation into being, and
- the Word made flesh.

That "flesh" part is important for Lutheran Christians. Jesus embodies God's choice to participate in all the things that make us human.

If we say that the WORD comes to us as the living address of God, how then do we view the Bible, the writings of the Old and New Testaments which we call...

HOLY SCRIPTURE?



At Bethlehem, Jesus the Christ was held in a manger, a feedbox for animals.

Luther taught that the Bible is like that manger because the Scriptures hold Christ, the Living Word, God's address to us.

the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, holds the living Christ who, as the Scriptures are read and proclaimed, lives as God's address to us.

We learn about Jesus from the Bible, whose down-to-earth words carry the news about the God of the universe into the present moment. We believe the living God speaks within and from the stories in the Bible.

Words are the way God's Word finds us. We are the way the words move from the ancient page to the world of real relationships. Here, in the realm of the real, is where God meets us.



THE LIVING WORD