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OPENING PRAYER

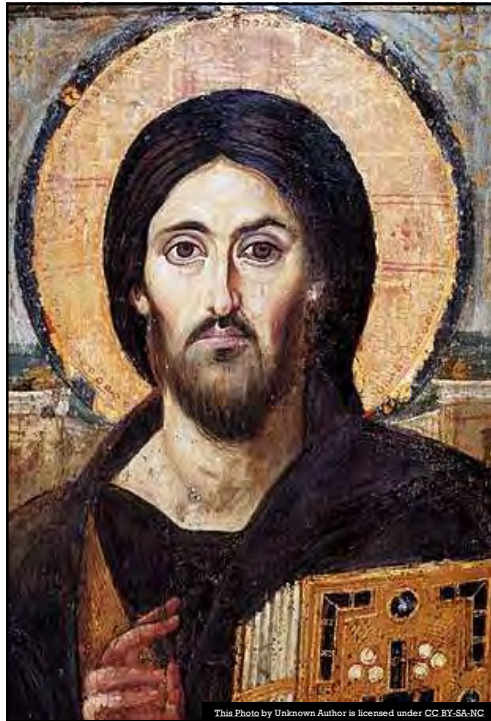
- **Jesus Prayer:**
- "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, Have mercy on me a sinner."

(Prayer to Jesus can become as essential as breathing. "Indeed, the breath never stops, not even while we sleep; and prayer is the breath of life," Pope Francis)

▪



2



CHRIST PANTOCRATOR: RULER AND SUSTAINER OF ALL

HOLDS EVERYTHING IN EXISTENCE

- Oldest Icon of Jesus: St. Catherine's Monastery at Sinai from 500's AD
- Icons are visual prayers and 'windows' into the Sacred which reveal key spiritual aspects of the subject and sanctify the eyes..
- This Icon of Jesus shows the hypostatic union, Jesus is **true God and true man; Jesus is human and divine.**
- Because Jesus is true God and true man, he is our **bridge to God and reveals God's inner life, which is love.** Because fully human, **he stands in for us with God;** because fully divine, **his sacrifice has infinite value.**

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THE INCARNATION: GOD BECOMES MAN, THE MAN JESUS

God takes on human flesh: the invisible becomes visible, yet still God: *"We see our God made visible and so are caught up in love of the God we cannot see."* Roman Missal, Christmas Preface

- **The whole Trinity is revealed:** God the Father reveals the Son in the Power of the Holy Spirit. CCC 463
- This is the **most significant event** in human history.
- **Why & How:**

"For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the **Holy Spirit**, he became **incarnate** of the Virgin Mary and became man." Nicene Creed
- **"And the Word (Jesus) became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw (visible) his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth."** John 1:14

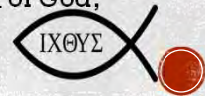


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WHO IS JESUS?

- Jesus is the **second person of the Holy Trinity, the son**, therefore, **Jesus is God**:
- *“In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God**. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be.”* John 1:1-3
- Jesus is the way to the Father **because he is true God and true man**.
- Our faith is founded in the **living person of Jesus Christ**. Jesus binds us to God and to each other.
- The Early Christians used the fish symbol for Christ to identify one another: ICHTHYS – Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior.



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JESUS' NAMES TELL US ABOUT HIM

Jesus – “God Saves.”

Emmanuel – “God with us.”

Christ – “The word Messiah in Greek, which means: the One Anointed and Chosen by God.”

Word (Logos) – “He both speaks for God, and he is God’s Eternal Word to us.”

Lord – “He has divine power over the world.”



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JESUS: WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

- “Jesus asked his disciples, ‘Who do men say that the Son of man is?’ They said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ Jesus said to them, ‘**But who do you say that I am?**’” **Matt 16:13-15**
- **Jesus is the love of God revealed:** “*For God so loved the world that he sent his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*” John 3:16
- **Jesus is the “Way the Truth and the Life.”** John 14:6. Jesus is the **way** to God; he is the **truth** of God **made visible** in human terms; he is the **life** of God by saving us and giving us life to the fullest: life full of meaning here on earth and everlasting life with God in the life to come.
- **Jesus is not just a messenger; he’s the message.** “*Christianity is not a new philosophy or a new form of morality, but an encounter with the person of Christ, an event that ignites a personal relationship with him.*” Pope Benedict XVI



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JESUS: WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

- **Jesus is the ‘Logos,’** the Eternal Word of God, through whom all things were created. John 1:1-3 (*Logos, in ancient Greek philosophy and early Christian theology, is the divine reason implicit in the cosmos, ordering it and giving it form and meaning.*)
- **By Jesus’ crucifixion, death and resurrection,** he reveals how **awful and ugly sin** is and how **great God’s love** for us is.
- **Through Jesus,** God has taken upon himself the task of restoring our integrity and unlimited fellowship with him.



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JESUS: WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

- **Son of God:** Jesus' divine identity in the Holy Trinity and inner life of God, which is love.
- **Lamb of God:** Jesus' death on the cross frees us from sin. John 1:29: "Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." Rev 5:6: "And behold, I saw a Lamb standing as though slain. . ."
- **Redeemer:** Jesus' death paid the price of **rescue so he 'descended to the dead'** to free them as he frees us from the power of sin.
- **Victor:** Jesus rose from the dead, showing **his power over sin and death. Jesus is why we no longer need to fear death.**
- **Savior:** Jesus brings us **life in God** which **begins here** through the Sacraments and continues after this life forever.



9

JESUS: THE ONE GREAT SACRAMENT

- Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God. (Colossians 1:15)
- Sacraments are **visible signs of invisible Grace from God**, instituted by Christ.
- "What is **visible in our Savior**, has passed over into his mysteries (sacraments)." Pope St. Leo the Great
- Just as the invisible God was made visible through the physical person of Jesus of Nazareth, so too, God's invisible grace continues to flow mysteriously to humankind **through matter** in the sacraments of the Church.
- Thus, **since the Incarnation**, God uses matter to draw close to us: **Matter, matters.**



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JESUS' INCARNATION CONTINUES. . .

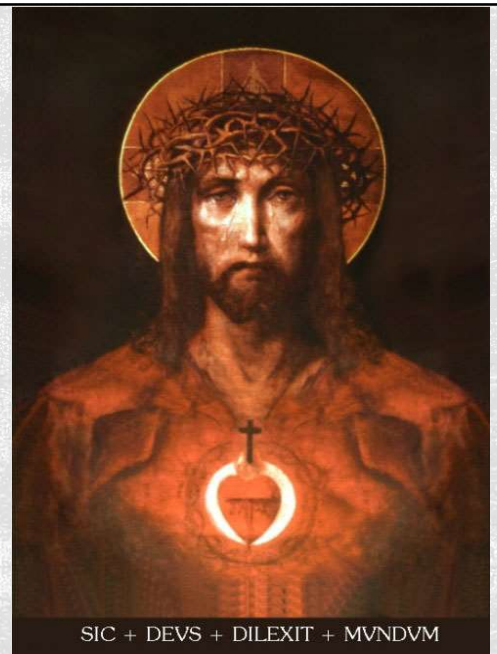
- The Incarnation began with Jesus, and it has never stopped.
- The **Sacraments** of the Church **extend through time** the works of Christ during his earthly life. The healing power that emanates from the **body of Christ**, which is the Church, is actualized in the **Sacraments**, to heal the wound of sin and to give new life in Christ. -Vatican



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BEHOLD THIS HEART WHICH LOVES SO MUCH YET IS SO LITTLE LOVED. . .

- *"God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son, so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."* John 3:16
- **Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you!**
- **The key, the center and purpose of the whole of human history is to be found in Jesus Christ."** CCC 450
- **Who do you say that I am?**



SIC + DEVS + DILEXIT + MVNDVM



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QUESTIONS

- (Circle/fill in answer)
- 1. Jesus is true God and true _____. Angel Man Ghost
- 2. In Jesus' Incarnation, _____ becomes man. Angel Abraham God
- 3. Jesus is the _____ of God. Angel Son Uncle
- 4. Jesus is the way the truth and the _____. Life End Beginning



13

CLOSING PRAYER

- Lord Jesus Christ,
- You know all about me. Help me to learn about you. You are the Way the Truth and the Life. Help me to follow you in this life and enjoy your friendship forever in heaven.
- Amen.



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