

Grace, mercy and peace be to you from God our Heavenly Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

### [A God “who has skin.”]

I worked in the theatre for a number of years.

Primarily on the business side of things, producing shows.

It was an exciting job, and no two days were ever the same.

But during the long production hours when a show was about to open, I wasn't home much. I'd leave before my daughters had woken, and wouldn't be home until well after midnight. Beth was about 3 ½ when she asked Emily, “*Where does daddy live at the theatre?*”

She couldn't understand where her father was; all she knew was that I wasn't ‘*there.*’

When I came home late that next night, I put a bandaid on her arm,

So when she woke up the next morning, she knew that Daddy had been home.

That worked for a while. Then one night, she said “Daddy can I hold your hand?”

She needed to see me; she needed to touch my skin.

The one true God is beyond time and space and is the Creator of all.

Just like a 3 ½ year old can't understand where Daddy is,

Sometimes, we need to know that our Heavenly Father is ‘*there.*’

We need a God to put a bandaid on us... We need a God “who has skin.”

But during Advent, we look for the coming of the God who is ‘*there.*’ The God “who has skin.”

Immanuel, God with us, comes in the flesh

to bridge the gap between the infinite God and the finite human.

***Jesus shows us our Creator.***

### [The Unknowable Creator]

Our God is above all creation because it's he who spoke creation into existence by the power of his Word.

Even now holds it in his almighty hand.

We confess in the Creed, “I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.”

Martin Luther explains this with these words:

“I believe that God has made me and all creatures;

that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members,

my reason and all my senses,

and still takes care of them.”

We've all heard those words at some point.

We hear them, but do we “get” the majesty behind what they mean?

In Psalm 95, the psalmist (in words we sing in our Matins service) wrote:

- 1 *Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!*
- 2 *Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!*
- 3 ***For the Lord is a great God,  
and a great King above all gods.***
- 4 ***In his hand are the depths of the earth;  
the heights of the mountains are his also.***
- 5 ***The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands formed the dry land.*** (Psalm 95:1-5)

How can we frail mortals ever know such a mighty God?

Much more, how can we possibly do what the Psalmist says and “come into His presence?”  
Come into the presence of the One who not only made the universe, but created each one of us?  
Even if we knew how to get there, that sounds terrifying!

And yet, we are invited into the presence of the one who is the great King, the King of kings!

The Psalmist continues:

- 6 *Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!*
- 7 *For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.* (Psalm 95:6-7)

I know when I look in the mirror, I see the reflection of a sinner.

I’ve sinned against God in thought, word, and deed.

I look in the mirror and I see sinner who not only...

isn’t always eager to come into God’s presence and worship,  
but who often runs the other way, to go the way (and the where) I want to go,  
far from where God desires me to be.

I look in the mirror and I see a sinner who doesn’t want to kneel before anybody.

How can we kneel before the Lord our Maker?

And yet, that’s where we all need to be, because only in Him is life.

Apart from him, we have no good thing.

### **[The Creator is Known in Jesus]**

Despite our sin, there is a way to enter the presence of the Creator of all.

Jesus said, “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.” (John 14:9)

Jesus is the eternal Word through whom all things were created. (John 1:3)

St. Paul tells us “He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” (Col 1:17)

This is the only begotten Son of God, the Eternal One himself.

We can know God because He became one with us.

Jesus is... “God with skin,” the Creator who binds himself to his creation  
With a binding far stronger than any bandaid.

We *know* him as the Babe of Bethlehem, cradled in the arms of his virgin mother.

We *know* him as the itinerant, wandering Preacher who brought Good News.

We *know* him as the Lord of healing, who cleansed the lepers,  
gave strength to the infirm, sight to the blind, and life to the dead.

We *know* him as the one who, though King of kings and Lord of lords,  
rode into Jerusalem on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

We *know* him as the one who has opened the kingdom of heaven to us  
by redeeming us with his own holy, precious blood  
and innocent suffering and death.

We *know* him as our Great High Priest, who offered himself once *and for all* on the cross  
as the final sacrifice for the very world that had rebelled against him.

We *know* him as the Lord of Life who entered the tomb —our tomb—  
and emerged on Easter morning destroying the powers of sin, death, and hell.

***Christ Jesus himself is our way to the Father.***

He is the only way, and no one comes to the Father except through him. (John 14:6)

And because he is the... “God with skin,” he does this  
In ways that we can see, feel, taste, hear, and smell:

He calls us and seals us to Himself through the waters of Baptism.

He calls us to his altar, where he feeds us with his own body and blood.

He calls us to His Word, telling us the most precious words we will ever hear:

“Your sin is forgiven.”

In those moments, we are made new. *Created* new.

***Jesus shows us our Creator, because Jesus is our Creator.***

We can kneel before the Lord, our Maker, because He has come to us— “with skin on.”

We can say with the Psalmist:

“Oh come! Let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand”

We can:

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**Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous deeds among the people. Amen! (Psalm 96:3)**

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