

The Great Assertion

The great assertion

title of this opening talk

on the 4 gospels for January 2026

beginning with

Matthew and the birth of Jesus and flight into Egypt

chapter 2

we are all of us born into the world

naked in body

naked in mind

and in order to survive

we learn and are taught to identify

everything

we are told stories

so the story of Jesus is often referred to as

the greatest story ever told

through this story and others

such as Gilgamesh and Mahabharata

we identify who we are

what where how and even why

we exist

the 4 gospels avow the assertion of

the story of Jesus

I hope to layout this session
with the lectio divina within

I will open with some readings

then stop and during

the following minutes

you will volunteer

reflections thoughts feelings ideas

on the reading

maybe taking a word and developing it

as leader I'll strike the gong

to end the lectio and

start the silence

at the end of the silence

I'll strike the gong again

and produce a second reading

then lectio

then silence

and so on

till the end

LECTIO DIVINA

functions as

reading

meditation

prayer

contemplation

we can modify as

reading

discuss/pray

silence/contemplation

1st reading

Matthew chapter 2 verses 1 – 12

2nd reading

Matthew chapter 2 verses 13 – 15

3rd reading

John chapter 1 verses 1 – 5

discuss bewilderment at John 1

describe solution

write

amended version

Amended John chapter 1 verses 1 – 5

In the beginning was **Jesus**, and

Jesus was with God, and

Jesus was God.

Jesus was in the beginning

with God.

Jesus was with God

in the beginning

All things were made by Jesus; and

without Jesus was not any thing made

that was made.

In Jesus was life; and the life was

the light of men.

And Jesus shineth in darkness;

and the darkness comprehended

Him not.

So with this re-birth of Jesus with God Himself
at the beginning
leads the way for God to test
his followers
throughout the Old Testament
and to relay the story of Jesus
through predictions for
his prophets to reveal
largely as with
8th - 7th century BC Isaiah

Please reflect and react

respond briefly

not long passages

3 minutes only

then 5 minutes silence

the shocking yet joyful surprise being

that

this is the Great

Assertion that

God created Jesus

as God created Heaven

and Earth

for to sacrifice

Jesus as Saviour

to save the World

and Humankind

Closing Prayer

Dear God and

Heavenly Father and Creator

help us to live worthily of you

and of your Son our Saviour

Jesus Christ born of you

at the dawning of life

blessings and thanking you

Amen.

Mark Luke and John and The Beatitudes

following on from “The Great Assertion”

a study of the four gospels

1 St Matthew on the birth of Jesus and the flight into Egypt

2 we have Mark on the baptism and ministry of Jesus

3 then Luke and the Holy Week of Jesus

4 next the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus

the Resurrection in John and

only Mark and Luke deal with the Ascension

four gospels four parts of the story of Jesus Christ

concluding with The Beatitudes as a study in itself

Mark chapter 1 verse 9

“wonder at the wonder”

is God’s aim

in placing us here

in a universe for delight

to delight

God wants humankind

to be happy

which is why He

conceived a divine son

Jesus to sacrifice

to save man from man

“wonder at the wonder”

what a wonderful

descriptive image

Mark gives us

pause for reflection

and stillness

silence

for several minutes

“Mikveh” is an immersion Jewish practice

for initiation of purification

for young men

which Christ transforms into

a baptism into His own

branch of Jewry

Mark goes on to tell of Jesus ministry
with much emphasis on healing

Jesus the healer
heals many
cleanses a leper
a paralytic
a blind man at Bethsaida

He goes on to
tell many parables

Mark displays

“The Transfiguration”

with Elijah and Moses

later Christ foretells his own death

in Mark chapter 10 verse 32

“See we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and to the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles.”

Looking towards Luke
and the Holy Week

we encounter the main drama of Jesus life and death
according to predestination
prophesied in the Old Testament
Isaiah and others

the ineluctable path Jesus treads
as He enters Jerusalem
offers the Last Supper
is arrested
tried and condemned
and crucified

all described by Luke chapters 19-23

for John the story concludes

with the aftermath

of the crucifixion

with the Resurrection

John chapter 20-21

the Ascension is not covered in John

that takes place in Mark chapter 16 verse 19

Luke chapter 24 verse 50

not in Matthew

so we have the four parts of the story of Jesus as revealed by the
four gospels

now we turn to Matthew to study

The Beatitudes

THE BEATITUDES

THE BLESSINGS

occur Matthew chapter 5 verses 3-12

 Luke chapter 6 verses 20-22

they make up the wishes

of the Messiah Jesus

delivered on the Sermon of the Mount

they contain advice

assessment

purpose

and encouragement

Jesus calls to add to the Old Testament

not deny it

his change

is to one of peace and love

the living Testament continues

to this day

the prophecies

are running

pause for reflection

in stillness

and in silence

of note are the “Seven I ams” from John’s Gospel
identifying Christ as

I	AM	the Bread of Life	John Chapter	6:25
		the Light of the World		8: 12
		the Door		10:9
		the Good Shepherd		10:11-14
		the Resurrection and the Life		11:25
		the Truth and the Life		14:6
		the Vine		15:1-5

John chapters 20-21

to believe
in the literal
resurrection and ascension
is because God is
capable of all things
especially His Son
fulfilling His destiny
as Saviour
claimed by John to
have been in God's mind
at the moment of creation

literal or not
what it represents
may be good enough

so of course

Christ can walk on water

can turn water into wine

can feed the 5000 plus

can raise the dead Lazarus

all these acts are done

by Christ as the Word

as God as the Holy Spirit

Jesus as the Word as God

God as the Word as Jesus

performs the miracles

as God can create the universe

so he can create the miracles

through his Son as the Word
born at the beginning of
time and space

being time is space
space is time
as one

in the beginning was the word
along with all his miracles
his resurrection
his appearances
his ascension
his eventual enthronement
alongside his Father God

all conceived at once

and forever

the eternal life abundant

