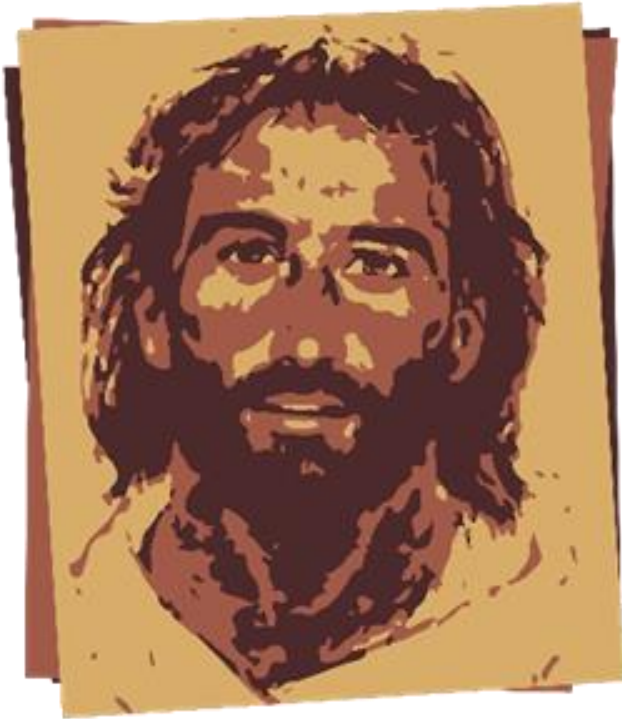


# *ADVENT MIDWEEK 3*

*December 16, 2020*



## **Jesus: The Son of Scandal**

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Dawson Creek BC

## AS WE GATHER

As we unpack Matthew's genealogical history of Jesus, we find several scandals, for in His family tree are people involved in incest, prostitution, adultery, and murder. But our gracious Lord brought good from the bad, even going to the cross to include us! We are all prodigal children, now joined to the Body of Christ and heirs of heaven by the grace of God through our Baptism. And so, we pray to the "Son of scandal," come quickly, Lord Jesus.

## OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Although Nathan condemned David, "You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife,"

People: **she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon.**

Pastor: Paul writes that although "we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient,

People: **when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us."**

Pastor: When John baptized Jesus, "A voice came from heaven, 'You are My beloved Son;

People: **with You I am well pleased.'**"

## ✠ PSALMODY ✠

**PSALM** *Psalm 71:1–12; antiphon: v. 1*

Pastor: This psalm, perhaps by David, reflects on a life marked by scandal and conflict.

In You, O LORD, do I take refuge;  
let me never be put to shame!

Pastor: In Your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;

People: **incline Your ear to me, and save me!**

- Pastor: Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may continually come;  
People: **You have given the command to save me,  
for You are my rock and my fortress.**
- Pastor: Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,  
People: **from the grasp of the unjust and cruel man.**
- Pastor: For You, O Lord, are my hope,  
People: **my trust, O LORD, from my youth.**
- Pastor: Upon You I have leaned from before my birth;  
People: **You are He who took me from my mother's womb.**
- Pastor: My praise is continually of You.  
People: **I have been as a portent to many,  
but You are my strong refuge.**
- Pastor: My mouth is filled with Your praise,  
People: **and with Your glory all the day.**
- Pastor: Do not cast me off in the time of old age;  
People: **forsake me not when my strength is spent.**
- Pastor: For my enemies speak concerning me;  
People: **those who watch for my life consult together**
- Pastor: and say, "God has forsaken him;  
People: **pursue and seize him,  
for there is none to deliver him."**
- Pastor: O God, be not far from me;  
People: **O my God, make haste to help me!**
- In You, O LORD, do I take refuge;  
let me never be put to shame!**

## HYMN #357 – “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God  
appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy  
drawing nigh;

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death’s dark  
shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, our Brother, enter in, Though this world teems with  
scand’lous sin.

With fallen sinners in Thy tree, We find ourselves forgiven,  
free.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Text: Sts. 1–2: Latin, ca. 12th cent.; *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; st. 3: James Pierce. Copyright © 2020 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## ✠ READINGS ✠

### FIRST READING *2 Samuel 12:7–10, 15–18, 24*

Lector: Although David had Bathsheba’s first husband killed in battle, their son would be the great King Solomon. A reading from Second Samuel, chapter 12.

*(The lesson is read.)*

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING***Titus 3:3–7*

Lector: In our Baptism, God’s grace was “poured out on us richly.” A reading from Titus, chapter 3.

*(The lesson is read.)*

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**THIRD READING***Mark 1:4–11*

Lector: For all of us in the Body of Christ, the verdict on Him, “My beloved Son,” is ours by the grace of God. A reading from Mark, chapter 1.

*(The lesson is read.)*

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORY***Based on 2 Samuel 12:24; Titus 3:5; Mark 1:8*

Pastor: She bore a son, Solomon.

**People: He saved us according to His own mercy.**

Pastor: Not because of works done by us,

**People: He saved us according to His own mercy.**

Pastor: He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

**People: He saved us according to His own mercy.**

**SERMON**

**Hymn # 585 - Lord Jesus Christ, With Us Abide**

The Tune of 550 – Lamb of God

## ✠ PRAYER ✠

### SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

### COLLECTS

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, guide and protect clergy and lay leaders of Your Church. Enable them to lift people's hearts and minds to look beyond global pandemics, natural disasters, and political upheavals to see the eternal Kingdom, which You have graciously opened to all people who trust in You for life and health and peace. Bless those who till the soil, manage farms, transport supplies, and distribute food and clothing where they are needed. Son of David,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Almighty Lord, give wisdom and courage to those who lead governments, command armed forces, and maintain order in society. Give them hearts to seek peace so that warfare with neighbor states and civil strife within them give way to prosperity, health, and cooperation. Increase our faith to depend on Your eternal promises of the better country that awaits us by grace. Son of Abraham,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Jesus, Light of the world, open the hearts of all who are burdened by their scandals and other past sins. Surround them with faithful people to tell them about Your coming in human history to give Yourself for them. Protect and guide all law enforcement personnel, first responders, health care workers, and counselors. Help them balance justice, mercy, and compassionate care so that many may have their lives repaired and hope restored. Son of scandal,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Gracious Lord, cared for by Your adopted human father, Joseph, remember people like him, those who have been forgotten, whether dispossessed, incarcerated, or isolated for any reason. Remember not their sins and iniquities but give them a sense of Your abiding presence. Nurture in us all a love for Your will so that we obediently do whatever You ask. Son of Joseph,  
**hear our prayer.**

People:

Pastor: Servant Savior, born in a stable to a lowly Virgin, remind us again that You turn the world's ways upside down. Give strength to the weak, lift up the downtrodden, provide hope for the despairing, announce peace to the distraught, and proclaim eternal forgiveness to all burdened by their sin. Son of Mary,  
**hear our prayer.**

People:

## COLLECT FOR TODAY

Pastor: Lord Jesus, the people included in Your family tree dealt with scandalous sin within and around them, and yet from them You graciously entered human history.

People: **Help us to see Your grace at work in us, we who have been grafted into Your family tree by Baptism. Strengthen us to truly be Your forgiven and adopted brothers and sisters.**

Pastor: Son of scandal,  
**hear our prayer.**

People:

## LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

People: 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.

## **LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People:**           **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.**

## **BENEDICAMUS**

**Pastor:**           Let us bless the Lord.  
**People:**           **Thanks be to God.**

## **BENEDICTION**

**Pastor:**           The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son,  
                          and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.  
**People:**           **Amen.**

## **HYMN # 353 – Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring** To the tune of “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

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