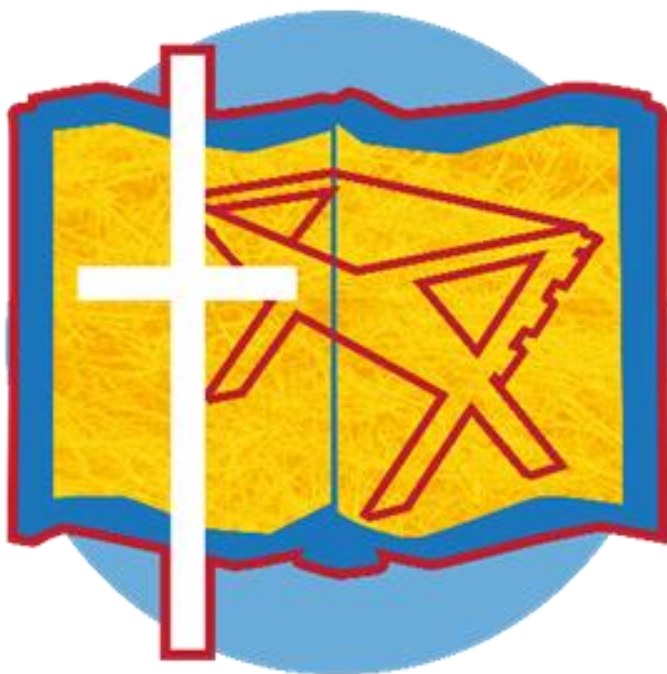


ADVENT MIDWEEK 1

December 1, 2021



The Birth of God: How . . . and Why?

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Dawson Creek BC

Service Theme:

When Heaven Met Earth: Advent Answers to Hard Questions Hardly Anybody Is Asking

AS WE GATHER

We all have questions, though for a variety of reasons some choose not to ask them. It is true in a classroom and in various aspects of life, and it is also true in our lives of faith. Some teachers tell their students, “There is no such thing as a bad question,” and for the most part that encouragement and attitude is a good one. Our heavenly Father would carry the same sentiment as He invites whatever we bring before Him, including our questions. This Advent season, a few hard questions will be asked about our Lord, and our answers will be found in His Word and through the awaited Savior born for us. Today begins with some “how” and “why” questions and answers as we journey together in Advent anticipation.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *LSB 334:1*

Pastor: O Lord, how shall I meet You, to welcome You aright?
People: **Your people long to greet You, My hope, my heart’s delight!**

Pastor: In this Advent season, reflecting on and anticipating the joy to come when heaven met earth through the promised and long-awaited Savior, we seek answers to our questions as we remain on this earth.

✠ PSALMODY ✠

PSALM *Psalm 24:1–4, 7–10*

Pastor: The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,

People: **for He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.**

Pastor: Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?

People: **And who shall stand in His holy place?**

Pastor: He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

Lift up your heads, O gates!

People: **And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.**

Pastor: Who is this King of glory?

People: **The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, O gates!**

Pastor: And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory?

People: **The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory!**

We Light the Advent Wreath as we sing:

HYMN # 334 – O Lord How Shall O Meet You Vs 1,2,3
Sung to the tune of "I Lay My Sins on Jesus"

PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

✠ READINGS ✠

READING *Luke 1:26–38* (The birth of Jesus foretold)

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Lector: In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

People: **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

SERMON

Hymn # 334 – O Lord How Shall O Meet You Vs 4,6,7
Sung to the tune of “I Lay My Sins on Jesus”

CREEDAL RESPONSE *The Second Article*

Pastor: The season of Advent is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at His second coming. It is a time of reflection on redemption. Luther’s Small Catechism, useful for individual and household learning through questions and answers based on God’s unchanging Word, reminds us of Jesus’ incarnation into this world, the totality of Christ’s complete work, and the redemption He achieved for us. We confess together:

People: **And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Pastor: What does this mean?
 People: **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

✠ PRAYER ✠

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
 People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, in this season of Advent, we prepare to celebrate again the coming of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, and await His promised return. As questions enter our minds, such as "How can You take on human flesh, and why?," we thank You for Your Word of truth, which gives the answers of Your love for this world in sending Your only-begotten Son. By Your Spirit's work through Your Word, enliven our hearts and minds, nourish our faith, and be with us as we wait and watch this season and each day. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, through the incarnation of Your Son, heaven met earth, and through Him You would bring life and immortality to light. Be with those who face this

season with doubts and despair, depression and difficulties. Give Your comfort to those who seek our prayers, [*especially* . . .]. Grant healing according to Your will, along with peaceful minds and hopeful hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Additional petitions may follow.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

ADVENT COLLECT

Pastor: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son, Jesus Christ, came to visit us in great humility; that on the Last Day, when He shall come again in glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **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.**

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.

CLOSING SENTENCES *Jeremiah 33:3; Psalm 24:7–10*

Pastor: Call to Me and I will answer you,
People: and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.

Pastor: Lift up your heads, O gates!
People: And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Pastor: Who is this King of glory?
People: The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, O gates!

Pastor: And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory?
People: The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory!

BENEDICTION

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

Hymn # 331 – The Advent of Our King