

# **ADVENT MIDWEEK 2**

*December 8, 2021*



## ***The Obedient Child: Did He Know He was God?***

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**

It seems that no December goes by without hearing the song “Mary, Did You Know?” With that seasonal serenade, there is rightful theological reflection that could be had, especially considering what we heard last week with the announcing of the virgin birth from the angel Gabriel. There is no song asking, “Jesus, Did You Know?” Today we ask that question and gain theological insight and answers. We do so by going beyond the Bethlehem birth and learning from Jesus as a twelve-year-old boy in the Jerusalem temple. We ask the question, “When Jesus was a boy, did He know He was God?”

### **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, How 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 85:1–7*

Pastor:      LORD, You were favorable to Your land; You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**People:**      **You forgave the iniquity of Your people; You covered all their sin.**

Pastor:      You withdrew all Your wrath; You turned from Your hot anger.

**People:**      **Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away Your indignation toward us!**

Pastor:      Will You be angry with us forever?

**People:**      **Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?**

Pastor:      Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?

**People:**      **Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us Your salvation.**

## **HYMN # 338 – Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus**

### **PRAYER**

Pastor:      Let us pray.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People:**      **Amen.**

## ✘ READINGS ✘

**READING**      *Isaiah 7:13–17* (The sign of Immanuel)

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.  
 People: **Thanks be to God.**

**READING** *Luke 2:41–52* (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 # 370 - What Child is This

**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 "Did Jesus know He was God?," we thank You for Your Word of truth, which gives the answers we need to know as we live in this world to which Christ came. 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. Let us, like Jesus, be about the things of You, our Father, as we gather in Your house to receive the gifts You freely give through Your Spirit, where heaven has met earth through Your Son. We pray to You, Lord:

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, as Your Son took on our human flesh, He remained divine and knew all things. As all things are known to You, only You know all our hurts and struggles,

our trials and temptations. Only You can bring comfort and peace to troubled hearts, minds, bodies, and souls in this season and always. Give Your comfort to those who seek our prayers, [*including . . .*]. Grant healing according to Your will, along with peaceful minds and hopeful hearts. We pray to You, Lord.

**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:** “Before they call I will answer;  
**People:** while they are yet speaking I will hear.”

**Pastor:** O LORD, You hear the desire of the afflicted;  
**People:** You will strengthen their heart; You will incline Your ear.

**Pastor:** “They will call upon My name, and I will answer them. I will say, ‘They are My people’;  
**People:** and they will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’”

## BENEDICTION

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

## Hymn # 349 – Hark the Glad Sound