

ADVENT MIDWEEK 3

December 15, 2021



The Man's Man: Why Would Jesus Ever Cry?

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

“Why are you crying?” It is a question parents may ask their child, a person may ask a friend, or a husband or wife may ask each other. It is asked at times out of curiosity, but also asked so help can be offered and comfort given. As Jesus was true God and true man entering this world in our flesh, He too with full human emotions cried. “Jesus, why are You crying?” We ask that question and find our answer in God’s Word as we continue and close our Advent series. As an infant, to a young boy, to an adult fulfilling the mission His Father had given to Him for the sake of the world, Christ shows compassion and care. There was no help or comfort any person could give. Through His fully human and divine natures and the life He would give, He assures an eternal and lasting help and comfort for us in our times of trials and times of tears.

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: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
People: **the light no darkness can overcome.**

Pastor: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,
People: **and the day is almost over.**

Pastor: Let Your light scatter the darkness
People: **and illumine Your Church.**

✘ PSALMODY ✘

PSALM *Psalm 42:1–6a, 8–11*

Pastor: As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for You, O God.

People: **My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.**

Pastor: When shall I come and appear before God?

People: **My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me continually, “Where is your God?”**

Pastor: These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I would go with the throng and lead them in procession to the house of God with glad shouts and songs of praise, a multitude keeping festival. Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me?

People: **Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him, my salvation and my God.**

Pastor: By day the LORD commands His steadfast love, and at night His song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life. I say to God, my rock: “Why have You forgotten me?

People: **Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?”**

Pastor: As with a deadly wound in my bones, my adversaries taunt me, while they say to me continually,

People: **“Where is your God?” Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me?**

Pastor: Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him,

People: **my salvation and my God.**

HYMN # 347 – Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

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 *Luke 19:41–44* (Jesus comes to Jerusalem.)

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

READING *John 11:30–36* (Jesus at Lazarus' tomb)

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 # 548 – Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious

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 "Why would Jesus ever cry?," we thank You for Your Word of truth, which gives the answers of Your love for this world that You would send Your only-begotten Son, who held human

emotions in our true flesh and compassionate crying for the people He loved and came to save. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, in this world we cry tears of compassion for those we love, as well as tears of pain, distress, and discomfort for ourselves as we experience the brokenness of this world and our own bodies. In questions and even doubts during times of need, pour out the lasting comfort Christ has come to bring. We lift up before You those who request 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.**

BENEDICTION

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

People: **Amen.**

Hymn # 362 – O Sing of Christ

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