



MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 1

Evergreens

“Prepare!” is often the watchword of the season as the world gets ready for another celebration of Christmas. An integral part of any preparation is decoration. We see decorations everywhere this time of year. The world may not comprehend the real meaning of Christmas, but even secular preparations use many of the same decorations beloved by Christians—an appropriation we shouldn’t mind at all, because these decorations point us to Christ. This year, as we look forward again to the coming of the Messiah, we take a fresh look at how the adornments of the season draw our eyes to Jesus, that we may more richly behold the love, peace, joy, and hope He comes to bring as this beauty is set before us.

Tonight, we focus on evergreens. Perhaps the most innocuous decorations in the eyes of the world, their prickles remind us of the crown of thorns, and the berries of the holly evoke the blood-stained brow of our crucified Lord. Above all, the steadfastness of their green in the midst of death symbolizes life amid death—and the life eternal Jesus won for us on the cross.

Hymn Fest 2025

Hymn #336 – Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending **Congregation sings vs 1-4**

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 51:15; 70:1

P O Lord, open my lips,
C and my mouth will declare Your praise.

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C make haste to help me, O Lord.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.
Amen.
Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.

Hymn #332 - Saviour of the Nations, Come

Caslyn and Elissa will sing 2 verses in French

Congregation sings vs 6,7,8

READING

John 11:17–27

P A reading from John, the eleventh chapter.

Scripture is Read

P O Lord, have mercy on us.
C Thanks be to God.

Hymn #334 - O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Amy, Arlie, Wanda sing vs 1&2

Congregation sings vs 3&4

SERMON – Evergreens

#348 - The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns Congregation sings all 5 verses

RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT

LSB, p. 230

- P Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.
- C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**
- P In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.
- C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**
- P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

KYRIE

- C **Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.**

LORD'S PRAYER

- C **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.**

Hymn #356 – The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came
Caslyn and Brooke sing vs 1&2
Congregation sings vs 3&4

COLLECTS

P O Lord, hear my prayer.
C **And let my cry come to You.**

P Lord of all beauty, You made the heavens and the earth; the world and all its fullness are Yours. Thank You for giving us life and filling creation with signs that declare Your glory. As we behold beautiful evergreens this season, fix our eyes on their thorny leaves and red berries that we may give thanks for the crown Your Son wore and the cross He bore for us. Abide in us always, as we abide in Your Word and take heart in the promise of eternal life with Jesus, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.
C **Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS

LSB, p. 234

P Let us bless the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

LSB, p. 234

P The grace of our Lord T Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C **Amen.**

Hymn # 357 – O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Brooke and Carmen sing vs 1&2
Congregation sings the remaining verses