

# SECOND MIDWEEK ADVENT

December 10, 2025



Special Order of Service with Responsive Prayer 1, *LSB* pg. 282  
Rev. Don McKillop, Vacancy Pastor

**WELCOME** in the name of Jesus who brings us good tidings of great joy!

**Pre-Service prayer:** O LORD God, our dear heavenly Father, You have sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior and to proclaim to us Your precious Gospel message. He willingly offered Himself in our place, bearing our sins so that our guilt might be removed, and we might be freed from the control of Satan and the fear of death. Grant that as we worship this evening, Your Spirit might fill our hearts with a growing appreciation for Jesus, His work, and His Gospel message. Help us always to remain faithful to Him as we look forward to His return. It is in His name that we pray. Amen.

## 353 Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring



1 Je - sus came, the heav'ns a - dor - ing, Came with peace from  
2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are  
3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, Bring - ing news of  
4 Je - sus comes in joy and sor - row, Shares a - like our



realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,  
worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer  
sins for - giv'n; Je - sus comes with words of glad - ness,  
hopes and fears; Je - sus comes, what - e'er be - falls us,



Low - ly came on earth to die; Al - le - lu - ia!  
To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia!  
Lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Cheers our hearts and dries our tears; Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Com - forts us in fail - ing years.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, alt.  
Tune: Geistreiches Gesang-Buch, 1698, Darmstadt  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Responsive Reading *Psalm 145*

<sup>1</sup>I will extol you, my God and King,  
and bless your name forever and ever.

<sup>2</sup>**Every day I will bless you  
and praise your name forever and ever.**

<sup>3</sup>Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,  
and his greatness is unsearchable.

<sup>4</sup>**One generation shall commend your works to another,  
and shall declare your mighty acts.**

<sup>5</sup>On the glorious splendor of your majesty,  
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

<sup>6</sup>**They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,  
and I will declare your greatness.**

<sup>7</sup>They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness  
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD is good to all,  
and his mercy is over all that he has made.

<sup>10</sup>**All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,  
and all your saints shall bless you!**

<sup>11</sup>They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom  
and tell of your power,

<sup>12</sup>**to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.**

<sup>13</sup>Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

**The LORD is faithful in all his words  
and kind in all his works.**

<sup>14</sup>The LORD upholds all who are falling  
and raises up all who are bowed down.

<sup>15</sup>**The eyes of all look to you,  
and you give them their food in due season.**

<sup>16</sup>You open your hand;  
you satisfy the desire of every living thing.

<sup>17</sup>**The LORD is righteous in all his ways  
and kind in all his works.**

<sup>18</sup>The LORD is near to all who call on him,  
to all who call on him in truth.

<sup>19</sup>**He fulfills the desire of those who fear him;  
he also hears their cry and saves them.**

<sup>20</sup>The LORD preserves all who love him,  
but all the wicked he will destroy.

<sup>21</sup>**My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,  
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.**

## The Collect

- L** O Lord, do not deal with us according to our sins.
- C** **Do not reward us according to our iniquities.**
- L** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, You desire not the death of a sinner, but rather that we turn from our evil ways and live. Graciously spare us those punishments which we by our sins have deserved, and grant us always to serve You in holiness and pureness of living; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

## First Reading

*Daniel 7:9–22*

<sup>9</sup>As I looked,

thrones were placed, and the Ancient of days took his seat;  
his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool;  
his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire.

<sup>10</sup>A stream of fire issued and came out from before him;  
a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him;  
the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

<sup>11</sup>I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. <sup>12</sup>As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

<sup>13</sup>I saw in the night visions,

and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man,  
and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.

<sup>14</sup>And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,  
that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him;  
his dominion is an everlasting dominion,  
which shall not pass away,  
and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

<sup>15</sup>“As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious, and the visions of my head alarmed me.

<sup>16</sup>I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of the things. <sup>17</sup>“These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. <sup>18</sup>But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.”

<sup>19</sup>“Then I desired to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the rest, exceedingly terrifying, with its teeth of iron and claws of bronze, and which devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet, <sup>20</sup>and about the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions. <sup>21</sup>As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, <sup>22</sup>until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.

## Second Reading

*Galatians 4:1–7*

<sup>1</sup>I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, <sup>2</sup>but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. <sup>3</sup>In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. <sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to

redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

*Please stand.*

## Gospel Reading

*Matthew 1:18–25*

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>**She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.**” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

## 356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
2 “For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
“To me be as it pleas - eth God,” she said.  
In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



“All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
“My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God’s ho - ly name.”  
And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!  
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!  
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!  
“Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!

Text: para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924 | Text and tune: Basque, c. 18th cent. | Text and tune: Public domain

# Sermon "The Meaning of 'Savior'"

## 392 God Loves Me Dearly



1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -  
2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and  
3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -  
4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did  
5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.  
dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.  
deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.  
of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.  
ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.

### Refrain



There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

Text: August Rische, 1819-1906; tr. composite  
Tune: German  
Text and tune: Public domain

## The Offering

*Hymn as offerings are brought forward. Please stand.*

## 781 We Give Thee But Thine Own

*sts. 1-2*



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As stew - ards true re - ceive



All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.  
And glad - ly, as Thou bless - est us, To Thee our first-fruits give!

Text: William W. How, 1823-97  
Tune: William H. Monk, 1823-89  
Text and tune: Public domain

## The Prayers

# Responsive Prayer 1

**L** Holy God, holy and most gracious Father,

**C** have mercy and hear us.

**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.

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

**L** Show us Your steadfast love, O Lord,

**C** and grant us Your salvation.

**L** Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness;

**C** and let Your saints shout for joy.

**L** Lord, keep this nation under Your care,

**C** and guide us in the way of justice and truth.

**L** Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,

**C** for You judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon the earth.

**L** Let the peoples praise You, O God;

**C** let all the peoples praise You!

**L** For the needy shall not always be forgotten,

**C** and the hope of the poor shall not perish forever.

**L** Create in me a clean heart, O God,

**C** and renew a right spirit within me.

**L** Hear my prayer, O Lord;

**C** let my cry come to You.

**L** Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**C** 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.

- L** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**
- L** The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
- C** **Amen.**

## The Benediction

### 388 Go Tell It on the Mountain

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;



Be - hold, through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.  
 Rang out the an-gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
 And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

*Refrain*

Text (sts. 1-3): John W. Work II, 1873-1925, alt.  
 Text (ref) and tune: African American spiritual  
 Text and tune: Public domain

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