



ADVENT MIDWEEK 1

DECEMBER 3, 2025 | 7:00 PM

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH; CONCORDIA, MO

ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP

Our midweek Advent services and Christmas Day celebration will explore the themes of the hymn “Once He Came in Blessing” (*Lutheran Service Book* 333). We will focus on Christ’s first coming in the Incarnation, His current coming to us through Word and Sacrament, and His final coming in glory to bring us to the full joy of eternal life.

Our Advent evening services will follow the form of Evening Prayer. This order of service, usually sung as daylight fades to twilight, begins with the Service of Light. The words and songs in the Service of Light make us mindful of the presence of Jesus Christ among us. He is the Light of the world eager to enlighten us by His Word, which is “a lamp to [our] feet and a light for [our] path” (Psalm 119:105 NIV).

P Pastor

C Congregation/All

✙ All may make the sign of the cross to remember their baptism.

PRELUDE, WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN 338 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

We follow the Service of Evening Prayer, beginning on pp. 243–247 in the hymnal.

*In Psalm 141, the congregation sings the parts marked **C**;
the vocalist sings the parts marked **I** and **II**.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN VERSE “Away in a Manger” (Hymn 364, verse 3)

All sing:

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS *Isaiah 1:10–18; Philippians 2:5–11; Luke 5:27–32*

After each reading:

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

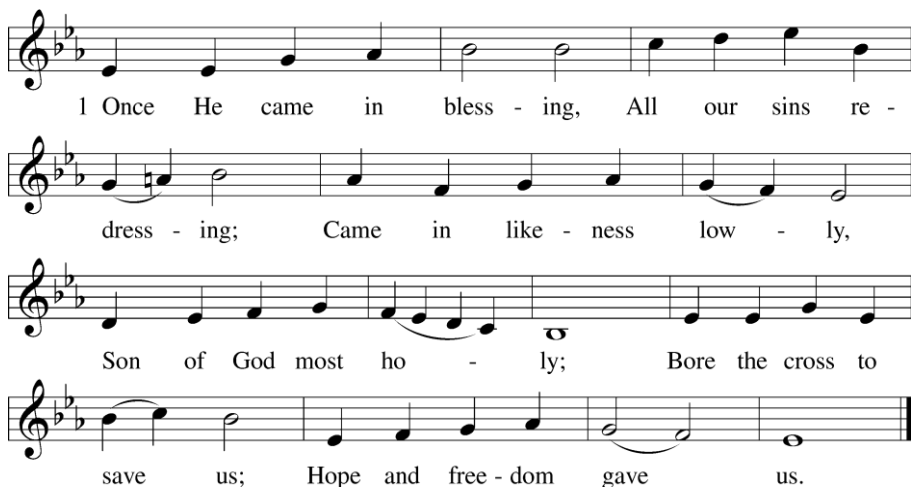
C Thanks be to God.

After the final reading (Hebrews 1:1–2a):

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

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

THEME VERSE *“Once He Came in Blessing” (Hymn 333, verse 1)*



SERMON *Once He Came in Blessing: “Blessed by the Incarnation”*

SERMON HYMN 332 *“Savior of the Nations, Come” (v. 3: women; v. 4: men)*

GATHERING OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

All may sign the friendship register found in each pew.

Music during the offering:

VOLUNTARY *“Ode to Joy” theme by Ludwig von Beethoven (See Hymn 803.)*

PRAYER

All may join in singing the hymn one time through between each petition.



After each petition:

P ... let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

COLLECT FOR ADVENT

P Lord Jesus Christ, who once came among us in lowliness to bear our sin, who today strengthens and leads us in Word and Sacrament, and who will come again in power and glory on the Last Day, continually bless us with Your grace that we may believe and confess You in joyful expectation of Your full blessing of eternal life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13*

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.



ADVENT BENEDICTION *Romans 15:13*

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

The almighty and merciful God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN 353 *“Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring”*

SENDING & POSTLUDE

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

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SERVING IN THIS SERVICE

Rev. Andrew Lehenbauer, *Liturgist*

Rev. Michael Pottschmidt, *Preacher*

Katie Drefs, *Organist*

SPLS Fourth Grade Students, *Ensemble*

Lindsay McKeage, Lily Petty, *Acolytes*



“Making a Christ-centered difference in our community and world today and for eternity.”

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