

# The Season of Advent

*Scripture Selections from the Evangelical Heritage Version®  
following the Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal 3-Year Lectionary, Year B*

*Revised November 14, 2020*

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# The First Sunday in Advent

*Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal 3-Year Lectionary, Year B  
Evangelical Heritage Version®*

## First Lesson

**Isaiah 63:16b-17; 64:1-8**

You, the LORD, are our Father.

Our Redeemer from everlasting is your name.

<sup>17</sup>Why do you cause us to wander from your ways, LORD?

Why do you harden our heart so that we do not fear you?

Return for the sake of your servants,  
the tribes that are your heritage.

<sup>64:1</sup>Oh, that you would rip open the heavens and come down.

Mountains then would quake because of your presence.

<sup>2</sup>As fire ignites stubble and as fire makes water boil,  
make your name known to your adversaries.

Then nations would quake in your presence.

<sup>3</sup>You did amazing things that we did not expect.

You came down. Mountains quaked because of your presence.

<sup>4</sup>From ancient times no one has heard.

No ear understood.

No eye has seen any god except you,  
who goes into action for the one who waits for him.

<sup>5</sup>You meet anyone who joyfully practices righteousness,  
who remembers you by walking in your ways!

But you were angry because we sinned.

We have remained in our sins for a long time.

Can we still be saved?

<sup>6</sup>All of us have become like something unclean,  
and all our righteous acts are like a filthy cloth.

All of us have withered like a leaf,  
and our guilt carries us away like the wind.

<sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name,  
who rouses himself to take hold of you.

So you hid your face from us.

You made us melt by the power of our guilt.

<sup>8</sup>But now, LORD, you are our father.

We are the clay, and you are our potter.

All of us are the work of your hand.

## Second Lesson

### 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

<sup>4</sup>I always thank my God for you because of the grace of God given to you in Christ Jesus. <sup>5</sup>You were enriched in him in every way, in all your speaking and all your knowledge, <sup>6</sup>because the testimony about Christ was established in you. <sup>7</sup>As a result you do not lack any gift as you eagerly wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also keep you strong until the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful, who called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

## Gospel

### Mark 13:32-37

<sup>32</sup>“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Watch! Be alert and pray, because you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going away on a journey. When he left his home, he put his servants in charge and assigned what each one was to do. He also commanded the doorkeeper to keep watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore keep watch, because you do not know when the owner of the house is coming: whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or early in the morning. <sup>36</sup>If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. <sup>37</sup>What I say to you, I say to everyone: Keep watch!”

# The Second Sunday in Advent

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## First Lesson

### Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call out to her.

Her warfare really is over.

Her guilt is fully paid for.

Yes, she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice is calling out:

In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD.

In the wasteland make a level highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley will be raised up,  
and every mountain and hill will be made low.

The rugged ground will become level,  
and the rough places will become a plain.

<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed,  
and all flesh together will see it.

Yes, the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

<sup>6</sup>A voice was saying, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry out?"

All flesh is grass,  
and all its beauty is like a wildflower in the countryside.

<sup>7</sup>Grass withers, flowers fade,  
when the breath of the LORD blows on them.

Yes, the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>Grass withers, flowers fade,  
but the Word of our God endures forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get up on a high mountain,

O Zion, you herald of good news.

Lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, you herald of good news.

Lift it up! Do not be afraid!

Say to the cities of Judah,

"Here is your God!"

<sup>10</sup>Look, God the LORD will come with strength,  
and his arm is ruling for him.

Look, his reward is with him.

The result of his work is in front of him.

<sup>11</sup>Like a shepherd he will care for his flock.

With his arm he will gather the lambs.

He will lift them up on his lap.

He will gently lead the nursing mothers.

## Second Lesson

### 2 Peter 3:8-14

<sup>8</sup>But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: For the Lord, one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow to do what he promised, as some consider slowness. Instead, he is patient for your sakes, not wanting anyone to perish, but all to come to repentance.

<sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. On that day the heavens will pass away with a roar, the elements will be dissolved as they burn with great heat, and the earth and what was done on it will be burned up. <sup>11</sup>Therefore, since all these things will be destroyed, what kind of people ought you to be, living in holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>as you look forward to and hasten the coming of the day of God? That day will cause the heavens to be set on fire and destroyed, and the elements to melt as they burn with great heat. <sup>13</sup>But according to his promise we look forward to new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, dear friends, as you look forward to these things, make every effort to be found in peace, spotless and blameless in his sight.

## Gospel

### Mark 1:1-8

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>This is how it is written in the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare the way for you.

<sup>3</sup>A voice of one calling out in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way of the Lord.

Make his paths straight.”

<sup>4</sup>John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>5</sup>The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him. They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. <sup>6</sup>John was clothed in camel’s hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He preached, “One more powerful than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals! <sup>8</sup>I baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

# The Third Sunday in Advent

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## First Lesson

**Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11**

The Spirit of the LORD God is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to preach good news to the afflicted.  
He sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release for those who are bound,  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor  
and the day of vengeance for our God,  
to comfort all who mourn,  
<sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion,  
to give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,  
the oil of joy instead of mourning,  
a cloak of praise instead of a faint spirit,  
so that they will be called oaks of righteousness,  
a planting of the LORD to display his beauty.

<sup>10</sup>I will rejoice greatly in the LORD.

My soul will celebrate because of my God,  
for he has clothed me in garments of salvation.  
With a robe of righteousness he covered me,  
like a bridegroom who wears a beautiful headdress like a priest,  
and like a bride who adorns herself with her jewelry.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth produces its growth,  
and as a garden causes what has been sown to sprout up,  
so God the LORD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up  
in the presence of all the nations.

## Second Lesson

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always. <sup>17</sup>Pray without ceasing. <sup>18</sup>In everything give thanks. For this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. <sup>19</sup>Do not extinguish the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not treat prophecies with contempt. <sup>21</sup>But test everything. Hold on to the good. <sup>22</sup>Keep away from every kind of evil.

<sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

# Gospel

## John 1:6-8, 19-28

<sup>6</sup>There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony John gave when the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, “Who are you?”

<sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny. He confessed, “I am not the Christ.”

<sup>21</sup>And they asked him, “Who are you then? Are you Elijah?”

He said, “I am not.”

“Are you the Prophet?”

“No,” he answered.

<sup>22</sup>Then they asked him, “Who are you? Tell us so we can give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

<sup>23</sup>He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ just as Isaiah the prophet said.”

<sup>24</sup>They had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>So they asked John, “Why then do you baptize, if you are not the Christ, or Elijah, or the Prophet?”

<sup>26</sup>“I baptize with water,” John answered. “Among you stands one you do not know. <sup>27</sup>He is the one coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.”

<sup>28</sup>These things happened in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

# The Fourth Sunday in Advent

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## First Lesson

### 2 Samuel 7:8-16

<sup>8</sup>You are also to say the following to my servant David.

This is what the LORD of Armies says. I took you from the pasture, from following sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel. <sup>9</sup>I have been with you wherever you went. I have cut off all your enemies from before you. I will make your reputation great, like that of the great ones on the earth. <sup>10</sup>I will set up a place for my people Israel, and I will plant them there. They will dwell there, and they will not be disturbed again. Violent men will not afflict them again as they did at the beginning <sup>11</sup>and ever since the day I appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies.

The LORD also declares to you that the LORD himself will make a house for you. <sup>12</sup>When your days are complete and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up after you your seed, who will come from your own body. I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup>He will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup>I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he sins, I will discipline him with a rod used by men and with blows of the sons of men. <sup>15</sup>My faithful mercy will not depart from him as I removed it from Saul, whom I removed to make room for you. <sup>16</sup>Your house will stand firm, and your kingdom will endure forever before you. Your throne will be established forever.

## Second Lesson

### Romans 16:25-27

<sup>25</sup>Now to him who is able to strengthen you—

according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ,

according to the revelation of the mystery that was veiled in silence for long ages past, <sup>26</sup>but now has been revealed through the prophetic Scriptures and made known to all the Gentiles, in keeping with the command of the eternal God, resulting in the obedience of faith—

<sup>27</sup>to God, who alone is wise, be glory forever through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Gospel

### Luke 1:26-38

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women."

<sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled by the statement and was wondering what kind of greeting this could be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, because you have found favor with God.

<sup>31</sup>Listen, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end.”

<sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

<sup>35</sup>The angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>Listen, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age even though she was called barren, and this is her sixth month. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible for God.”

<sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, “See, I am the Lord’s servant. May it happen to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.