

# **The Season of Christmas**

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

*Revised September 7, 2017*

# The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Eve)

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

## First Lesson

### Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy.

They rejoice before you like the joy at harvest time,  
like the celebration when people divide the plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them.

You have broken the bar on their shoulders and the rod of their oppressor,  
as you did in the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup>Every boot that marched in battle  
and the garments rolled in blood will be burned.

They will be fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born.

To us a son is given.

The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders.

He will be named:

Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God,

Everlasting Father,

Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>There will be no limit to his authority  
and no end to the peace he brings.

He will rule on David's throne and over his kingdom,

to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness  
from now on, into eternity.

The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this.

## Second Lesson

### Titus 2:11-14

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people. <sup>12</sup>It trains us to reject ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope, that is, the glorious appearance of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He gave himself for us, to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people who are his own chosen people, eager to do good works.

# Gospel

## Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to register, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child.

<sup>6</sup>And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind.”

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Now let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

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# The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Day)

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

## First Lesson

### Isaiah 52:7-10

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of a herald,  
who proclaims peace and preaches good news,  
who proclaims salvation,  
who says to Zion, “Your God is king!”

<sup>8</sup>The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voices.  
Together they shout for joy,  
because with both eyes they will see it  
when the LORD returns to Zion.

<sup>9</sup>Break out, shout for joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem,  
because the LORD is comforting his people.  
He is redeeming Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>The LORD lays bare his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation from our God.

## Second Lesson

### Hebrews 1:1-9

In the past, God spoke to our forefathers by the prophets at many times and in many ways. <sup>2</sup>In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. <sup>3</sup>The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact imprint of the divine nature. He sustains all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

<sup>4</sup>The Son became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. <sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say:

You are my Son. Today I have begotten you?

And again:

I will be his Father, and he will be my Son.

<sup>6</sup>And again, when he brought his firstborn into the world, he said:

Let all God’s angels worship him.

<sup>7</sup>About the angels he says:

He makes his messengers winds and his ministers flaming fire.

<sup>8</sup>But about the Son he says:

God, your throne is forever and ever,  
and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom.

<sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of joy beyond your companions.

## Gospel

### John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. <sup>5</sup>The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<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>9</sup>The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. <sup>13</sup>They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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# The First Sunday after Christmas

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## First Lesson

### Isaiah 45:20-25

<sup>20</sup>Gather! Come! Draw near together,  
you survivors from the nations.

They have no knowledge  
—those who are lifting up their idols of wood  
and praying to a god that cannot save.

<sup>21</sup>Make an announcement and come close.

Let them consult together.

Who made this known ahead of time?

From time past who announced it?

Was it not I, the LORD?

There is no god except me,  
a righteous God and Savior.

There is no one except me.

<sup>22</sup>Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth,  
because I am God,  
and there is no other.

<sup>23</sup>I have sworn by myself.

From my mouth a righteous word has gone out,  
and it will not return unfulfilled.

Indeed, to me every knee will bow,  
and every tongue will swear allegiance.

<sup>24</sup>“Only in the LORD,” they will say of me,

“Only in the LORD is there true righteousness and strength.”

To him they will come and be ashamed—

all those who are angry at him.

<sup>25</sup>In the LORD, all the descendants of Israel will be justified.

They will be praised by him.

## Second Lesson

### Colossians 3:12-17

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, as God’s elect, holy and loved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint against anyone else. Forgive, just as Christ forgave you. <sup>14</sup>And, in addition to all these things, put on love, which ties things together in perfect unity. <sup>15</sup>Let the peace of Christ control your hearts, to which you were also called, in one body. And be thankful.

<sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>And everything you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## Gospel

### Luke 2:25–40

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, waiting for the comfort of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup>Moved by the Spirit he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary according to the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him into his arms and praised God. He said,

<sup>29</sup>Lord, you now dismiss your servant in peace, according to your word,  
<sup>30</sup>because my eyes have seen your salvation,  
<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared before the face of all people,  
<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.

<sup>33</sup>Joseph and the child's mother were amazed at the things that were spoken about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Listen carefully, this child is appointed for the falling and rising of many in Israel and for a sign that is spoken against, <sup>35</sup>so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup>Anna, a prophetess, was there. She was a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old. She had lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>and then she was a widow of eighty-four years. She did not leave the temple complex, since she was worshipping with fasting and prayers night and day. <sup>38</sup>Standing nearby at that very hour, she gave thanks to the Lord. She kept speaking about the child to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had accomplished everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town, Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favor was on him.

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# The Second Sunday after Christmas

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## First Lesson

### Micah 5:2-5a

<sup>2</sup>“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
from you, will come the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel.  
His goings forth are from ancient times, from eternity.”

<sup>3</sup>Therefore the LORD will give them up,  
until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a child.  
Then the remaining survivors from his brothers will return to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great to the ends of the earth.

<sup>5</sup>This one will be their peace.

## Second Lesson

### Hebrews 2:10-18

<sup>10</sup>Certainly it was fitting for God (the one for whom and through whom everything exists), in leading many sons to glory, to bring the author of their salvation to his goal through sufferings. <sup>11</sup>For he who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified all have one Father. For that reason, he is not ashamed to call them brothers. <sup>12</sup>He says:

I will declare your name to my brothers.

Within the congregation I will sing your praise.

<sup>13</sup>And again:

I will trust in him.

And again:

Here I am and the children God has given me.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, since the children share flesh and blood, he also shared the same flesh and blood, so that through death he could destroy the one who had the power of death (that is, the Devil) <sup>15</sup>and free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup>For surely he was not concerned with helping angels but with helping Abraham’s offspring. <sup>17</sup>For this reason, he had to become like his brothers in every way, in order that he would be a merciful and faithful high priest in the things pertaining to God, so that he could pay for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>Indeed, because he suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.



# Gospel

## John 7:40–43

<sup>40</sup>After hearing his words, some of the people said, “This is truly the Prophet.” <sup>41</sup>Others said, “This is the Christ.” But some said, “Surely the Christ does not come from Galilee, does he? <sup>42</sup>Doesn’t the Scripture say that the Christ comes from David’s descendants and from the little town of Bethlehem where David lived?” <sup>43</sup>So the people were divided because of him.

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