

# **The Season of Advent**

*Scripture Selections from the Evangelical Heritage Version<sup>®</sup>  
following the Lutheran Service Book 3-Year Lectionary, Year C*

*Revised May 14, 2018*

# The First Sunday in Advent

*Lutheran Service Book 3-Year Lectionary, Year C*  
*Evangelical Heritage Version*<sup>®</sup>

## Old Testament / First Reading

### Jeremiah 33:14-16

<sup>14</sup>Listen, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the good promises that I have spoken to the house of Israel and concerning the house of Judah.

<sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time,

I will cause a righteous Branch to grow up from David's line.

He will establish justice and righteousness on earth.

<sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved,  
and Jerusalem will dwell securely.

This is what she<sup>a</sup> will be called:

The LORD Our Righteousness.

## Epistle / Second Reading

### 1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

<sup>9</sup>Indeed, how can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have before God on account of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we are praying earnestly to see you in person and to supply what is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>May God our Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord increase your love and make it overflow for each other and for all people, just as ours does for you, <sup>13</sup>so that he may establish your hearts as blameless in holiness before our God and Father, when our Lord Jesus comes with all his saints.

## Holy Gospel

### Luke 19:28–40

<sup>28</sup>After Jesus had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup>As he came near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ahead, <sup>30</sup>saying, "Go to the village ahead of you. When you enter it, you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup>And if anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you will say this: 'The Lord needs it.'"

<sup>32</sup>Those who were sent ahead went and found things just as he had told them. <sup>33</sup>As they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

<sup>34</sup>They said, "The Lord needs it."

<sup>35</sup>Then they brought the colt to Jesus. They threw their robes on the colt and set Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup>As he went along, people spread their robes on the road. <sup>37</sup>As he was approaching the slope of the Mount

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<sup>a</sup>16 That is, Jerusalem

of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began to praise God joyfully, with a loud voice, for all the miracles they had seen, <sup>38</sup>saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

<sup>39</sup>Some of the Pharisees from the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

<sup>40</sup>He replied, “I tell you, if these people would be silent, the stones would cry out.”

*or*

### **Luke 21:25–36**

<sup>25</sup>“There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. And on the earth nations will be in anguish, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the surging waves, <sup>26</sup>people fainting from fear and expectation of the things coming on the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>But when these things begin to happen, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is near.”

<sup>29</sup>He told them a parable. “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. <sup>30</sup>As soon as they are sprouting leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is actually near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Amen I tell you: This generation will not pass away until all these things happen. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

<sup>34</sup>“Watch yourselves or else your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and the worries of this life, and that day may come on you suddenly. <sup>35</sup>For it will come like a trap on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Stay alert all the time, praying that you may be able to escape all these things that are going to happen and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

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# The Second Sunday in Advent

*Lutheran Service Book 3-Year Lectionary, Year C*  
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## Old Testament / First Reading

### Malachi 3:1-7b

Look! I am sending my messenger! He will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord, whom you are seeking, will come to his temple! The Messenger of the Covenant, in whom you delight, will surely come, says the LORD of Armies.

<sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day when he comes? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire, like launderer's bleach! <sup>3</sup>He will be seated like a refiner and a purifier of silver. He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and like silver. They will belong to the LORD and bring him an offering in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup>Judah and Jerusalem's offerings will be pleasing to the LORD as they were in the days of old, in years long ago.

<sup>5</sup>I will approach you to judge you. I will be quick to give testimony against those who practice occult arts, those who commit adultery, those who swear false oaths, those who cheat workers out of their wages, those who wrong a widow and a fatherless child, those who turn away a resident alien—all those who do not fear me, says the LORD of Armies.

<sup>6</sup>Certainly I, the LORD, do not change. That is why you, sons of Jacob, have not come to an end. <sup>7</sup>Since the days of your fathers, you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of Armies.

## Epistle / Second Reading

### Philippians 1:2-11

<sup>2</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup>Every time I pray for all of you, I always pray with joy, <sup>5</sup>because of your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am convinced of this very thing: that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup>I am equally convinced that it is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart, for both in my chains and in my defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all share in this grace with me. <sup>8</sup>Yes, God is my witness of how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

<sup>9</sup>And I pray that your love may still increase more and more in knowledge and every insight. <sup>10</sup>This will result in your approval of the things that really matter, so that you will be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup>filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

# Holy Gospel

## Luke 3:1–14 (15-20)

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene—<sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into the whole region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup>Just as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup>Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be made low.

The crooked will become straight, and the rough ways smooth.

<sup>6</sup>And everyone will see the salvation of God.”

<sup>7</sup>So John kept saying to the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup>Therefore produce fruits in keeping with repentance! Do not even think of saying to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ because I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is going to be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup>The crowds began to ask him, “What should we do then?”

<sup>11</sup>He answered them, “Whoever has two shirts should share with the person who has none, and whoever has food should do the same.”

<sup>12</sup>Tax collectors also came to be baptized. They said, “Teacher, what should we do?”

<sup>13</sup>To them he said, “Collect no more than what you were authorized to.”

<sup>14</sup>Soldiers were also asking him, “And what should we do?”

He told them, “Do not extort money from anyone by force or false accusation. Be satisfied with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup>The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John could be the Christ. <sup>16</sup>John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But someone mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup>Then with many other words, he appealed to them and was preaching good news to the people. <sup>19</sup>But after John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of Herodias, his brother’s wife, and because of all the evil things he had done—<sup>20</sup>Herod added this to them all: He locked John in prison.

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# The Third Sunday in Advent

*Lutheran Service Book 3-Year Lectionary, Year C*  
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## Old Testament / First Reading

### Zephaniah 3:14-20

<sup>14</sup>Sing out, daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, you daughter of Jerusalem. <sup>15</sup>The LORD has removed the judgment against you. He has turned back your enemy. Israel's king, the LORD, is in your midst! You no longer need to fear disaster. <sup>16</sup>In that day Jerusalem will be told, "Do not be afraid, O Zion. Do not give up. <sup>17</sup>The LORD your God is with you as a hero who will save you. He takes great delight in you. He will quiet you with his love. He will rejoice over you with singing."

<sup>18</sup>I will bring back those among you who grieve over the loss of the appointed feasts, those for whom the loss was a burden and a disgrace. <sup>19</sup>Look, at that time I will deal with those who mistreated you. I will rescue the lame and gather together the scattered. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they were put to shame. <sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you in. At that time will I gather you. I will give you a name and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, declares the LORD.

## Epistle / Second Reading

### Philippians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## Holy Gospel

### Luke 7:18-28 (29-35)

<sup>18</sup>John's disciples told him about all these things. <sup>19</sup>Calling two of his disciples to him, he sent them to Jesus to ask, "Are you the one who was to come or should we look for someone else?" <sup>20</sup>When the men had arrived, they said to Jesus, "John the Baptist sent us to ask you, 'Are you the one who was to come or should we look for someone else?'"

<sup>21</sup>At that time Jesus healed many people of their diseases, afflictions, and evil spirits. And he gave many blind people the ability to see. <sup>22</sup>Jesus answered them, "Go, tell John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are healed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. <sup>23</sup>Blessed is the one who does not fall away on account of me."

<sup>24</sup>After John's messengers had left, Jesus began to talk to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>25</sup>No. Then what did you go out to see?"

A man dressed in soft clothing? Yet those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in royal palaces. <sup>26</sup>But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet. <sup>27</sup>This is the one about whom it is written: ‘Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>28</sup>“Yes, I tell you, among those born of women there is no prophet greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

<sup>29</sup>When all the people (including the tax collectors) heard this, they declared that God was just, since they were baptized with the baptism of John. <sup>30</sup>But the Pharisees and the legal experts rejected God’s purpose for themselves by not being baptized by him.

<sup>31</sup>“To what then will I compare the people of this generation? What are they like? <sup>32</sup>They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance. We sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’ <sup>33</sup>For John the Baptist has come without eating bread or drinking wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ <sup>34</sup>The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look, a man who is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ <sup>35</sup>Yet wisdom is declared right by all her children.”

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# The Fourth Sunday in Advent

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## Old Testament / First Reading

### Micah 5:2-5a

<sup>2</sup>But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
from you, will go out the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel.  
His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of 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.

## Epistle / Second Reading

### Hebrews 10:5-10

<sup>5</sup>Therefore when he entered the world, Christ said:

Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,  
but you prepared a body for me.

<sup>6</sup>You were not pleased  
with burnt offerings and sin offerings.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, "Here I am.  
I have come to do your will, God.  
In the scroll of the book it is written about me."

<sup>8</sup>First he said:

Sacrifices and offerings that were offered according to the law,  
both burnt offerings and sin offerings,  
you did not desire,  
and you were not pleased with them.

<sup>9</sup>Then he said:

Here I am.  
I have come to do your will.

He does away with the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>By this will, we have been sanctified once and for all, through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ.

# Holy Gospel

## Luke 1:39–45 (46-56)

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary got up and hurried to the hill country, to a town of Judah. <sup>40</sup>She entered the home of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>Just as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup>She called out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>But why am I so favored that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>In fact, just now, as soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy! <sup>45</sup>Blessed is she who believed, because the promises spoken to her from the Lord will be fulfilled!"

<sup>46</sup>Then Mary said,

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>because he has looked with favor on the humble state of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed,

<sup>49</sup>because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup>He has brought down rulers from their thrones.

He has lifted up the lowly.

<sup>53</sup>He has filled the hungry with good things, but the rich he has sent away empty.

<sup>54</sup>He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy,

<sup>55</sup>as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his offspring forever.

<sup>56</sup>Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then returned to her home.

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