

# The Season of Advent

*Scripture Selections from the Evangelical Heritage Version®  
following the Christian Worship: Hymnal (2021) 1-Year Lectionary*

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# The First Sunday in Advent (Ad Te Levavi)

*Christian Worship: Hymnal (2021) 1-Year Lectionary  
Evangelical Heritage Version®*

## First Reading

### Jeremiah 23:5-8

Listen, the days are coming, declares the LORD,  
when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch,  
who will reign wisely as king  
and establish justice and righteousness on earth.

<sup>6</sup>In his days Judah will be saved  
and Israel will dwell securely.

This is his name by which he will be called:

The LORD Our Righteousness.

<sup>7</sup>So, mark my words, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when it will no longer be said, “As surely as the LORD lives who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,” <sup>8</sup>but, “as surely as the LORD lives who brought up the descendants of the house of Israel and led them out of a land in the north and from all the countries where I had driven them.” Then they will dwell in their own land.

## Second Reading

### Romans 13:11-14

And do this since you understand the present time. It is already the hour for you to wake up from sleep, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup>The night is almost over, and the day is drawing near. So let us put away the deeds of darkness and put on the weapons of light. <sup>13</sup>Let us walk decently as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual sin and wild living, not in strife and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not give any thought to satisfying the desires of your sinful flesh.

## Gospel

### Matthew 21:1-9

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>telling them, “Go to the village ahead of you. Immediately you will find a donkey tied there along with her colt. Untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, you are to say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.”

<sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

<sup>5</sup>Tell the daughter of Zion: Look, your King comes to you, humble, and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did just as Jesus commanded them. <sup>7</sup>They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their outer clothing on them, and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup>A very large crowd spread their outer clothing on the road. Others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them out on the road. <sup>9</sup>The

crowds who went in front of him and those who followed kept shouting,  
Hosanna to the Son of David!  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest!

# The Second Sunday in Advent (Populus Zion)

*Christian Worship: Hymnal (2021) 1-Year Lectionary*  
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## First Reading

**Malachi 4:1-6**

Look! The day is coming, burning like a blast furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble. The day that is coming will set them on fire, says the LORD of Armies, a day that will not leave behind a root or branch for them. <sup>2</sup>But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will rise, and there will be healing in its wings. You will go out and jump around like calves from the stall. <sup>3</sup>You will trample the wicked. They will surely be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I take action, says the LORD of Armies.

<sup>4</sup>Remember the law of my servant Moses, which I commanded to him at Horeb to serve as statutes and judgments over all Israel.

<sup>5</sup>Look! I am going to send Elijah the prophet to you before the great and fearful day of the LORD comes! <sup>6</sup>He will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise, I will come and strike the land with complete destruction.

## Second Reading

**Romans 15:4-13**

Indeed, whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that, through patient endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we would have hope. <sup>5</sup>And may God, the source of patient endurance and encouragement, grant that you agree with one another in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that with one mind, in one voice, you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>For this reason, accept one another as Christ also accepted you to the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I am saying that Christ became a servant of those who are circumcised for the sake of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs. <sup>9</sup>He also did this so that the Gentiles would glorify God for his mercy, as it is written:

For this reason I will praise you among the Gentiles,  
and I will sing to your name.

<sup>10</sup>And again it says:

Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.

<sup>11</sup>And again:

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples give him praise.

<sup>12</sup>And again Isaiah says:

There will be a Root of Jesse,  
and he is the one who will rise up to rule the Gentiles;  
on him the Gentiles will place their hope.

<sup>13</sup>Now may the God of hope fill you with complete joy and peace as you continue to believe, so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## Gospel

### Luke 21:25-36

“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<sup>a</sup> 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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<sup>a</sup> Usually, people say Amen at the end of a prayer. But Jesus used this Hebrew word at the beginning of a statement, which was unique. The inspired writer simply transliterated the Hebrew word that Jesus spoke, instead of using a Greek term. This translation does the same in English. The basic meaning is I solemnly tell you the truth. For more information about this, see FAQ #1 at [wartburgproject.org/faqs](http://wartburgproject.org/faqs)

# The Third Sunday in Advent (Gaudete)

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## First Reading

**Isaiah 40:1-8**

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.

## Second Reading

**1 Corinthians 4:1-5**

This is the way a person should think of us: as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries.

<sup>2</sup>In this connection, moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. <sup>3</sup>But it is a trivial matter to me if I am evaluated by you or by a day in a human court. Why, I do not even evaluate myself. <sup>4</sup>I do not in fact know of anything against myself, but I am not justified by this; rather, the one who evaluates me is the Lord. <sup>5</sup>Therefore judge nothing ahead of time, until the Lord comes. He will bring to light whatever is hidden in darkness and also reveal the intentions of hearts. Then there will be praise for each person from God.

# Gospel

## Matthew 11:2-10

While John was in prison, he heard about the things Christ was doing. He sent two of his disciples<sup>3</sup> to ask him, “Are you the Coming One or should we wait for someone else?”

<sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, “Go, report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the gospel is preached to the poor. <sup>6</sup>Blessed is the one who does not take offense at me.”

<sup>7</sup>As these two were leaving, 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>8</sup>What did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? No, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. <sup>9</sup>So what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you! And he is much more than a prophet. <sup>10</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.’

# The Fourth Sunday in Advent (Rorate Coeli)

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## First Reading

**Isaiah 40:9–11**

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 Reading

**Philippians 4:4-7**

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.

## Gospel

**John 1:19-28**

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. *f*