

## Historic Scripture Lessons for the Second Sunday in Advent Old Testament

**Micah 4:1-7 NIV** In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. 2 Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us His ways, so that we may walk in His paths." The Law will go out from Zion, the Word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 3 He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. 4 Every man will sit under his own vine and under his own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the LORD Almighty has spoken. 5 All the nations may walk in the name of their gods; we will walk in the Name of the LORD our God for ever and ever. 6 "In that day," declares the LORD, "I will gather the lame; I will assemble the exiles and those I have brought to grief. 7 I will make the lame a remnant, those driven away a strong nation. The LORD will rule over them in Mount Zion from that day and forever.

### Epistle

**Romans 15:4-13** For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. 5 May the God Who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, 6 so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our LORD Jesus Christ. 7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. 8 For I tell you that Christ has become a Servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs 9 so that the Gentiles may glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing hymns to Your Name." 10 Again, it says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people." 11 And again, "Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles, and sing praises to Him, all you peoples." 12 And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, One who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in Him." 13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may 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. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. 26 Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. 27 At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your Redemption is drawing near." 29 He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. 30 When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. 31 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the Kingdom of God is near. 32 I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My Words will never pass away. 34 Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. 35 For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL   
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent   *Watch the Signs!*     
*He Comes in Clouds* ✠ December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 9:30 am



*Historic Church Year Symbol Set for Advent-2 – Luke 21:25-36*  
*Look for signs of Jesus' Final Coming in the sun, moon, stars, clouds and hills.*

Image courtesy of the Lutheran Synod Publishing <https://lutheransynodpublishing.com>

# OSL OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH OSL

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BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:45 AM

✱ Rev. Andrew R. Burmeister 863-430-5859 ✱ Organ: A.R. Burmeister

## December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Advent-2 Watch Signs / JB

**TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER:** If you are new to the area or our worship and have never communed with us before, please speak with the pastor before the service. If you are not currently a member of an ELS or WELS congregation, we ask that you please **wait to take Communion until you can speak with our pastor.** Out of Christian love and consideration to you the guest, we want you to have the opportunity to learn what our church teaches about the Bible and Sacraments before you unite with us in taking Holy Communion. Thank you for your understanding. LORD's blessings to you.

**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP** On the silver liturgy sheets or red TLHymnal **p.15**

Service	TLH# (vv)	...First Line
Invocation Hymn	72 (4v)	Rejoice, Rejoice Believers
<i>Psalm 25</i>	25 (3v)	<i>To You O LORD, I Lift My Soul; to You I Lift...</i> 7
Hymn of the Day	61 (4v)	Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People
<i>Offertory Verse</i>	644 (1v)	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>
Distribution Hymn	305 (9v)	Soul, Adorn Thyself with Gladness
Closing Hymn	63 (5v)	On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry...

### Suggested Bible readings for the weekdays of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday  
 I Ch.17:1-27 II Ch.7:11-22 Isaiah11:1-10 Jer. 23:2-8 Jer. 30:1-22 Jer.33:14-26  
 Act17:16-34 I John 4:9-16 Coloss. 1:1-8 Phi.2:12-18 Phi. 3:12-16 Col. 3:1-11

### PROPERs for ADVENT-2 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the New Church Year) 88 DEC 10<sup>th</sup>

**INTROIT** Daughter of Zion, surely your Salvation is coming. The LORD will cause His glorious voice to be heard, and you will have gladness of heart. Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock. Stir up Your Strength, and come and save us!  
 ...from Psalm 80

**COLLECT** Stir up our hearts, O LORD, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, so that by His coming we may worship You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our LORD, Who lives and reign with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. C: ♪ A - - men.

**GRADUAL C: Alleluia! From Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth. Our God comes and will not be silent. Gather My saints to Me, those who have a covenant with Me by sacrifice. Alleluia! Alleluia! The powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Alleluia!**  
 ...from Psalm 50:1-5

### SCRIPTURE LESSONS (printed on outside back page of bulletin)

O.T. Micah 4:1-7 Signs in the Last Days in the Mountains & the Hills.  
 Epi. Romans 15:4-13 The Gentiles will come to faith in Christ.  
 Gos. Luke 21:25-36 Watch (the Signs) for our LORD Jesus' 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent.

**Psalm 25 REFRAIN: To You, O LORD, I lift my soul; To You, I lift my soul.**

Verse 1. ♪ Lord, \_ Make me know Your ways, Teach me Your paths,  
 And keep me in the way of Your truth, \_ For You are God, my Saviour.

**Refrain C: ♪ To You, O Lord, I lift my soul; To You, I lift my soul.**

Verse 2. ♪ For- the-Lord is good and righteous, \_ Revealing His way,  
 To those who seek Him, \_ Gently leading the poor, and the humble.

**Refrain C: ♪ To You, O Lord, I lift my soul; To You, I lift my soul.**

Verse 3. ♪ To-the-ones who seek the Lord, \_ Who look to His Word,  
 Who live in His Love, \_ He-will-always be near; He will show them His mercy.

**Refrain C: ♪ To You, O Lord, I lift my soul; To You, I lift my soul.**

**GOSPEL-B Sermon Text Mark 1:1-8** The beginning of the Gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way" - 3 "a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the LORD, make straight paths for Him.'" 4 And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a Baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. 6 John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And this was his message: "After me will come One more powerful than I, the thongs of Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I baptize you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

PRAYER REQUESTS:	Member or Relation	Pray for...
Jim & Elma Hendricks	LORD's will be done. Jim was in hospital this week	
Mary Lou Knigge	Mary Lou is back home after fall and rehab. Recuperating	
Dee Kurczewski (David)	Dee fell (twice), was in hospital. Back home rehabbing	
James Vanesky & Delores	Delores is home after hospital (pneumonia) & rehab	

Volunteers	Today	Next Sunday
<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Ilene &amp; Alex Gourley</b>	<b>Bev &amp; Don Wienke</b>
<b>Treaters</b>	<b>Carolyn &amp; Don Miner</b>	<b>Mary Lou Knigge (Lunch)</b>

Statistics	Last week	Year to date / Avg.
<b>Sunday Attendance / (L.S.) / Wed.</b>	<b>24 / (20) / 15</b>	<b>24 / 20</b>
<b>Bible Class Attendance (Sunday)</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Sunday Offering for LORD / Wed.</b>	<b>\$, / \$.</b>	<b>YTD Total \$.</b>

### Calendar of Events

<b>Today, Sunday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Bible Study Heb. 11 JC, Hero of Faithful</b>
<b>Second Sunday of</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Divine Worship (W/ Holy Communion)</b>
<b>Advent &amp; New Year</b>	<b>10:45 ff...</b>	<b>Fellowship, Coffee ...Please stay &amp; talk</b>
<b>Wednesday 12/13</b>	<b>4:30 pm</b>	<b>Midweek Advent (2W) Vespers Worship</b>
<b>Thursday, 12/14</b>	<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>OSL Council December meeting at church</b>
<b>Next Sunday 12/17</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Bible Study Heb. 12 JC, Hero of Faithful</b>
<b>Third Sunday of</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Divine Worship (W/ Holy Communion)</b>
<b>Advent - John Bapt.</b>	<b>10:45 ff...</b>	<b>Fellowship, Coffee ...Please stay &amp; talk</b>

✱ Still signup today for **Poinsettias** for Advent/Christmas. Pointsettias here Friday.

Wednesday: **12/7 Advent-2 Midweek (BLACK ELH p.120) ELH #s 87 110 139**

Next Sunday: **12/11 Advent-3 (L.S. p.5) TLH Hymn #s 64 Ps.25 61 441.1,2 74 66**

**ADVENT-2(B) Mark 1:1-8 "VOICE OF A WILDERNESS CRYER" 12.10.17 OSL**

***“The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.” (Mark 1:3)***

**INTRODUCTION** **Preparation.** The season of Advent is (all) about preparation. Preparing for the holidays and the holy days of Christmas. Preparing for the end of all things and the coming of Jesus in glory. Preparing the way of parents expecting their first child prepare - with anticipation, excitement, fear, and joy all at the same time - preparing for the baby's arrival. In fact, Advent is like a pregnancy. Time is pregnant with the Promise of God. Christ is near. It's time to get ready.

Our guide for our Advent journey during these **next two weeks will be John the Baptizer**. He hardly needs an introduction. Of all the characters in the Bible, I don't think there is anyone **stranger** than John. Jesus called cousin John the greatest man ever born, though I daresay he doesn't stack up to our world's measure of greatness. John never invented anything, never led a nation, never ran a corporation, never wrote a popular song or directed a movie or authored a book. He spent his days baptising and preaching, paving the way for cousin Jesus to make His grand appearance. And when his preaching and baptizing days were ended, his head became a present for King Herod's mistress. The religious leaders of John's day concluded he had a demon. Today's critics would say that John was narrow, out of touch, intolerant, a religious fanatic, perhaps even a psychopath. We'd put him on **Prozac** and ship him off to **rehab** to chill out for a while.

John was the **epitomé of one who lived “in the world but not of the world.”** Clothed in **camel's hair and a leather belt**, John was unfashionable, rough, untamed, non-conforming. He didn't care about the latest trends in fashion or style. If “clothes make the man,” then John was doomed from the start. Subsisting on a wilderness diet of locusts and wild honey, John lived by the Hand of God. John came out of that OT tradition called the “**Nazerites**,” ascetics who voluntarily gave up the pleasures of life to point people to God. People like that make us uncomfortable with our comfortable lifestyles. They should. That's the point. *“Man does not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”*

John was a **revolutionary** without an army, a radical who didn't hesitate to call the high and mighty to repent, even when it cost him his own freedom and life. He was a rebel whose cause was nothing less than the Kingdom of God.

**It was time for Israel to start over.** To repent. To come to a new mind, a recognition of who they were and who God was. The religious types, so invested in the creed, cult, and conduct of Judaism, wanted nothing to do with John. He was a threat to the status quo, a threat to their religious power base, a threat to the institution. John was the **kind of guy that institutions keep a careful eye on**. Not a team player, not a company man.

The religious leaders rejected his baptism. What was this ritual washing unknown to Judaism? Where did John come up with this? And **why did the clean need to be cleansed?** Washing was for the filthy - those traitor tax collectors and prostitutes and immoral sinners ...and Gentiles.

They **rejected** John's message. **What sins did they have to confess?** They were the ones who walked the walk and talked the talk; they were the teachers of the Torah. How dare John instruct them. They were the religious people, the righteous people, the people everyone looked up to as role models and examples of righteousness. How dare this shaggy prophet from the desert call them a bunch of snakes! Who did he think he was, anyway?

John was a voice. Just a voice, calling in the wilderness. Prepare. Get ready. **John was a prophetic voice. The voice of Elijah.** It was no coincidence that John appeared in the Jordan wilderness. That was the place where the prophet Elijah had been whisked off to Heaven in a fiery chariot. And it's no quirk that John appeared wearing camel's hair and a leather belt. That was the clothing of Elijah. John's voice was the prophetic voice of the entire OT. Through John, all the prophets were crying out together: ***Get ready! Prepare! Pave the highway! The Lord is near!***

By all appearances, John was **popular with the people**. They **flocked** to him in droves – ***Go figure!*** Mark says the **whole Judean countryside and all** the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Perhaps they came out of **curiosity**, to get a look at this strange preacher. But those who heard his preaching and took it to heart **went away dripping wet with a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of their sins**.

They came confessing their sins to John. John is called “**The Baptizer**.” You might just as well call him “**The Confessor**” too. People brought the dirty laundry of their lives to John - their blasphemies and idolatries and adulteries and murders and thefts and lies, their misdemeanors and their felonies. And he baptized them into the forgiveness of their sins. He washed away their sins with water and the word.

Who would ever have thought that sin could be dealt with like this? With **H<sub>2</sub>O**. In the OT, sins were cleansed in the temple was with blood sacrifice. But John introduced a baptism, a washing with water for the forgiveness of sins. Something new and different. John was preparing the people for the end of all sacrifices and the **appearing of God's Lamb, Who takes away the sin of the world**. Through John, God was saying, *“The time is coming when My Son will shed His Blood once for all, and I will no longer ask for blood sacrifice. Instead you will be baptized into His death, into the forgiveness that's in His Blood.”* John's baptism was a kind of sacramental bridge between the old testament and the new. Jesus was new wine, and John was the new wineskin.

**People came away from John's baptism washed and forgiven and free.** It's amazing. Dirty Jordan river water cleanses from sin. How can water do such great things? You know the answer. It's not just the water but the Word in and with the water. The promise of forgiveness, life, and salvation in the Son of God. Remember **Naaman(?)** the Syrian general, who was cured of his leprosy in the Jordan at the **Word of Elisha. Water and the (Word of) Promise of God** make Baptism more than a bath.

For the people of John's day, this was a **fresh start, a new beginning, a rebirth**. People whose lives were so messed up were given a new start. Can you imagine the joy, the freedom, the hope that these newly baptized people must have experienced there in the Jordan. They had a reason to get up in the

morning. Messiah was coming. They were prepared for Him. Someone was coming after John, someone so great John said he wasn't worthy to bend down to untie his sandal straps. Someone who would bring an even greater baptism than John's. He would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

**What's your hope? What are you looking forward to?** What are you preparing for? Do you get up in the morning with a sense of urgency, anticipation, expectation? Christ is near. He is coming soon and quickly. Prepare the way of the Lord. The danger lies in the distractions, those potholes on the royal highway. We get so caught up in things temporal we lose sight of things eternal. We get so caught up in the "spirit of the holidays" that we miss out on the **Holy Spirit Who calls, gathers, enlightens us out of our Baptism.**

You are baptized. Or if you aren't, then I would urge you **to be** baptized. Maybe not in the Jordan wilderness. That was John's baptism. But in the church, **in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.** You are baptized with the greater Baptism, greater than John's baptism. John's baptism prepared people for the **First Advent** of the Christ. **Jesus' Baptism prepares you for His Second Advent.** You're baptized. Washed with water and the Word, born of water and the Holy Spirit, buried in the death of Jesus, clothed with Christ. Baptism isn't just an event in your life, something that happened to you one day. **Baptism is your life, it defines who you are and Whose you are.** You didn't choose this for yourself, you were chosen. You are part of a chosen people, a holy nation, a royal priesthood, a peculiar people set apart by God for a purpose.

You and I, **we're the John the Baptists** for this world of ours. When Jesus said to His disciples, *"Go and make disciples of all the nations by baptizing and teaching"* He was telling His church to do the same thing John did. **Baptize. Teach. Spread.** Prepare the nations to meet their Maker and Redeemer. Prepare the world for the Coming of Jesus.

Like John, our "clothing is odd," out of step with the religious **fashions** of the world. No, we're not called to wear camel's hair and leather. That may have been fashionable for prophets of the Old Testament, but not the new. While the world parades around in its "seasonal collection of religions," you've been told to wear the **seamless robe of Jesus' righteousness.** That's your clothing. *"For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ."* And in this world of ours, you may as well be wearing camel hair and leather. But wear it proudly, and don't hide Christ in the closet while you try to blend in. You can't. You're strange, you're different, you're weird. You're a Christian. Get used to it.

**CONCLUSION** Do you feel you **aren't worthy** for such great things? You're not alone. **John said he wasn't worthy** to stoop down to Jesus' feet to untie his sandals. John was a sinner, born into the fallen condition that is common to **all of us children of Adam and Eve.** But that didn't stop John, nor should it stop any of us from worshipping Jesus as the Christ and pointing the way to His coming. John's worthiness was **not** in himself, in his diet, his dress, his zeal. **His worthiness was entirely in Cousin Jesus,** the One who was coming to stoop down to **death** to take away the world's sin and conquer death once and for all. — *Worthy is the Lamb. And in Him you are worthy. Get ready for more. The Lord is near. Come, Lord Jesus. JI'N, Amen. SDG*

**GOSPEL-B Sermon Text Mark 1:1-8** The beginning of the Gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way" – 3 "a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the LORD, make straight paths for Him.'" 4 And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a Baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. 6 John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And this was his message: "After me will come One more powerful than I, the thongs of Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I baptize you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

**Possible Prayer of Church for ☞ 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent ✕ December 10<sup>th</sup>**  
*Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. (Possible brief silence)*

Lord, You sent **John the Baptist as Your messenger** to preach the coming of Your Son. Continue to send pastors to Your Church who will be heralds of Good News, faithfully calling people to repentance, proclaiming the Gospel and administering Baptism for the remission of sins. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, You are patient and do not wish that anyone should perish. We give You thanks that in Your great mercy, You continue to allow the Gospel to go forth so that all might reach repentance. Help us to live lives worthy of Your call, and keep us ever faithful as we wait for the new heavens and the new earth You have promised. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, You are the God of all comfort. Look favorably upon **OSL Prayer**

PRAYER REQUESTS:	Member or Relation	Pray for...
<b>People of (Southern) California</b>		Wildfires displacing many
<b>Jim &amp; Elma Hendricks</b>		LORD's will be done. Jim was in hospital this week
<b>Mary Lou Knigge</b>		Mary Lou is back home after fall and rehab. Recuperating
<b>Dee Kurczewski (David)</b>		Dee fell(twice), was in hospital. Back home rehabbing
<b>James Vanesky&amp;Delores</b>		Delores is home after hospital (pneumonia)& rehab

and all who suffer from mental or physical infirmity. Grant them healing and patience in the face of affliction, and never let them forget that You are with them. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, You invite us again to Your Table today, that we might receive the medicine of immortality in the Body and Blood of Your Son. May we receive the Sacrament rightly, so that with faith strengthened and sins forgiven our lives might be lived in holiness and godliness. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, as we in the Church on earth wait for the coming of Your Son, we remember all the saints who have gone before us and now rest in Your presence. Keep us all safe in Your arms until that day when You will gather all Your people to that place where righteousness dwells. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen. Then L.S., p.24**