

(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

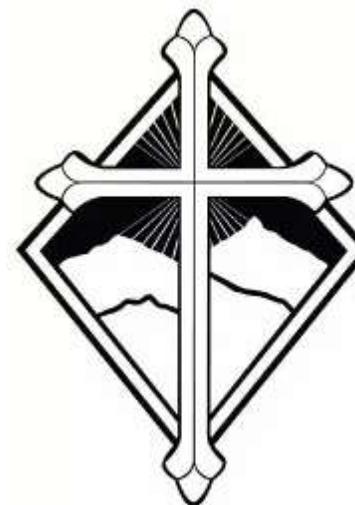
Romans 15:4-13 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. 5 May the God Who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, 6 so that 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.

3-Year-C Gospel (Sermon Text)

Luke 3:1-6 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar – when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene – 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the Word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. 3 He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a Baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 4 As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the LORD, make straight paths for him. 5 Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. 6 And all mankind will see God's Salvation.'"

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL  ELS
2nd Sunday in Advent (C)  *Watch the Signs (& JohnB)*



OSL OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH OSL

6920 N Socrum Loop Road / (north) Lakeland, FL 33809 USA

Phone: (863) 859-3400 ~ Web: www.OSLlakeland.org

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 9th, 2018 Advent-2 🕊️🕊️ *John the Baptist*

WELCOME to Our Savior! We are so happy to have you worship with us today. If you are visiting us for the first time (or in a long time), we ask that that you please fill out a visitor card found in the pew cardholder and place it in the offering plate. Come and worship with us again! **The LORD bless you.**

OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP On the gold liturgy sheets or red TLH Hymnal p.5

| Suggested Hymn | TLH# (vv) | ...First Line |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Opening Hymn | 61 (4v) | Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People |
| <i>Psalm 25</i> | <i>Ps.25 '3v'</i> | <i>To You, O Lord, I Lift My Soul ... ↗</i> |
| Hymn of the Day | 63 (5v) | On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry |
| <i>Offertory Verses</i> | 68 (6v) | <i>Sing verses 3,4 O Zion's Daughter, rise →</i> |
| Third Hymn | 55 (4v) | Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come |
| Closing Hymn | 64 (5v) | Jesus, Thy Church with Longing Eyes |

Suggested Bible readings for the weekdays of the 2nd 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 |
| <i>Act17:16-34</i> | <i>I John 4:9-16</i> | <i>Coloss. 1:1-8</i> | <i>Phi.2:12-18</i> | <i>Phi. 3:12-16</i> | <i>Col. 3:1-11</i> |

PROPERs for ADVENT-2(2nd Sunday of New Church Year) 🕊️🕊️ DECEMBER 9TH

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 nd Advent. |

SERMON (Gospel-C) Luke 3:1-6 THEME: J.B. = "A SINGLE WILDERNESS VOICE."

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

Refrain C: ♪ 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.

TLH #68. 3. O Zion's Daughter-, rise - To- meet thy- lowly King, Nor let thy faithless heart despise - The peace He- comes to bring.

4. As Judge, on clouds of- light, - He- soon will- come again And His true members all unite - With Him in- Heav'n to reign.

PRAYER REQUESTS: (Member or Relation) Pray for...

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Dee Kurczewski (David) | Dee - rehabbing. David back working |
| Carolyn Miner (Don) | We're happy they are here (FL). Carolyn recovering well |
| Jon & Andrea Sawyer | Jon's heart, changing work. Andrea started new work |
| Barb Wolkens | Barb still recovering from seriously stiff neck |
| James Vanesky & Delores Platt | Both rehabbing. We enjoy seeing them |

| Volunteers | Today | Next Sunday |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Greeters | Barb Wolkens | Mary Lou Knigge |
| Treaters | Mary Lou Knigge | |

| Statistics | Last week | Year To Date / Avg. |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Sunday, Attendance (Communion) | 29 / (27) | 23 / 19 |
| Bible Class Attendance: Sunday | 12 | 11 |
| Sunday Offering (Needed) & YTD | \$. (\$1,350) | YTD \$, (\$66.K) |

| Calendar of Events | | |
|--|-------------|--|
| Today December 9 | 8:30 am | Bible Study Christ Figures: <i>Shepherd/Shp.</i> |
| Second Sunday of Advent (John Baptist) | 9:30 am | Divine Worship (NO Communion) |
| Sawyer OpenHouse | 10:45 ff... | "FFF" = Food, Fun & Fellowship ... <i>Stay!</i> |
| | 5 pm & ff | 2490 Torrens Drive Lakeland, FL 33805 |
| Wednesday, 12/12 | 4:30 pm | Midweek Advent-2W Vespers Worship |
| Thursday, 12/13 | 1:30 pm | OSL Council December Meeting - church |
| Saturday, 12/15 | 5 pm & ff | OSL Annual Christmas Dinner Party |
| Next Sunday 12/16 | 8:30 am | Bible Study Christ Figures: <i>Slaves/Servants</i> |
| Third Sunday of Advent (John Baptist) | 9:30 am | Divine Worship (WITH Communion) |
| | 10:45 ff... | "FFF" = Food, Fun & Fellowship ... <i>Stay!</i> |

Elders: Tom Temple 213-4622; John Weber 853-5458; Don Wienke 815-8892

✧ Today is the **last day** to sign up for **Poinsettias** @\$9.50ea. Signup in fellowship hall.

Wednesday: 12/12 Advent-2 Midweek (ELH p.120) ELH #s 110 121 123.6-10

Next Sunday: 12/16 Advent-3 (L.S. p.15) TLH Hymn #s 64 Ps.25 61 68. 315 66

ADVENT-2/C Luke 3:1-14 "(ADVENT TERM =) REPENT"(JOHNB) 12.09.18 OSL

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord; make straight paths for him.'" (Luke 3:4)

MALACHI, THEN SILENCE Four hundred years before, the Lord had spoken through the prophet **Malachi**, the last of the prophets of Israel. *"Behold, I send My messenger and he will prepare the way before Me."* And then nothing but prophetic silence for four hundred years. There was history, as Israel was passed like a football from the Persians to the Greeks to the Romans. God took care of His people, His nation. God kept His Word and promise. Yet He did so in silence.

BREAK THE SILENCE When John appeared in the Jordanian wilderness in the fifteenth year of the reign of **Tiberius Caesar**, when his voice was heard crying in the wilderness, *"Prepare the way of The LORD,"* when the Word of God came to John the son of Zechariah, it was the **end of 400 years of silence**.

LOST (SHEEP OF) ISRAEL In a way, it seemed as though time had run out on Israel. The nation was under Roman control. Divided into four parts. Pontus Pilate ruled over Judea and Jerusalem. Herod had the north country of Galilee. His brother Philip had the regions of Ituraea and Trachonitis. Lysanius ruled of the region of Abilene. Hardly the glory days of King David or Solomon. Israel was a vassal state of Rome under the rule of Tiberius Caesar. And, **the Priesthood?** It was in a shambles. Records had been lost. Family lines obscured. Who were the sons of Aaron? The priesthood was an appointed position, a political position, shared by **Annas** and **Caiaphas**. If you were an Israelite at that time, you might have concluded that God had forgotten you.

THE VOICE And then came **A Voice, not from** the temple or from Jerusalem, but from **the wilderness. Literally from out of nowhere**. A strange figure appeared at the Jordan, the place where Israel entered the Promised Land, the place where the waters parted as at the Red Sea, the place where twelve memorial stones had been laid to mark the event for posterity. In the place where Elijah had been whisked off to Heaven, John appeared.

IF IT LOOKS LIKE A PR___ He came as prophet. He **looked** like a prophet. He **sounded** like a prophet. (He even **smelled** like a prophet?) He identified himself with the Voice of **Isaiah**, the voice calling in the wilderness, *"Prepare the way of The LORD, make His paths straight."* He came preaching and **Baptizing**. Something new. A washing of Repentance for the forgiveness of sins. In the OT, sins were dealt with by blood sacrifice, the animal's life and blood in place of your own. But John calls the people to **something new and wonderful**, not the blood of sacrifice but a washing of repentance for forgiveness.

SINGLE-WORD John came to prepare a people for Jesus, the coming Messiah. His message could be summarized in a single word: **REPENT**. Change your mind, your thinking, your notions of who God is and who you are. Repent of your sins. Disown them. Wash them away. Repent of any notion that you can atone for your sins. Even the temple sacrifices could not take away sin. Repent of even all the ways you try to bribe God.

POPULAR Crowds of **people flocked to John**. He was a novelty. We always flock to the religious novelties. And yet they hardly received a warm, fuzzy welcome from John. John was not your warm and fuzzy sort of preacher. *"You brood of vipers! You bunch of snakes. Who warned to flee from the wrath to come?"* John said to them. Hardly the friendly, smiling preacher we might expect. Is this any way to start a movement, much less a religion? **Insult your (first) followers, members?**

(BUT,) CUT IT OUT! Church bureaucracies wouldn't put up with John. Voters assemblies would vote to get rid of him as quickly as possible. Ecclesiastical councils and institutions would find a way to shut him up and ship him out to some far reaches where he would never be seen or heard from again. We don't want to hear **all this repentance talk, John. It's a downer**. We don't like to be reminded that we're sinners, John. And what's with this Baptism business anyway? That's not what Moses commanded. And besides, you're scaring the children, so just cut it out, John.

LEAVE IT AT THE DOOR You can leave your credentials at the door when it comes to John. He doesn't care who you are, or what you've accomplished, who your father is. Try to flash your "Son of Abraham" card, and John will remind you that **God can make sons of Abraham out of stones** if He wants. And that goes for the *"I've been a Lutheran all my life"* or *"I gave my heart to Jesus when I was sixteen years old"* or whatever "religious carrot" you want to hold out to justify yourself. Credentials will get you nowhere. *"Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."* The axe is already laid at the root.

JUST "DO" IT When people asked John what they were supposed to do, John told them. **Share your food and clothing** with those in need. **Do your vocations honestly**. Tax collectors – collect no more than the authorized tax. Soldiers – don't use your power to extort, be content with your wages. He'd say the same to us. Tend to your vocation and your responsibilities. **Stop whining**, stop taking advantage of the weak. Be content with what you have and make. Share with those in need. And don't think for a moment that you've done enough or that there isn't more to do. Do the goodness and mercy of God to those around you in need, and don't you dare hold up one good work before God to (try to) impress Him. Good works are for your neighbor, not for God.

ROAD-GRADER John was God's bulldozer, filling valleys, leveling mountains, straightening the crooked, smoothing the rough, building a highway for God. He was the forerunner, the preparer, the warm-up act.

(LAW-) CRUSHER And he was the **Law personified**. If you want to know what the Law of God is all about, look no further than John. If you're looking for fuzzy-warm comfort in yourself, you've come to the wrong person and place. John is there to look you square in the eye and call you a snake who deserves to be crushed underfoot.

L/G (BAD.COP/GOOD.COP) **John is Law to Jesus' Gospel**. With John, the axe is laid to the root. With Jesus, the axe falls on Him. With John, every tree that doesn't bear good fruit is thrown into the fire. With Jesus, the "bad tree" of the **Cross** becomes the **Good Tree of Salvation**, the fire of God's wrath becomes His burning passion to save, the good fruit that He bears becomes ours through faith in Him.

"J.B. vs. J.C" With John, you get commands and threats and punishments and things to do. That's how the Law works. It heaps up demands on you and threatens you with an axe and fire if you don't shape up and get with the program. With Jesus, you get "*Come to Me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*" With Jesus, it's not about your doing but about His doing. It's not about your repentance but about His becoming Sin for you, about His exchanging your Sin for His righteousness, about His dying and rising in order to save you from the wrath to come when He comes in glory.

IT **IS** COMING There **IS** a coming wrath. **Don't be deceived**. **The Scriptures are very clear** on the wrath and destruction that marks the End. Every valley will eventually be filled. Every mountain laid low. Every crooked path will be straightened. Every rough place will be made smooth. God's Law will have its way against sin and sinners.

ONLY (1) ESCAPE There is but **one way to escape** that coming wrath, that axe laid to the root, that unquenchable fire reserved for fruitless trees and dead branches. (You know what it is?...) It's "**Run and Hide.**" **Run** to Jesus. **Hide** in Jesus. Be **sheltered in His death through Baptism**. Be buried with Him in His death where the Law has nothing to say. Cling to Christ. Not to your works, your repentance, your religious deeds. **Cling to Christ. Repent**. Recognize that you **are** nothing and you **have** nothing to offer God. But Christ **is** everything and He **has everything to give to you**.

LAMB OF GOD He is your Righteousness, your Strength, your Healing, your Shelter. The **axe of the Law was laid on Him**. The fire of God's wrath consumed Him. As John would later say, "**Behold, the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world!**"

REPENT. It's a good (Advent) word. It **doesn't** mean you've been bad and you need to try harder. It **mean's you're a sinner and you need to die and rise in Jesus**. Repentance is God's work in you, paving a highway for Himself. Repent is an Advent word. It's how God prepares His people to welcome Him. And He **will** welcome you/us. Repent.

(Repent & be baptized. Prepare the way!) **Come, Lord Jesus! Amen. SDG**

Possible Prayer of Church for ☩ 2nd Sunday of Advent ✕ December 9th
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**.

Holy God, who prepared the way of our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, by the ministry of John, prepare our hearts by repentant faith for Christ's glorious return, joyfully receiving the forgiveness of sins and serving You in willing obedience. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Almighty God, we give thanks for the unity of faith that makes Your Church one mystical Body of Christ and for the partnership in the Gospel we share with fellow congregations in the earthly fellowship of our (100-year-old) **ELS** Synod. Keep us steadfast in Your Word of truth and the Good News of life and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Almighty God, our King, whose eyes watch over the nations, we pray for those who **rule and govern Your people in this and every land**. Make them faithful in their vocations as rulers and as Your servants for justice. Grant Your protection to those **who serve in the military**, and grant Your Spirit to guide those who minister to them, proclaiming Your Word of life and salvation. Lead each of us faithfully to serve You by fulfilling our daily vocations and duties in our homes, at work and school, in Your Church and as citizens. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Almighty God and Father, Your Son revealed His love in His compassion toward the poor and the forgotten, the despised and the lowly. Look with mercy on those who have no work and cannot provide for themselves and their families. Let them find gainful employment so that they can rejoice over the fruits of their labor. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Almighty God and Father, You healed the sick and defeated death by the resurrection of Your Son, our Lord. According to Your gracious will, heal the sick and comfort the suffering [*especially **OSL Prayer List***]. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Almighty God and Father, fill us with Your Spirit that our love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, that discerning what is best we may be pure and blameless until the day of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Father, 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.P. "Our Father, Who art..."