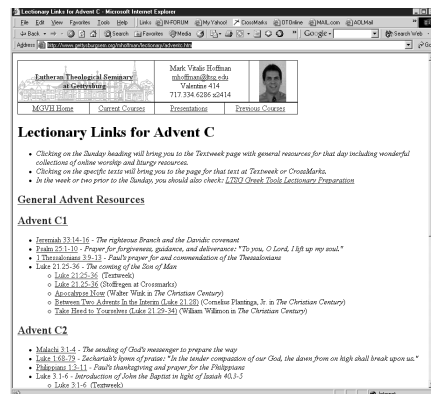


Advent Texts – Year C

Preaching Preparation
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ADVENT – General Observations



Lectionary Links for Advent C

- Clicking on the Sunday heading will bring you to the *Textweek* page with general resources for that day including wonderful collections of online worship and study resources.
- Clicking on the specific text will bring you to the page for that text at *Textweek* or *CrossMarks*.
- In the week or two prior to the Sunday you should also check *42021* *Check Your Lectionary Preparation*.

General Advent Resources

Advent C1

- [Jeremiah 33:14-16](#) - The righteous Branch and the Davidic covenant
- [Psalm 124:1-7](#) - Prayer for forgiveness, guidance, and deliverance: "To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul."
- [1 Thessalonians 5:9-11](#) - Paul's prayer for and commendation of the Thessalonians
- [Luke 21:25-28](#) - The coming of the Son of Man
 - [John 21:22-23](#) (Commentary)
 - [John 21:22-23](#) (Challenges at Christmas)
 - [Ascension: Mary \(White Walk in The Christmas Century\)](#)
 - [Brevier: Ten Advents to the Epiphany \(Luke 21:28\)](#) (Commentary, Fleming, Jr. in *The Christmas Century*)
 - [John Paul II in November \(Luke 21:25-28\)](#) (William W. Wines in *The Christmas Century*)

Advent C2

- [Malachi 3:1-4](#) - The sending of God's messenger to prepare the way
- [Luke 1:63-79](#) - Zachariah's song of praise: "In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us."
- [Philippians 3:1-11](#) - Paul's thanksgiving and prayer for the Philippians
- [Luke 3:1-6](#) - Introduction of John the Baptist in light of Isaiah 40:3-5
 - [John 3:1-6](#) (Commentary)

ADVENT – General Observations

- Gospel is Luke, but texts in reverse sequence:
21 (End) > 3 (John the Baptist) > 1 (Mary & Elizabeth)

ADVENT C1

- Luke 21.25-36
The coming of the Son of Man
- Jeremiah 33.14-16
"The days are surely coming..."
- 1 Thess 3.9-13
"...that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints."



Luke 21:5-8

⁵ When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said,

⁶ "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

⁷ They asked him, "Teacher, **when will this be**, and **what will be the sign** that this is about to take place?"

⁸ And he said, "Beware ...

Luke 21.25-36

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.
²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Luke 21.25-36

²⁷ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory.

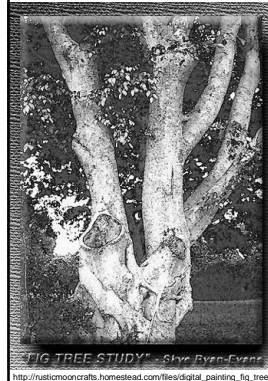
²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹ Then he told them a parable:



<http://ogfa.sunsite.dk/c/p-cornelt3.htm>

Luke 21.25-36



http://rusticmooncrafts.homestead.com/files/digital_painting_fig_tree_study_web.jpg

"Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near.

³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

Luke 21.25-36

³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place.

³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Luke 21.25-36

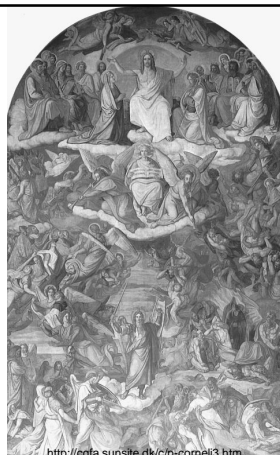
³⁴ "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth.

³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Luke 21.25-36

²⁷ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory.

²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."



<http://ogfa.sunsite.dk/c/p-cornelt3.htm>

Advent C1 - Observations

- What good does it do to know the times and the signs?
- What is the 'tone' of the text?
- Encouragement or threat or challenge?
- Jesus comes into the midst of the mess > and that's good news
- Black Friday >< Good Friday
- Be ready but Jesus/God is the one at work and prepares
- The Purple >< Blue contrast
- A test you can't study for...
- How are we 'fruit-bearing' in the midst of tribulations?
- Incentive to be a sign of hope
- It's as dangerous to count on the delay as it is to be unprepared for Jesus' coming

ADVENT C2

- **Luke 3.1-6**
Introduction of John the Baptist (Isaiah 40.3-5)
- **Malachi 3.1-4**
See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me...
- **Philippians 1.3-11**
... so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless...



Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

Luke 3:1-6

³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Advent C2 - Observations

- Why the history lesson?
- Why is the connection with Isaiah 40.3f highlighted?
- "All flesh shall see the salvation of God" When? How? Threat or promise?
- That type of person...
- Expectations and realities
- Justice becomes present in world
- Why listen to John? Why listen to you?
- What are the requirements to be a messenger?
- The Word of God that comes in the oddest places...
- Unexpectedness ... hindsight...
- Where is the wilderness? The place of renewal?
- Creation >< wilderness, chaos > new life...

ADVENT C3

- **Luke 3.7-18**
The message of John the Baptist and bearing fruits worthy of repentance
- **Zephaniah 3.14-20**
Do not fear, O Zion...
- **Philippians 4.4-7**
Rejoice in the Lord always...



Luke 3.7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him,

"You brood of vipers!
Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance.
Do not begin to say to yourselves,
'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.
⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees;
every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

Luke 3.7-18

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him,
"What then should we do?"

¹¹ In reply he said to them,
"Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise."

¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized,
and they asked him,
"Teacher, what should we do?"

¹³ He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you."

¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?"

He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

Luke 3.7-18

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation,
and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John,
whether he might be the Messiah,

¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying,
"I baptize you with water;
but one who is more powerful than I is coming;
I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals.
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand,
to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary;
but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations,
he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Advent C3 - Observations

- What good news? > For whom is this good news? Just for the oppressed? How for the oppressor? Liberation... How are we enslaved / freed?
- What is the relationship between the preaching of John and that of Jesus... and that of you?
- How specific can we be?
- As the people were filled with expectation... Hopes up?

ADVENT C4

- Luke 1.39-45 (46-55)
Mary visits Elizabeth
[and the Magnificat]

- Micah 5.2-5
But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...

- Hebrews 10.5-10
... we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ



<http://www.kfki.hu/~anthp/html/g/ghirland/domenico/7panel/09/visita.html>

Luke 1.39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting,
the child leaped in her womb.

And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit

⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry,

Luke 1.39-55

"Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

⁴³ And why has this happened to me,
that the mother of my Lord comes to me?

⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.

⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Luke 1.39-55

⁴⁶ And Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

Luke 1.39-55

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Advent C4 - Observations

- Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit... Why has this happened to me? (Does it happen to you?)
- How would Mary's song be heard by a Roman official? How is it heard in the USA/world today?
- For whom is this good news?
- Who speaks the word? Mary & Elizabeth
- Responsibility...
- Mary's 'honored' (?) role
- To be used by God...
- Unlikely allies...
- Alternative perspective (Mary's mother?)
- How do we 'magnify' Lord?