

Advent Texts – Year C

Upper Susquehanna Synod

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www.gettysburgsem.org/mhoffman/lectionary

LECTIONARY LINKS

Propers 18-25 Year B

- [Preaching Perspectives](#)

Advent C

- [York Conference Clergy Presentation](#)
- [Upper Susquehanna Synod Presentation](#)

Christmas C

Epiphany C

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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 liturgy resources.
- Clicking on the specific texts 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: [LIT22CreekToolsLectionaryPreparation](#)

General Advent Resources

Advent C1

- [Interim 33:14-16](#) - The righteous Branch and the Davidic covenant
- [Psalm 25:1-13](#) - Prayer for forgiveness, guidance, and deliverance: "To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul."
- [1 Thessalonians 3:9-13](#) - Paul's prayer for and commendation of the Thessalonians
 - [Luke 21:25-36](#) - The coming of the Son of Man
 - [Luke 21:25-36](#) (Textweek)
 - [Luke 21:25-36](#) (Schlitzgen at CrossMarks)
 - [Ascension Hymn](#) (Walter Wink in The Christian Century)
 - [Between Two Advents in the Interim](#) (Luke 21:25) (Crosken Pfandgraf, Jr. in The Christian Century)
 - [Take Heart to Yourself!](#) (Luke 21:22-34) (William Wainman in The Christian Century)

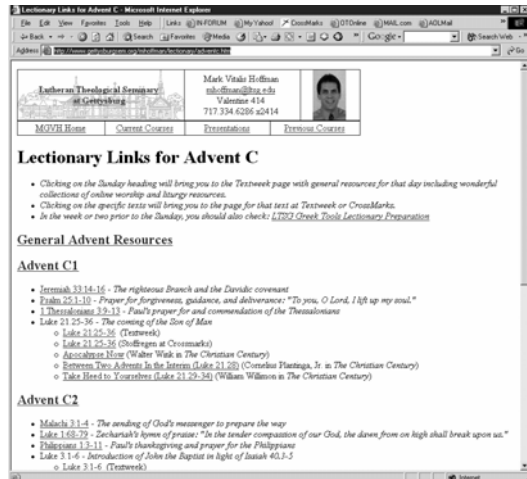
Advent C2

- [Malachi 3:1-4](#) - The sending of God's messenger to prepare the way
- [Luke 1:68-79](#) - Zechariah's hymn of praise: "In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us."
- [Philippines 12:1-11](#) - Paul's thanksgiving and prayer for the Philippians
- [Luke 3:1-6](#) - Introduction of John the Baptist in light of Isaiah 40:3-5
 - [Luke 3:1-6](#) (Textweek)

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- [General Advent Resources](#)
- [Advent C1](#)
- [Luke 21:25-36](#)

ADVENT – General Observations



ADVENT – General Observations

- Gospel is Luke, but texts in reverse sequence:
21 (End) > 3 (John the Baptist) > 1 (Mary & Elizabeth)
- Deliverance, restoration, thanksgiving, praise, rejoicing
- Repentance
- Faith has consequences
- OT Lessons: small > large
- Jesse tree: children tell story through symbols placed on tree

ADVENT – General Observations

- Ecumenical advent series
- Family night, intergenerational
- Soup and Word
- What about Advent?
- Light theme / lighthouse: coming, shining, sending out (Advent / Xmas / Epiphany)
- Blue placemat at meal; home rejoicing

ADVENT – General Observations

- Creche scene piece by piece
- Evening prayer w/ seasonal antiphons w/ Magnificat

ADVENT C1

- Luke 21.25-36
The coming of the Son of Man



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://egfa.sunsite.dk/c/p-comeli3.htm>

Luke 21.25-36



FIG TREE STUDY - Sky Eye-View
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.

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<http://egfa.sunsite.dk/c/p-comeli3.htm>

Advent C1 - Observations

- What good does it do to know the times and the signs?
- You feel more in control > Assurance knowing God is in control
- Time to prepare
- Set the right priorities
- Worries? Xmas preparations
- There is an end to the fears, problems
- Time is running out, there will be deadline

Advent C1 - Observations

- We have lived through an awful time ... there may be more
- Maintaining a sense of urgency
- Communal >< Individual endtime
- Transitioning in time from Christ the child > Christ the King
- Cycle of years / time
- Christ is coming back and this time not as a baby (look busy!)

Advent C1 - Observations

- Duck and cover OR stand up and raise your head
- Panic response OR don't worry?
- Non-anxious presence
- Pray that you escape?
- Trap – the worries of this life
- Nature of prayer – what does prayer do?
- Welcoming stance –
- Raising the standard for identification

Advent C1 - Observations

- Making eye contact / recognition > community living together
- Being prepared: Internal preparation not distracted by external calamities
- Kingdom of God among us
- This generation will not pass away...
- Note the benefit for the Xn community
- How does future expectation shape present reality?
- America's plan ??? >< God's plan
- Geico commercials: catastrophes ... I've got good news

ADVENT C2

- Luke 3:1-6
Introduction of John the Baptist (Isaiah 40:3-5)



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? Location, location, location – Except that the Word of God does not come to the choice/established locations
- Contrast between the uncertain timing of Luke 21 w/ the fixed timing of Luke 3
- Leveling: How can a message level things out
- New creation? Leveling is it destructive or constructive? > It depends on where you stand
- Downsizing / upsizing

Advent C2 - Observations

- “All flesh shall see the salvation of God”
When? How? Threat or promise? (post-Resurrection?)
- Faith and promise
- Law >< Gospel
- God’s intersection in our life
- Promise of homecoming
- Prelude to the Beatitudes
- Upside down logic – location, message, priorities
- Predictive or descriptive

Advent C2 - Observations

- For whom does the leveling help? Not to make our path easier but to clear God’s path to us
- Who is doing the leveling? God in Isaiah... and in Luke?
- What are the obstacles?
- Contrast with the Roman road building
- Level playing field – who is that good for? > fairer, justice, help the weaker
- Level farm field allowing even watering

Advent C2 - Observations

- Home field advantage?
- Ministry needs leveling
- Leveling removes barriers
- Leveling allows for better vision
- See better and be seen better (for better or worse)
- Is leveling accomplished in the process of repentance (able to have God look into our hearts)
- Repentance and connections, back to roots of what God is saying

Advent C2 - Observations

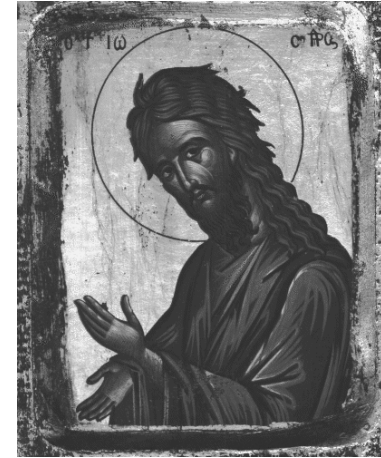
- History provides the vehicles for communication > but where is the ‘wilderness’ where the Word is spoken?
- Relationship based on the reorientation (leveling)
- Original purpose of roads for trade/military > God uses for own purposes > what roads are before us?
- Repentance has Law aspect > turning aside from destructive behaviors
- What about John? Priestly or not? Not Jerusalem but wilderness (irony with vs 1-2)
- Message consistent with the upside down logic
- Inviting others to see the salvation of God

Advent C2 - Observations

- What is the wilderness? A "timeout" place? Contrast to Roman?
- 1st Commandment connection, invitation
- Reconnect with God before reconnecting with each other
- Climb every mountain? The mountain comes to us?

ADVENT C3

- **Luke 3.7-18**
The message of John the Baptist and bearing fruits worthy of repentance



<http://www.ocf.org/OrthodoxPage/icons/data/Baptistis.gif>

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?
- It's God good Word
- Living God's dominion's values now
- Understanding an internal judgment / renewal / reorientation
- Parallel w/ Palm Sunday: stones crying out
- God in charge
- A new way of behaving / relating
- Preaching the same message

Advent C3 - Observations

- Reevaluation of life style
- Change from self-centeredness to other-centeredness
- VIPERS: as an image of an unrepentant condition, poison abounds, danger is to ones outside that brood
- JB as example of anti-establishment preacher
- Religious arrogance >< faithful obedience (again noting wilderness context)

Advent C3 - Observations

- Wilderness as a reminder that point is NOT come in and be like us BUT go out and experience new
- Wilderness wilderness OR Temple wilderness
- Location of confrontation of God/evil
- Not a place to go shopping!
- John's baptism >< baptism that is to come of Jesus
- Exhortations doable?

Advent C3 - Observations

- What should we do? (not particularly “What shall we do?”) What in the world...?
- Scarlett O’hara ... Wherever shall I go...?
- Is it just a return to security?
- A question of angst
- Leads to expectation > One to come
- JB as a transition between centralized worship and “go and tell” > need relationship
- JB as one who raises questions

Advent C3 - Observations

- Knowing who you are in relation to God children of Abraham? Stones? Unworthy to untie sandal?
- John knows his limitations: can only point them to the Messiah
- What picture of Messiah? Gather, burn? Usefulness?
- Even pretty strange people can be useful!
- Hum of expectation, searching then and now > pointing to the right one

Advent C3 - Observations

- Don’t confuse the messenger (JB) with the message (Jesus)
- Contrast to “Joan of Arcadia” type of approach (does have a ‘culture-crossing’ approach)
- Point is not job/task but the principal behind it
- Not using the power that is potentially available to you
- Justice, mercy, kindness are not new message

Advent C3 - Observations

- Mercy part coming about through God
- Merciful vipers? Wise as serpents?
- Instead of JB, how about going to Philipians passage!
- Cold-blooded creatures looking out for survival >< ???
- People, not JB, bring up issue of Messiah > sensing that something’s coming, something good?
- The timing is right for the Messiah

Advent C3 - Observations

- Getting to a baptismal theology
- Getting to the crux / element of permanence

ADVENT C4

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



<http://www.kiki.hu/~arhp/html/g/ghirland/domenico/7panel/09visita.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?
- What makes this time special? First? Strongest?
- Women supporting each other through a difficult pregnancy
- How could you? >>> Blessed are you!
- This Holy Spirit same HS as at ascension? Particular functions of HS?
- God is giving Elizabeth words to say

Advent C4 - Observations

- Holy Spirit theme...
- Qualitative / Quantitative aspects of HS
- Women!! as bearers of HS
- Upside down theology clearly expressed
- First expressed in the womb!
- Harriet Tubman / Sojourner Truth / Hannah / Mary / Elizabeth
- Pregnancy as Advent image, as vehicle of ministry – "She's expecting..."
- Redefining curse of Eve

Advent C4 - Observations

- God asks a woman to make God present in the world
- Blessing comes at a price
- Mother's love >< son's sacrifice
- Experience in community, out-of-town, perspective of faith
- Seeking confirmation, discernment w/in confirmation
- Elizabeth as mentor
- Elizabeth: priestly/older Mary: small town/younger

Advent C4 - Observations

- Why me, Lord to experience blessings?
- Zechariah and Elizabeth as paradigms of piety and yet childless
- God's power perfected in weakness
- Barriers being broken down
- Being blessed but not due to righteousness
- Contrast between worldly view and godly view
- With God, expecting the unexpected
- Cultural significance of pregnancy then
- Note tenses in the Magnificat

Advent C4 - Observations

- Future generations SHALL call me blessed... God HAS SHOWN...
- Pregnancy / Apocalyptic connections (NOT Rosemary's Baby)
- Sense of impending blessing
- Why? Why not? God's serendipity