

Advent Texts – Year C

York Conference Clergy

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LECTIONARY LINKS

- [Advent C](#)
- [York Conference Clergy 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: [LITURGICAL TOOLS: Lectionary Preparation](#)

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 \(Schlegel at CrossMarks\)](#)
 - [Ascension Hymn \(Walter Wink in The Christian Century\)](#)
 - [Between Two Advents in the Interim \(Luke 21:25\) \(Crosken Hastings, Jr. in The Christian Century\)](#)
 - [Take Heart to Yourself \(Luke 21:22-34\) \(William Watson in The Christian Century\)](#)

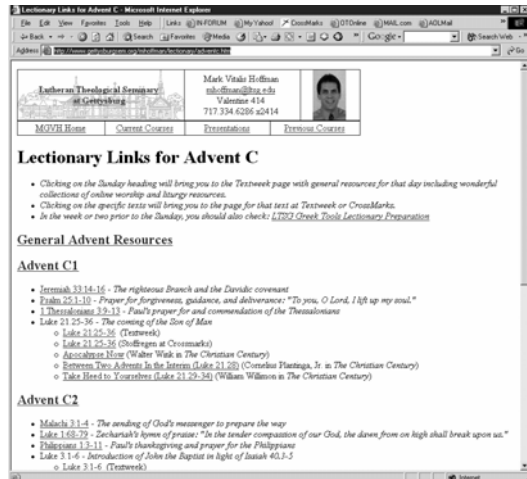
Advent C2

- [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 40:1-5](#)
 - [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 not in sequence
- Tension/relation between OT and Gospel
- OT texts are not the 'usual' suspects
- Flux of time: X the King > Son of Man > John the Baptist > Christmas !?
- First / Second Coming (He came, he comes, he will come again)
- Difficulty of boxing God into our times
- Rejoicing, warning, determination, reversals, hope, be ready, watch

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. 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:

Luke 21.25-36

"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.

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."

Advent C1 - Observations

- Signs... : Closer now than ever
- Nothing new
- End at any moment in death
- The crises and calamities are indicators that the dominion of God is near; a harvest field for God's redemptive work
- Stand up instead of duck!
- Praying for strength to stand
- Focusing on the anxiety will immobilize you and keep you from experiencing the end

Advent C1 - Observations

- Immobilized by worries of this life (Christmas preparations)
- Danger of responding to anxieties by resorting a theology of glory (go back and recapture Christ the king glory)
- Focusing on doing God's will
- Anticipation – fig tree > not being overwhelmed by what you see but non-anxious presence by what will be

Advent C1 - Observations

- Learn from the first coming to be ready for the next
- Hope
- See through what is here to what is coming
- God's intent...
- Identifying/naming the unknown provides confidence
- Finally, God wins

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? Grounding, ironic way that God's word detours around center stage > How would these be heard for a Roman in Rome or a Jew in the Judean wilderness? (insider/outsider view)
- Reassuring or threatening or awakening
- "All flesh shall see the salvation of God"
When? How?
- Light to the nations
- Contrast between expected order & God's order

Advent C2 - Observations

- A level playing field... for all flesh
- Salvation, save from sins, saved for...
- Salvation/healing... all flesh: no free till all free; in this together
- Redemption of all of creation
- Is God all about winning and losing? Or is there a possibility we can't even imagine?
- Parallel with experience of exile and restoration
- Impossibilities and absurdities

ADVENT C3

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

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?
- What is the blessing for bearing fruits of repentance? More than reward or escaping punishment
- Bearing the burden of God's chosen people?
- What should we do? > helpless, hopeless? Advice? Defensive?
- Help for broods of vipers?

ADVENT C4

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

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?
- Reversals – here in the case of an unexpected blessing
- Connections w/ Israel's history: Hannah, Sarah, Ps 146
- Canon within the canon
- Leaving town to get perspective!
- Recognition of God's presence in pregnant niece... it's a gift of the Holy Spirit

Advent C4 - Observations

- Recognition of two babies
- A womb with a view!
- Abnormal, unexpected
- Blessed are you who believe that what was spoken...
- God's messengers: angels, Elizabeth, Mary, John...