

Christmas Texts – Year C

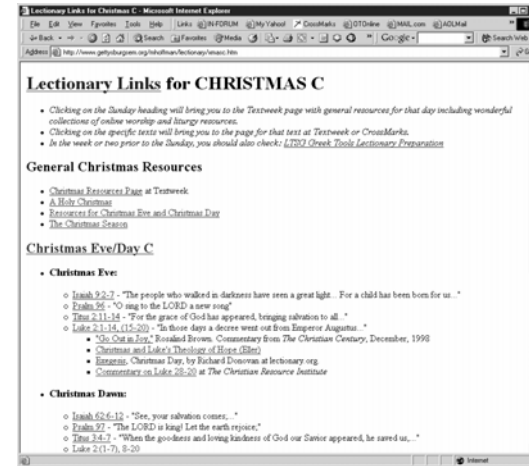
Preaching Perspectives - LTSG

20 November 2003

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Christmas – General Observations



Lectionary Links for CHRISTMAS 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: [LTSG Greek Tools Lectionary Preparation](#)

General Christmas Resources

- Christmas Resources Page at Textweek
- A Holy Christmas
- Resources for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
- The Christmas Season

Christmas Eve/Day C

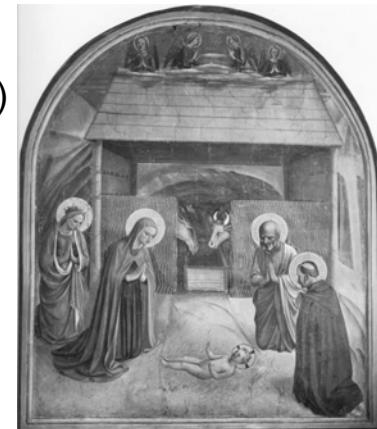
- Christmas Eve:**
 - Isaiah 9:2-7 - "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. For a child has been born for us."
 - Psalms 24 - "O sing to the LORD a new song"
 - John 1:1-14 - "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all."
 - Luke 2:1-14 (15-20) - "On those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus..."
 - "O Come Joy," Rosalind Brown, Commentary from The Christmas Century, December, 1998
 - Christmas and Luke's Theology of Hope (Blum)
 - Excerpt: Christmas Day, by Richard Doering at lectionary.org
 - Commentary on Luke 2:1-20 at The Christmas Resource Institute
- Christmas Dawn:**
 - Isaiah 62:6-12 - "See, your salvation comes..."
 - Psalms 22 - "The LORD is King! Let the earth rejoice."
 - John 1:6-7 - "When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us..."
 - Luke 2:1-7, 8-20

Christmas – General Observations

- Luke 2 and John 1 Gospel texts
- Interspersed stanzas of "From Heaven Above"
- Do the Gospel reading as a dramatic monologue
- Put the elements in the manger
- Children act out the Gospel reading
- Parade of Jesus around church

Christmas Eve

- Luke 2.1-14 (15-20)



<http://www.christusrex.org/www2/art/images/beato19.jpg>

Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

³ All went to their own towns to be registered.

⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

Luke 2:1-20

⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Luke 2:1-20

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see -- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

Luke 2:1-20

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Luke 2:1-20

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

Luke 2:1-20

¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

OUT BEHIND THE OLD HOTEL

Jonathan Rundman – *Sound Theology*

there's a convention in town
let's go out behind the old hotel
there were two young lovers
they went out behind the old hotel
them workers quit the graveyard shift
they went out behind the old hotel
built that new expressway
starting out behind the old hotel



Christmas Eve - Observations

- Why the history lesson?
- Fear and Joy
- Same old same old is not necessarily a bad thing
- "Tell Me Again About the Night You Were Born" (Jamie Lee Curtis)
- To whom does God come
- But it's so dirty...
- Birth story in *Book of God* by Walt Wangerin

Christmas Eve - Observations

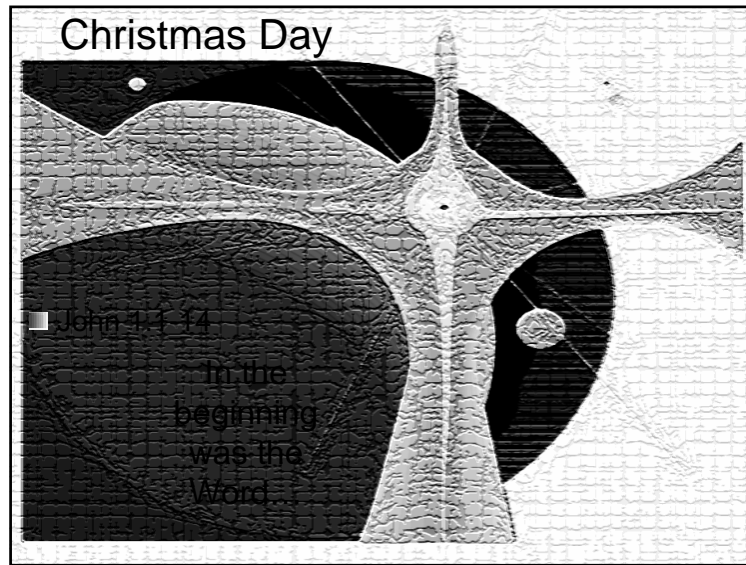
- Live nativity in church... baby Jesus needs a diaper change
- Simpler is better
- Five sensing: sight, smell, touch, sound, taste

SANCTUS

(to tune of *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of hosts, by all adored!
Heav'n and earth cannot contain
all the glory of your name.
Hail, hosanna, God most high!
Blest is He who now draws nigh
In the name of God the King!
Hallelujahs glad we sing:
Hail, hosanna! Praises true
be forever, Lord, to You!**

Christmas Day



John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

² He was in the beginning with God.

³ All things came into being through him,
and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being ⁴ in him was life,
and the life was the light of all people.

John 1:1-14

⁵ The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God,
whose name was John.

⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light,
so that all might believe through him.

⁸ He himself was not the light,
but he came to testify to the light.

John 1:1-14

⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone,
was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world,
and the world came into being through him;
yet the world did not know him.

¹¹ He came to what was his own,
and his own people did not accept him.

John 1:1-14

¹² But to all who received him,
who believed in his name,
he gave power to become children of God,

¹³ who were born, not of blood
or of the will of the flesh
or of the will of man,
but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.

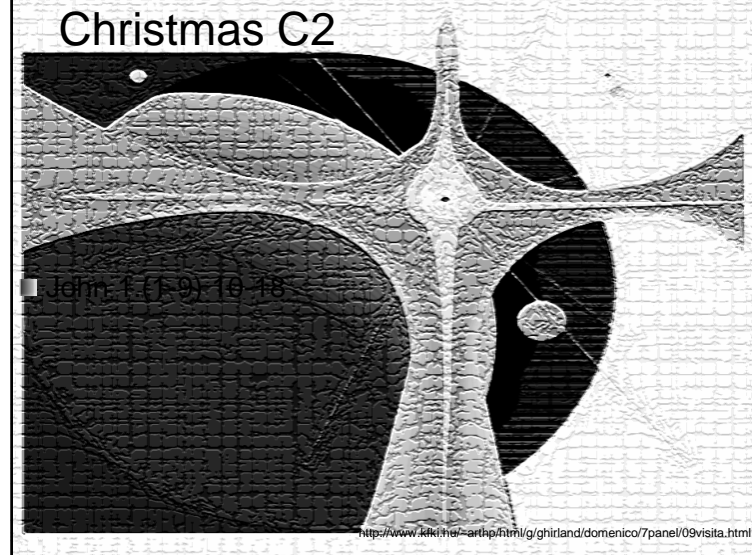
Christmas Day - Observations

- What have you seen?
- Emptiness of consumer culture >< Fullness of this experience
- Anxiety of the culture >< peace, confidence
- Birthday cake for Jesus, sing Happy Birthday?
- Christmas is about Incarnation
- Ways that we 'really' experience Christ
- OUR nativity (as many as believed...)
- Theme of adoption

Christmas C1 - Observations

- But they did not understand what he said to them... :
 - typical parent response to a near-teenager?
 - challenge to normal expectations about what God is doing in the world?
- His mother treasured all these things in her heart
 - What things are we to treasure up? What things not?

Christmas C2



John 1:10-18

- ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.
- ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.
- ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,
- ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:10-18

- ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.
- ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'")
- ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

John 1:10-18

¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses;
grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ No one has ever seen God.

It is God the only Son,
who is close to the Father's heart,
who has made him known.

Christmas C2 - Observations

- From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace
 - Emptiness of consumer culture >< Fullness of this experience
- Not seeing God but having God made known to us in Christ: What's the difference?