



DAILY BREAD  
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS  
ADVENT 1 —YEAR A

**INVOCATION**

L: In the name of the Father  
and of the Son +  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**G: Amen**

**PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 18**

**A: The mighty Lord is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

L: The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my  
deliverer;

**G: my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.**

L: He reached down from on high and took hold of  
me;

**G: he rescued me from my powerful enemy.**

L: He brought me out into a spacious place;

**G: he rescued me because he delighted in me.**

L: You, O LORD, keep my lamp burning;

**G: my God turns my darkness into light.**

L: You save the humble

**G: but bring low those whose eyes are  
haughty.**

L: You give me your shield of victory,

**G: and your right hand sustains me.**

**A: The mighty Lord is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us  
by your strength and save us from the threatening  
dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the  
Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and  
forever.

**READING & MEDITATION**

*see next page*

**PRAYER**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**A: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**VERSE OF THE DAY**

**A: He who testifies to these things says, "Yes,  
I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.  
(Revelation 22:20)**

**BENEDICTION**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ  
and the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

**A: Amen**

## READING AND MEDITATION:

**First Sunday in Advent:** Keep watch for the unexpected coming of Christ! Its unexpectedness, however, does not change its certainty (cf. Verse of the Day) or our prayer (cf. Prayer of the Day). Rather, the coming of Christ defines our present time because we know that he comes with unexpected judgment on the unbelieving world and unexpected grace for his people. We are filled with hope, with love, and with light. With anticipation in our hearts, we long for the fulfillment, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

**As you study this week, seek to find the connecting theme in all the lessons by using Luther’s Four Big Barber Questions to ponder and discuss each individual reading:**

1. *What is God saying to me in this lesson?*
2. *For what does this lesson lead me to give thanks?*
3. *What sins does this lesson lead me to confess?*
4. *For what does this lesson lead me to pray?*

## THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 24:36-44

So unexpected is the coming of Christ, that neither the Church, nor the angels, nor even the Son knows the day or time. Warnings are spoken; promises are made; signs are given. But the great day will come as unexpectedly as the deluge upon the unsuspecting world. Noah had preached; Noah had built; but the world was lost in the darkness of spiritual blindness. The certainty of Christ’s coming is never in question—only the timing. So Christ tells us to keep watch and to be ready, actions that define our present time.

*My takeaways:*

## FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 2:1-5

The first chapter of Isaiah does not paint a pretty picture of Judah and Jerusalem. “Ah, sinful nation, a people loaded with guilt, a brood of evildoers, children given to corruption” (Isaiah 1:4). But today’s lesson from chapter two shows a completely different picture. Here one sees the glorious destiny that awaits her. In the last days, in the midst of the unexpected judgment, God comes with unexpected grace for his people. The people of chapter one are changed forever. In the coming kingdom many will say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD.” In the coming kingdom, God will teach the

people his ways so that they walk in his paths. The coming of Christ defines our present time. We are at the doorstep of the impending age of the kingdom come. We join with Isaiah in living our lives in view of Christ’s unexpected coming: “Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD!”

*My takeaways:*

## SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 13:11-14

Understanding the present time means working and walking in love. We do this, Paul says, because the coming of our Lord is near. Notice the words he chooses: nearer, nearly, almost. The certainty of Christ’s coming is never in question, only his timing. Paul encourages us to let the nearness of the kingdom and the unexpected nature of its arrival define our present time. At the very end of the night, Venus rises above the horizon and reflects the brightness of the coming dawn, promising that the day is nearly here. Christ Jesus is our Morning Star, the harbinger of God’s coming kingdom. It’s almost here! We let that define our present time by living as citizens of the kingdom now. It is not easy to live as in daylight while it’s still dark. So Paul tells us to clothe ourselves with the only thing that will give us the power to do it: Jesus Christ our Lord.

*My takeaways:*

## SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 6:9-22; 7:11-23

Jesus told the story of the Flood to explain the unexpected coming of God in judgment and grace. Noah was a man who worked and walked in the light. But he lived in a world darkened by sin. The lost around him were deaf to his preaching and blind to the signs. The coming of God’s judgment was as unexpected as it was terrifying for them. But in the middle of all that judgment, God came in unexpected grace to rescue Noah and his family. As Noah worked and walked in the light, he heeded God’s warnings and trusted God’s promises. He watched; he waited; he prepared. And God made good on his promise: the same Flood that judged the world also safely carried Noah and his family until they came to rest on a world washed clean.

*My takeaways:*

**What major theme(s) connect(s) all the lessons?**