



DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
ADVENT 2 — YEAR C

INVOCATION

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

G: Amen

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 24

A: Let the Lord enter; he is the King of glory.

L: The earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it,

G: the world, and all who live in it;

L: for he founded it upon the seas

G: and established it upon the waters.

L: Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?

G: Who may stand in his holy place?

L: He who has clean hands and a pure heart,

G: he will receive blessing from God his Savior.

L: Lift up your heads, O you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,

G: that the King of glory may come in.

L: Who is this King of glory?

**G: The LORD strong and mighty,
the LORD mighty in battle.**

L: Lift up your heads, O you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,

G: that the King of glory may come in.

L: Who is he, this King of glory?

G: The LORD Almighty – he is the King of glory.

A: Let the Lord enter; he is the King of glory.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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: Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. All mankind will see God's salvation. (Luke 3:4, 6 cf. NIV)

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:

Second Sunday in Advent: The next two Sundays are a continuous reading from Luke 3. Anticipation builds as the account of John the *Baptist/Baptizer* marks fulfillment of yet another promise of the Lord, and signals that the Lord's salvation is at hand. "The messenger" proclaims impending fulfillment and commands preparation for the arrival of the greater "messenger of the covenant."

The judgment is coming; prepare the way for the Lord's salvation.

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: LUKE 3:1-6

The careful precision of Luke demands the preacher's journey back in time to see the historical setting of this account and thus acknowledge once again the providential hand of the Lord. "When the time had fully come," הַיְיָ הַגָּדוֹל the great forerunner, the promised messenger of preparation, John the Baptizer appeared. As Malachi predicted and as Paul encouraged, John was a faithful preacher of repentance by which the people of God were truly prepared in head and heart.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: MALACHI 3:1-4

הַיְיָ הַגָּדוֹל announces to suffering believers in the Old Testament God's special message of New Testament hope and comfort. The Lord promises a herald to proclaim his coming. Let hearts be prepared; the Desire of Nations is about to come to his temple with judgment and the refiner's fire. Though no one can stand before his righteousness, yet there is righteousness for the purified and acceptance for those who heed the messenger's call for preparation. Christ's first coming is then connected in prophetic perspective to His second and final coming on the Last Day. "The messenger of the covenant" is coming to eternally restore the righteousness of the Lord.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

In spite of fierce opposition to the both message and messenger, Paul expresses joy and complete confidence in the power of the Word. For the gospel in Word and sacrament comes to us to fill in the valleys of our depression with the fruit of his righteousness, leveling the mountains of our disobedience with the insight of his law, making a highway for our God straight to our hearts. Thus is prepared a clear, level and straight path from grace to glory when he comes again.

My takeaways:

**SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON:
1 CORINTHIANS 4:1-5**

The Lord's Apostle Paul lovingly instructs the divisive Corinthians on the importance of faithful messengers. Paul understands his role (and the role of his fellow "servants") as one in which he proclaims a message that God has given as a preparation for that time "when the Lord comes." Anticipating the coming judgment, the faithful preacher will prepare people with God's message so that they can receive "praise from God."

My takeaways:

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