



DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
ADVENT 3 — 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 130

**A: Remember your mercy, O Lord;
remember your mercy and love.**

L: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

G: O Lord, hear my voice.

L: Let your ears be attentive

G: to my cry for mercy.

L: If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins,

G: O Lord, who could stand?

L: But with you there is forgiveness;

G: therefore you are feared.

L: I wait for the LORD and in his Word I put my
hope.

**G: My soul waits for the Lord more than
watchmen wait for the morning.**

L: O Israel, put your hope in the LORD,

**G: for with the LORD is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.**

**A: Remember your mercy, O Lord;
remember your mercy and love.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come
with the good news of your mighty deliverance.
Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with
your light; 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: I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.
(Matthew 11:10 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:

Third Sunday in Advent: This Sunday, traditionally called *Gaudete*, (Rejoice) captures the heightening anticipation of the coming Savior. Each lesson reinforces the “good news” on which the Gospel lesson ends. Those who anticipate the arrival of the Christ rejoice, because the Lord and his deliverance is near. *Gaudeamus pariter*.

Rejoice at the Lord’s coming deliverance.

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 3:7-18

The Gospel lesson continues the account of John the Baptist. John minced no words in his message, neither to those hypocrites who did not want to listen to John’s call to repentance nor to those believers who heeded John’s call and desired to change their ways. So near is the Lord’s judgment that the ax man has already placed his blade on the trunk to line up his first swing. Yet with repentance comes good news: the winnowing fork in his hand does more than expose the chaff in the winds of judgment, it gathers the wheat into his barn. Rejoice!

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: ZEPHANIAH 3:14-17

What bright words in the midst of the darkness of Old Testament judgment! On this Sunday of rejoicing, God speaks words of most tender love. The promise that brings rejoicing points to the real source of our salvation: not our repentance, but our Savior God. The God of free and faithful love is with his people to save them, to take away their punishment, to turn back their enemy. See the unbelievable nature of our God. Though we need a message of repentance and coming judgment, God loves us anyway—more than that: he delights in us! And grace of grace, God rejoices over us. *Gaudeamus partier!* Let us rejoice together!

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

As we anticipate the coming deliverance, Paul says, “Rejoice always,” for “the Lord is near.” Let our Advent joy be expressed in prayer and thanksgiving that stem from God’s peace, given us in his transcendent gift of his Son as our Savior. So many parts of this sorted world seek to rob our joy in Christ. No wonder Paul told us twice: “I say it again, Rejoice!”

My takeaways:

**SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON:
NEHEMIAH 8:9-18**

As the returning exiles celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles for the first time since settling back into Jerusalem, they listened to the Lord's instruction. When the people heard the Law of God, they were filled with sorrow and dread. They wept at the Word of the Lord when they considered their lives. We, too, need to weep as we hear the Law of God, but God comes to us with a message able to make us rejoice even in the face of our sinful shortcomings, "Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

My takeaways:

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