



**DAILY BREAD  
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS  
ADVENT 4 — 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 85**

**A: I will hear what the Lord proclaims:  
peace to his people.**

L: You showed favor to your land, O LORD;

**G: you restored the fortunes of Jacob.**

L: You forgave the iniquity of your people

**G: and covered all their sins.**

L: Show us your unfailing love, O LORD,

**G: and grant us your salvation.**

L: I will listen to what God the LORD will say;

**G: he promises peace to his people, his  
saints.**

L: Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,

**G: that his glory may dwell in our land.**

L: Love and faithfulness meet together;

**G: righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

**A: I will hear what the Lord proclaims:  
peace to his people.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; 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: The virgin will be with child and will give  
birth to a son, and they will call him  
Immanuel. (Matthew 1:23)**

**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:

**Fourth Sunday in Advent:** Since Adam, all have come to life in the sinful image of the first parents. With that image comes death. But now comes one who will shepherd his people Israel, one born God and man, the Word made flesh to bring salvation to every generation.

The judgment is coming, yet the Lord's deliverance for every generation is at hand.

**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 1:39-55

The exclamation of Elizabeth, the leaping of baby John, and the song of Mary are all Spirit-wrought reactions to the imminent fulfillment of God's promised deliverance. We join Mary in marveling at the great things done by the Mighty One. The contrast of judgment for the wicked and deliverance for the faithful illustrates the depth of God's mercy to every generation in Christ.

*My takeaways:*

## FIRST LESSON: MICAH 5:2-5A

Verse 1 calls on the city to prepare for the onslaught of God's judgment upon rebellious Judah. Yet what follows is a message of deliverance for the faithful. A king will be born to bring peace. But not just a descendant of David. He will trace his roots to Abraham, Adam, indeed before the creation of the world. This same passage that pointed the Magi to Bethlehem and the Savior, points us to this God-man who will rule more than the clans of Judah. He will bring peace and justice to the ends of the earth.

*My takeaways:*

## SECOND LESSON: HEBREWS 10:5-10

The writer to the Hebrews explains the significance of God made flesh by stressing the sacrificial purpose for the Christ's body. Quoting Psalm 40:6-8, the Lord gives us confidence in willingness of the Christ to make the only true sacrifice once for all. He had to become man, so that by his body we might be made holy once and for all.

*My takeaways:*

**SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON:  
GENESIS 4:1, 2, 6-8, 25—5:5**

The full account of Cain and Abel has been selected for Easter 6 series A. It is included here to emphasize the death Adam's image brought. From the death of Abel to Christ's coming again, the bell tolls in every generation: "and he died." Yet one life, one death, and one resurrection changes all of that for eternity. In Adam every generation tastes death, yet in Christ all will be made alive.

*My takeaways:*

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

**SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON:  
REVELATION 12:1-6**

A great and wondrous sign appeared: God was born as man to work the salvation of all mankind. John's vision of Christmas is the only account in which we see things from God's point of view. How fiercely Satan fought to devour God's grace in Christ. Thanks be to God that Christmas spelled doom for Satan and blessing for all generations.

*My takeaways:*