

Advent Series Resources

WELS Arizona-California District Worship Committee
November 2015

The following midweek Advent sermon series suggestions were submitted by various pastors around the WELS Arizona-California District in the fall of 2015. They are offered here in no particular order with the intent that pastors in our district and synod will find useful suggestions for their own parishes' midweek Advent sermon series.

Songs for the Savior

The Song of Mary	Luke 1:46-55
The Song of Zechariah	Luke 1:68-79
The Song of Simeon	Luke 2:29-32
The Song of the Angels (for Christmas Eve)	Luke 2:14

Angelic Advent Announcements

To Zechariah	Luke 1:5-25
To Mary	Luke 1:26-38
To Joseph	Matthew 1:18-23
To the Shepherds (for Christmas Eve)	Luke 2:8-14

Christmas in the Wilderness

Proclaim Comfort in the Desert	Isaiah 40:1-8
Proclaim Victory from the Mountains	Isaiah 40:9-11
Proclaim Glory in the Heavens	Isaiah 40:18-22,25-26,28

We Hear the Christmas Angels

Their First Note	Luke 1:5-20
Their Verse	Luke 1:26-38
Their Chorus	Luke 2:8-12

Promises Kept

God Promises Peace	Genesis 3:15
God Promises Blessing	Genesis 12:1-6
God Promises a Throne	2 Samuel 7:1-16

An Angel Brings Good News

To Gideon: The Lord Is with You	Judges 6:1-2,6,11-17
To Balaam: Tell Them What the Lord Says	Numbers 22:21-35
To Samson's Parents: Your Child Brings Deliverance	Judges 13:1-20

Prepare the Way for the Lord

In Meditation	Psalms 119:9-16
With Prayer	Psalms 119:145-152
Through Suffering	Psalms 119:65-72

This series is based on Luther's threefold emphasis on meditatio, oratio, and tentatio.

Richard Gurgel's series of essays on these three emphases may provide useful material for this series.

Other appropriate eight-verse segments of Psalm 119 could be substituted for the ones listed here.

An Advent Meditation

A Reflective Meditation	Luke 1:67-79
A Responsive Meditation	Matthew 1:18-25
A Rejoicing Meditation	Luke 2:25-35

Go Tell It on the Mountain that Jesus Christ Is Born

The Mountain of God's Holiness	Hebrews 12:18-24
The Mountain of God's Messengers	Isaiah 40:9
The Mountain of God's Salvation	Mark 15:22,24

Unto Us a Child Is Born

Not Like Cain	Genesis 4:1-2
Not Like Moses	Exodus 2:1-6
Not Like John	Luke 1:76-79

Who Is This King of Glory?

He Is "I Am" (i.e. Christ's preexistence)	John 8:58
He Is the "Light"	John 8:12
He Is the "Good Shepherd"	John 10:11

This Is the Name by Which He Will Be Called

A Comforting Name: Immanuel	Isaiah 7:14
A Wonderful Name: Prince of Peace	Isaiah 9:2,6-7
A Glorious Name: The Lord Almighty	Isaiah 47:4

The Word Incarnate

In the Beginning	John 1:1-5
In the Flesh	John 1:10-14
In the Fullness of His Grace	John 1:16-18

The Preincarnate Christ: The Angel of the Lord in the Old Testament

An Appearance to Moses: The Rescuing God	Exodus 3:1-8
An Appearance to Israel: The Covenant God	Judges 2:1-5
An Appearance to Manoah: The God of Life	Judges 13:9-23

Sing We Now of Christmas

A Song for Those Who Wait: O Little Town of Bethlehem (CW #66, #67)	Micah 5:2
A Song for Those Who Fear: From Heaven Above to Earth I Come (CW #38)	Luke 2:8-20
A Song for Those Who Walk in Darkness: Silent Night, Holy Night (CW #60)	Isaiah 9:2

The Three "R's" of Advent

Readiness	Use First or Second Lesson from Advent 1
Repentance	Use First or Second Lesson from Advent 2
Rejoicing	Use First or Second Lesson from Advent 3

This series is ideal when the pastor is not involved in a preaching rotation. The pastor preaches on the Gospel for Sundays and the First or Second Lesson for midweek services.

The next five series include three texts for each service. The design for these series is that there is not a single sermon but three short devotional commentaries before each of the service's readings.

The Three Offices of Jesus

Prophet	Deut 18:15-19; Ac 3:18-26; Lk 4:14-21
Priest	Is 53:4-7; He 10:11-18 or 2:10-18; Jn 1:29-34
King	Jer 23:5-6; Rev 11:15-18; Jn 18:33-37

Salvation through Jesus

Salvation through Jesus—His Forerunner	Is 40:1-11; Ac 13:24-25; Jn 1:6-8,19-23
Salvation through Jesus—Foretold	Gen 3:15; Ac 8:26-39; Mt 1:18-23
Salvation through Jesus—Fulfilled	Is 61:1-3; Ac 3:17-26; Lk 24:36-49

Messengers of Preparation

The Lord	Gen 3:15; He 1:1-3; Mt 25:1-13
The Lord's Prophets	Ezk 33:7-11; Ac 21:7-11; Lk 2:21-40
The Lord's Angels	Gen 18:1-10a; Ac 12:1-11; Lk 1:5-20

Proclaimers of Peace

Peace for Sinners	Jer 33:6-9,12-16; Ro 5:1-2,6-11; Lk 7:36-50
Peace for All People	Is 9:1-7; Eph 2:14-22; Lk 2:25-32
Peace for Eternity	Is 65:17-25; Rev 21:1-7; Lk 19:28-38

Jesus Is the Perfect Present

The Present Wish List: Prophecy	Mic 5:2-5a; Ac 1:4-11; Lk 1:26-38
The Present Purchased: Price & Payment	Is 9:1-7; 2 Ti 2:3-5; Lk 2:25-32
The Present Packaged: Jesus Christ	Ps 49:5-11; Ga 4:4-7; Lk 2:8-12

What Is Christmas?

Christmas is Hope	Texts are not included with this suggestion.
Christmas is Peace	
Christmas is Love	
Christmas is Joy	
Christmas is Truth	
Christmas is Faith	
Christmas is Forever	

This series could either include all four Advent Sundays and all three Advent midweek services, or the series could include the three midweek Advent services, Christmas Eve & Day, and the First and Second Sundays after Christmas (or New Year's Eve and the First Sunday after Christmas).

Zoan to Zion: The New Testament in the Old Testament

A Deliverer: Our Deliverance with Christ	Ro 11:26-27 & Ps 78:12,43
A Priest: Our Privileged Priesthood with Christ	Ro 12:1-2 & (select an OT "sacrifice" text)
A Victor: Our Victory with Christ	Rev 2:10 & 2 Sa 7:8-16

Because the reference to Zoan is found in the Psalm 78 text, it may be more ideal to use this series when the pastor is not involved in a preaching rotation, so that the reference to Zoan is heard in the first sermon in the series and sets the background for the title of the series.

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, Our Creator!
Praise the Lord—No Exceptions!
Praise the Lord, Our Savior!

Psalms 148:1-6
Psalm 148:7-12
Psalm 148:13-14

What Will Jesus Find When He Comes?

Will Jesus Find Obedience?
Will Jesus Find Witnesses?
Will Jesus Find Elect?

Luke 6:43-46
Luke 9:25-27
Luke 18:7-8

The Path of New Life

Our Path—In the Shadow of the Coming One
Our Path—We Have Forgiveness without our Sacrifice
Our Path—With Christ We Go Forward in Faith

Hebrews 10:1-10
Hebrews 10:11-18
Hebrews 10:19-25

Behold, The King Comes!

The Star Proclaims a King
This King Is a Gift for All
This King Is the Glory of All

Numbers 24:17
Isaiah 49:6
Daniel 7:13-14

Remember!

God Remembers his Promise
Mary Remembers God's Word
Mary Remembers Christ's Mission

Luke 1:68-75
Luke 2:17-20
Luke 2:48-52

Behold the Son!

Christ Is the Son of Man
Christ Is the Son of David
Christ Is the Son of God

Matthew 8:18-20
Matthew 22:41-46
Mark 1:1(-3)

See the Glory of the Lord!

The Glory of the Lord Shines Through
The Whole World Will See the Glory of the Lord
The Glory of the Lord Destroys All Idols

Psalms 97:1-3
Psalm 97:4-6
Psalm 97:7-9

Amazing Pictures!

John Sees the Amazing Birth of Jesus
John Sees the Amazing Joy of All Believers
John Sees the Amazing Ministry of Christ's Church

Revelation 12:1-6
Revelation 12:10-12
Revelation 12:13-17

Jesus Is The One!

Jesus Is God's Greatest Warrior
Jesus Is the King above All Kings
Jesus Chooses Us

Psalms 45:1-5
Psalm 45:6-7
Psalm 45:8-12

By Faith, Jesus Is Our Brother, Like Us

Like Us, Jesus Is the Son of Abraham
Like Us, Jesus Is the Son of David
Like Us, Jesus Is the Son of Mary

Matthew 1:1-6
Matthew 1:7-11
Matthew 1:12-17

Isaiah's Announcements of Advent

Comfort, Comfort My People

Isaiah 40:1-5

The Elect Servant of God

Isaiah 42:1-4

The Lord Is My Salvation

Isaiah 12:2-6

The Surpassing Christ

Jesus and the Prophets

Hebrews 1:1-3

Jesus and the Angels

Hebrews 1:4-14

Jesus and Moses

Hebrews 3:1-6

Come, Lord Jesus

Lord Jesus, Come into my Heart

Psalms 62:1

Lord Jesus, Come into my Home

Zachariah 3:1

Lord Jesus, Come into my Church

Psalms 95:6-8

Lord Jesus, Come to Me!

Lord Jesus, Come to Me with Your Love

1 John 4:7-12

Lord Jesus, Come to Me with Your Truth

1 John 4:1-6

Lord Jesus, Come to Me with Your Power

1 John 4:17-19

The Kingdom of God

Where Is the Kingdom of God?

Luke 17:20-30

The Kingdom of God Produces

Matthew 3:1-11

The Kingdom of God Is Built on Christ

Matthew 7:24-27

Old Testament Knowledge

Old Testament Israel Knew about Judgment Day

Daniel 12:1-11

Old Testament Israel Knew about the New Testament

Jeremiah 23:5-6

Old Testament Israel Knew about the Holy Spirit

Isaiah 12:3-4

Zachariah's Advent

Zachariah Is Startled by the Word

Luke 1:17

Zachariah Follows the Word

Luke 1:63

Zachariah Preaches the Word

Luke 1:76

Jesus Comes

Jesus Comes to Him who Waits for Comfort

Luke 1:26,31-38

Jesus Comes to Him who Needs Enlightenment

Matthew 1:20-23

Jesus Comes to Him who Doubts with Proof

Luke 1:18-20

How Did Jesus Come to Us?

Jesus Came in Perfect Creation

John 1:3

Jesus Came with Bright Promise

John 1:4-5

Jesus Came Full of Grace and Truth

John 1:14

Advent Established

The Lord's House Is Established

Isaiah 2:1-5, especially v. 2

The Lord's Truth Is Established

Isaiah 2:1-5, especially v. 3

Our Rest Is Established

Isaiah 2:1-5, especially v. 4

The King Shall Come

The King to Come Shall Judge Revelation 19:1-4
The King to Come Shall Be Worshipped Revelation 19:5-9
The King to Come Shall Be Victorious Revelation 19:10-16

The House of the Lord

The House of the Lord Will Be Established Isaiah 2:1-5
The Lord's House Is Furnished with Forgiveness Isaiah 2:6-9
The Lord's House Is the Safest Place to Live Isaiah 2:10-22

The Day Is Surely Drawing Near

The Hot, Burning Day Is Coming Malachi 4:1-2
The Bright, Shining Day Is Coming Malachi 4:3-4
The Great, Dreadful Day Is Coming Malachi 4:5-6

The People of Advent

Elizabeth Learns Luke 1:25,42
Mary Rejoices Luke 1:46-55
Zechariah Warns Luke 1:68-79

Advent Words

Watch! Haggai 1:1-7
Prepare! Haggai 1:8-15
Rejoice! Haggai 2:1-7

Advent Worship

An Earthly Worship Place: The Tabernacle Exodus 35:21-26
An Earthly Worship Place: The Temple 2 Chronicles 6:12-16, 7:1-3
Our Eternal Worship Place: Heaven Revelation 21:22

Bring Me, Jesus!

Bring Me, Jesus, to a New Land Genesis 12:1
Bring Me, Jesus, to Be a Blessing Genesis 12:2
Bring Me, Jesus, to Be Protected Genesis 12:3

Advent with Zephaniah

Something Big Is about to Happen Zephaniah 1:7
The Lord Will Have the Last Word Zephaniah 2:3
The Lord Will Gather His People Zephaniah 3:14-15

When Jesus Comes Again

When Jesus Comes Again, It Will Be Glorious Matthew 25:31
When Jesus Comes Again, It Will Be "Division Time" Matthew 25:32-33
When Jesus Comes Again, It Will Be Permanent Matthew 25:34-46

Get Ready!

Zechariah, Get Ready for the Birth of Jesus! Luke 1:5-20
Mary, Get Ready for the Birth of Jesus! Luke 1:26-38
Joseph, Get Ready for the Birth of Jesus! Matthew 1:18-25

The following three series were suggested in past issues of Wisconsin Lutheran Quarterly and included complete text studies and outlines. Those who do not have the print copies of these specific editions of WLQ can still obtain these studies if they have WLQ in their Logos Bible Software libraries.

Isaiah Pictures the Coming Messiah

As a Lowly Shoot from the Stump of Jesse
As a Champion Bringing Deliverance to God's People
As a Light for the Gentiles

(see WLQ 84:3)

Isaiah 11:1-2

Isaiah 9:2-7

Isaiah 49:5-7

John the Baptist Proclaims the Savior

As the Lamb
As the Baptizer
As the Reaper

(see WLQ 83:3)

John 1:29

John 1:32-34

Luke 3:17

The Old Testament Gospel

The Gospel Adam and Eve Heard
The Gospel Abraham Believed
The Gospel Isaiah Preached

(see WLQ 81:3)

Genesis 3:15

Genesis 15:1-6

Isaiah 9:6-7