

The Advent Project



Hymnorum Adventorum
- *Scriptural readings & hymn suggestions
for a Seven-Week Advent
arranged by week*

www.theadventproject.org

KEY TO SOURCES CITED

CYP	<i>Come All You People</i> (Iona/Wild Goose, 1994)
EA	<i>Enemy of Apathy</i> (Iona/Wild Goose, 1990)
ELW	<i>Evangelical Lutheran Worship</i> (2006)
EOM 1 & 2	<i>Enriching Our Music</i> (2003, 2004)
GC	<i>Gather Comprehensive</i> (1994)
H	<i>The Hymnal</i> 1982 (Episcopal)
HV	<i>Holden Village, Singing Our Prayer</i> (2010)
HW	<i>Heaven Shall Not Wait</i> (Iona/Wild Goose, 1989)
IA	<i>Iona Abbey Music Book</i> (Iona/Wild Goose, 2003)
ILS	<i>Innkeepers & Light Sleepers</i> (Iona/Wild Goose, 1992)
LEVAS	<i>Lift Every Voice & Sing II</i> (1993)
LFB	<i>Love From Below</i> (Iona/Wild Goose, 1989)
MBW	<i>Moravian Book of Worship</i> (1995)
MH	<i>Mennonite Hymnal</i> (1960)
MHSO	<i>My Heart Sings Out</i> (2004)
MP	<i>Music for Prayer</i> (Taizé, 1998)
MT 1 & 2	<i>Music from Taizé Vols.1&2</i> (1981, 1984)
NHLC	<i>New Hymnal</i>
OAU	<i>There is One Among Us</i> (Iona/Wild Goose, 1999)
OTB	<i>One is the Body</i> (Iona/Wild Goose, 2002)
PH	<i>Presbyterian Hymnal</i> (1990)
PP	<i>Psalms of Patience, Protest & Praise</i> (Iona/Wild Goose, 1993)
UCC	<i>New Century Hymnal</i> (1997)
UM	<i>United Methodist Hymnal</i> (1989)
VF	<i>Voices Found</i> (2003)
W	<i>Worship</i> (3 rd Edition, 1986)
WLP	<i>Wonder, Love & Praise</i> (1997)

For a more comprehensive international index of hymns and to locate specific hymns in collections not listed in this resource, please see www.hymnary.org

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ADVENT 1

O Sapientia

Wisdom

All Years

Beloved, God's chosen
Maranatha – Alleluia II
Maranatha – Veni Domine
My Lord of Light
O great God and Lord of the earth
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Ostende nobis
A Song of Pilgrimage
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ELW 648
Music from Taizé Vol. 1, 78
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ELW 510
ELW 506
Iona: *Come All You People* (1995)

Year A

O Sapientia

Haggai 1:15b – 2:9

God will shake heaven and earth

In the second year of King Darius, in the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by the prophet Haggai, saying: Speak now to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people, and say, Who is left among you that saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Is it not in your sight as nothing? Yet now **take courage**,* O Zerubbabel, says the Lord; take courage, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; take courage, all you people of the land, says the Lord; work, for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts, according to **the promise that I made you when you came out of Egypt**. My spirit abides among you; do not fear. For thus says the Lord of hosts: Once again, in a little while, **I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land**; and I will **shake all the nations**, so that the treasure of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with splendor, says the Lord of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of hosts. The latter splendor of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Lord Christ, when first you came to earth
For the Healing of the Nations
O great God and Lord of the earth
Savior of the nations, come
When from bondage we are summoned

ELW-727; H-598; PH-7
HV-12a
OTB-94
ELW-263; H-54; PH-14; UM-214; W-372
WLP-754

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

The coming of our Lord Jesus

As to the **coming of our Lord Jesus Christ** and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. Let no one deceive you in any way; for **that day** will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you?

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as **the first fruits for salvation** through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. For this purpose he called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal **comfort** and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

* Highlighted phrases indicate themes that are significant to the expanded Advent season, and thus influence the hymns chosen.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Almighty God, your Word is cast
 Come, light of lights
 Comfort, comfort ye my people
 O day of God
 Word of God, come down on earth

ELW-516; H-588, 589
 MBH-59
 ELW-256; H-67; PH-3; VF-32
 H-600, 601; MBW-681; PH-452; UM-730
 ELW-510

Luke 20:27-38

Implications of the resurrection

Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to him and asked him a question, 'Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless; then the second and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. Finally the woman also died. In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.'

Jesus said to them, 'Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in **the resurrection from the dead** neither marry nor are given in marriage. Indeed they cannot die any more, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in **the story about the bush**, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive.'

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

[The] God of Abraham praise
 O happy day when we shall stand
 Rejoice, rejoice believers
 Stir up your power

ELW-831; GC-544; H-401; MBW-468; PH-488;
 UM-116
 ELW-441
 ELW-244; H-68; MBW-256; PH-15
 HV-39

Year B

O Sapientia

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Choose now whom to serve

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac; 'Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, **choose this day whom you will serve**, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.'

Then the people answered, 'Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

But Joshua said to the people, 'You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.' And the people said to Joshua, 'No, we will serve the Lord!' Then Joshua said to the people, 'You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.' And they said, 'We are witnesses.' He said, 'Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and **incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.**' The people said to Joshua, 'The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.' So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Lord, I have made thy word

MH-317

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*Meeting the Lord at his coming*

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until **the coming of the Lord**, will by no means precede those who have died. **For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven,** and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Lord Christ when first you came to earth
The King of glory comes
The King shall come when morning dawns
When the king shall come again
Enter in the realm of God

ELW-727; H-598
GC-486; MHSO-90; W-501
ELW-260; GC-320; H-73; MBW-257
GC-327; W-355
UCC-615

Matthew 25:1-13*Wise and foolish virgins at the wedding*

'Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, **"Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him."** Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." **Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.**

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Christ is the King
Rejoice, rejoice believers
Sleepers wake
(Wake, Awake)
Come, my way, my truth, my life

H-614; GC-481
ELW-244; H-68; MBW-256; PH-15
ELW-436; H-61; MH-188; W-371)
MBW-258
ELW-816; GC-577; H-487; UM-164

Year C

O Sapientia

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17

David's lineage through Jesse

Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working. See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. Now wash and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. When he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then, go and uncover his feet and lie down; and he will tell you what to do." She said to her, "All that you tell me I will do."

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came together, the LORD made her conceive, and she bore a son. Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin; and may his name be renowned in Israel! He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him." Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse. The women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Hail to the Lord's Anointed
All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name
O Come, O Come Emmanuel

ELW 311; H-82, 616; MH-185
ELW-634; H-450, 451; PH-142, 143; W'75-10
ELW-257; GC-317; H-56; PH-9; W'75-195

Hebrews 9:24-28

Christ will appear to save those who are waiting

Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

The King of Glory comes
The King shall come when morning dawns
Praise to the holiest in the heights

MHSO-90; GC-486; SF-2091; W-501
ELW-260; GC-320; H-73; MBW-257; W'75-269
H-445, 446

Mark 12:38-44*Judgment on hypocrisy and the rich*

Teaching in the temple, Jesus said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Where cross the crowded ways of life
Lord Christ when first you came to earth
O God of earth and altar

H-609; ELW-719
ELW-727; H-598; PH-7
H-591; P-291



ADVENT 2

O Adonai

Lord

All Years

All earth is waiting/hopeful
Each winter as the year grows older
[The] God of Abraham praise
Joy to the world

Lord our God with praise we come
O day of peace
O great God and Lord of the earth
Praise to the living God

ELW-266; UCC-121; UM-210

ELW-252

ELW-831; GC-544; H-401; MBW-468; PH-488; UM-116

ELW-267; GC-343; H-100; MBW-294; PH-40; UM-246

Suggested tune: Richmond

ELW- 730

ELW-711; PH-450; UM-72

OTB-94

H-372; W(1975)-230

Year A

O Adonai

Isaiah 65:17-25

God to create new heaven and new earth

For I am about to create **new heavens**
and a new earth;
 the former things shall not be remembered
 or come to mind.
 But be glad and rejoice for ever
 in what I am creating;
 for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,
 and its people as a delight.
 I will **rejoice in Jerusalem,**
 and delight in my people;
 no more shall the sound of weeping
 be heard in it,
 or the cry of distress.
 No more shall there be in it
 an infant that lives but a few days,
 or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;
 for one who dies at a hundred years
 will be considered a youth,
 and one who falls short of a hundred
 will be considered accursed.

They shall build houses and inhabit them;
 they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
 They shall not build and another inhabit;
 they shall not plant and another eat;
 for like the days of a tree
 shall the days of my people be,
 and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their
 hands.
 They shall not labour in vain,
 or bear children for calamity;
 for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—
 and their descendants as well.
 Before they call I will answer,
 while they are yet speaking I will hear.
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;
 but the serpent—its food shall be dust!
 They shall not hurt or destroy
 on all my holy mountain,
 says the Lord.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

All earth is hopeful (Spanish)
 For the Healing of Creation
 God the sculptor of the mountains
 Isaiah the prophet foretold
 Let the whole creation cry

ELW-266; UM-210
 HV-12b (*litany with cantor*)
 ELW-736; WLP-746, 747 (*Plainsong*)
 WLP-723
 ELW-876

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13*Condemn idlers, commend workers*

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with **toil and labor we worked night and day**, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, **do not be weary in doing what is right.**

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

God, you have given us power	H-584
Let us talents and tongues employ	ELW-674
O Lord, how shall I meet you	ELW-241
Through our lives and through our prayers	HW-121 (<i>prayer response</i>)
We are called	ELW-721; GC-718

Luke 21:5-19*Endtime/false messiahs/persecution*

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, 'As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.'

They asked him, 'Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the **sign** that this is about to take place?' And he said, 'Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and, "The time is near!" Do not go after them.

'When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.' Then he said to them, '**Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.**

'But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and **persecute you**; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

O God of earth and altar	H-591; PH-291
O God of every nation	ELW-713; H-607; PH-289
Signs and endings all around us	WLP-721

Year B

O Adonai

Judges 4:1-7

Deborah prophesies Sisera's fate

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly for twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgement. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, 'The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, "Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand."'

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Arise Deborah

VF-17

Not all that easy to sing, but one of the few songs actually about the prophet Deborah!! Perhaps a choir piece, or the refrain could be taught to the congregation while the choir or cantor could sing the verses.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Concerning the coming of the Lord's Day

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that **the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.** When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since **we belong to the day,** let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Joy to the world

ELW-267; GC-343; H-100; MBW-294; PH-40; UM-246

(Consider using the alternate tune, Richmond, found in the 1940 Episcopal Hymnal, #319)

Matthew 25:14-30*Parable of the talents*

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Let us talents and tongues employ
What does the Lord require

ELW-674; UCC-347
H-605; UM-441

Year CO Adonai

1 Samuel 1:4-20

Barren Hannah bears Samuel

On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters; but to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the LORD had closed her womb. Her rival used to provoke her severely, to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb. So it went on year by year; as often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?"

After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the LORD. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD, and wept bitterly. She made this vow: "O LORD of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head."

As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she was drunk. So Eli said to her, "How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine." But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD. Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time." Then Eli answered, "Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him." And she said, "Let your servant find favor in your sight." Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance was sad no longer.

They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the LORD."

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

I have borrowed him of the Lord,
The Song of Hannah
My heart is overflowing

VF-149
EOM 1-76, 77
UCC-15

Daniel 12:1-3*Those who sleep shall awake*

The Lord spoke to Daniel in a vision and said, "At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Oh, happy day when we shall stand

ELW-441

Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25 *What to do as the Day approaches*

Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, "he sat down at the right hand of God," and since then has been waiting "until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet." For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. [And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds," he also adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more. "Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.] Therefore, my friends, since **we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus**, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with **our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience** and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. **And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.**

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

O Lord, how shall I meet you
Before thy throne O God we kneel
O heavenly Word

ELW-241
H-575
H-63, 64

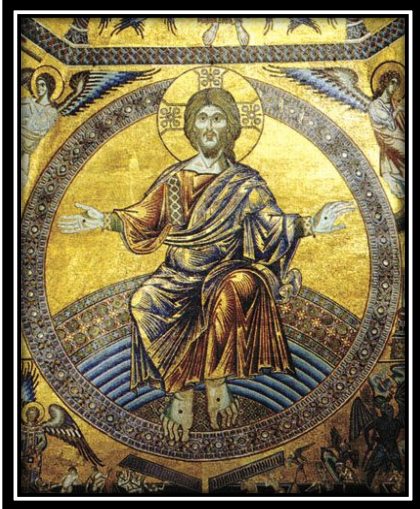
Mark 13:1-8*Birthpangs, signs of consummation*

As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down." When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. **For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birthpangs.**"

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Signs of ending all around us
Hills of the north rejoice
Thy kingdom come on bended knee

WLP-721
W-365
H-615



ADVENT 3

O Rex Gentium

Ruler of the nations

All Years

Christ is the King
Come thou long-expected Jesus
He became poor
Jesus Es Mi Rey Soberano
(*Our King and our sovereign, Lord Jesus*)
Show your face
Soon and very soon

H-614; GC-481
ELW-254; GC-323; H-66; MBW-262; UM-196
ILS-13; LFB-109
PH-157; UM-180
EA-77
ELW-439; GC-770; LEVAS-14; UM-7

Year A

O Rex Gentium

Jeremiah 23:1-6

God will raise up Davidic savior

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

The **days are surely coming**, says the Lord, when **I will raise up for David a righteous Branch**, and he shall **reign as king** and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Blessed be the God of Israel
Hail to the Lord's anointed
Soon and very soon

ELW-250, 552; WLP-889
ELW-311; H-616; MH-185
ELW-439; GC-770; LEVAS-14; UM-706

Colossians 1:11-20

Transferred into Christ's kingdom

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be **prepared to endure everything with patience**, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the **firstborn of all creation**; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace **through the blood of his cross**.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Lord Christ when first you came to earth
Lord enthroned in heavenly splendor
We know that Christ is raised

ELW-727; H-598
ELW-475; H-307
ELW-449; H-296

Luke 23:33-43***Thief to be in Paradise today***

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.']] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, **'This is the King of the Jews.'**

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, **'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.'** He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Jesus, remember me (Taize)
Lord Christ when first you came to earth
Remember your servant, Lord
To mock your reign

ELW-616; MP-11
H-598; ELW-727
H-560
H-170

Year B

O Rex Gentium

Ezekiel 34:11-16

God to shepherd people in justice

For thus says the Lord God: **I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out.** As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. **I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.**

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

The Lord will come and not be slow
O Savior rend the heavens
Praise our great and gracious Lord

H-462
MH-175
H-393

Ephesians 1:15-23

Christ reigns over all things

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. **God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.** And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Jesus shall reign
O God, we praise thee
Rejoice, for Christ is King

ELW-434; GC-482; H-544; MBW-404; UM-157
H-364
ELW-430; GC-487; UM-715

Matthew 25:31-46*When the Son of Man comes in glory*

'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Fling wide the door
He became poor
The King of glory comes
Jesus comes with clouds descending
Lo, he comes with clouds descending

ELW-259
ILS-13; LFB-109
GC-486; MHSO-90; W-501
MBW-259; PH-6
ELW-435; H-57, 58; UM-718)

Year C

O Rex Gentium

2 Samuel 23:1-7

Anointed David's last words

These are the last words of David:
The oracle of David, son of Jesse,
the oracle of the man whom God exalted,
the anointed of the God of Jacob,
the favorite of the Strong One of Israel:

*The spirit of the LORD speaks through me,
his word is upon my tongue.
The God of Israel has spoken,
the Rock of Israel has said to me:
One who rules over people justly,
ruling in the fear of God,
is like the light of morning,*

*like the sun rising on a cloudless morning,
gleaming from the rain on the grassy land.
Is not my house like this with God?
For he has made with me an everlasting covenant,
ordered in all things and secure.
Will he not cause to prosper
all my help and my desire?
But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown away;
for they cannot be picked up with the hand;
to touch them one uses an iron bar
or the shaft of a spear.
And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot.*

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Prepare the royal highway
Prepare the way, O Zion
Lord Christ when first you came to earth
My Lord, what a morning
Third Song of Isaiah: Arise shine

ELW-264
H-65
H-598; ELW-727
ELW-438; PH-449
WLP-883

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 *One like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven*

As I watched,
thrones were set in place,
and an Ancient One took his throne,
his clothing was white as snow,
and the hair of his head like pure wool;
his throne was fiery flames,
and its wheels were burning fire.
A stream of fire issued
and flowed out from his presence.
A thousand thousands served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.
The court sat in judgment,
and the books were opened.

As I watched in the night visions,
I saw one like a human being
coming with the clouds of heaven.
And he came to the Ancient One
and was presented before him.
To him was given dominion
and glory and kingship,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that shall not pass away,
and his kingship is one
that shall never be destroyed.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

O worship the King all glorious above
Judge eternal throned in splendor

H-388
H-596

Revelation 1:4b-8*Glorified Christ, Alpha and Omega*

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood,
and **made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father,**
to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him, even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Draw nigh and take the body of the Lord
He is King of Kings
Let all mortal flesh keep silence
A Song to the Lamb
You are the God of new beginnings

H-327, 328
PH-153; W-498
ELW-490; GC-540; H-324; PH-5
H-S261, S266; WLP-89
OTB-120

John 18:33-37*Pilate and the kingship of Jesus*

Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, **"My kingdom is not from this world.** If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Blessed be the king whose coming
God omnipotent King eternal
Hail to the Lord's Anointed
He became poor

H-74
W-563
ELW 311; H-82, 616; MH-185
ILS-13; LFB-109



ADVENT 4

O Radix Jesse

Root of Jesse

All Years

Blessed be the God of Israel
Lord enthroned in heavenly splendor

ELW-250; WLP-889
ELW-475; H-307

Year A

O Radix Jesse

Isaiah 2:1-5

Nations not to learn war anymore

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.'
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Christ is the world's true light
Come now, O prince of peace
The day of the Lord
Dona nobis pacem, Domine

H-342
ELW-247; SF-2232; WLP-795
HW-37
HV-9; MT2-26

Romans 13:11-14

Salvation near, night far gone

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

I want to walk as a child of the light
Kindle a flame to lighten the dark
Wake, Awake (Sleepers wake)

ELW-815; GC-507; H-490; UM-206
HW-117
ELW-436; H-61; MBW-258; MH-188; PH-17; W-371

Matthew 24:36-44*Son of Man coming unexpectedly*

'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. **Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.** But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must **be ready**, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding
O Lord, how shall I meet you
Thy kingdom come, O God
Wake, Awake (Sleepers wake)

ELW-246; H-59
ELW-241
H-613
ELW-436; H-61; MBW-258; MH-188; PH-17; W-371

Year B

O Radix Jesse

Isaiah 64:1-9

Prayer for God's judgment to come

O that you would tear open the heavens
and come down,
so that the mountains
would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds
that we did not expect,
you came down,
the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us
into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

All who love and serve your city
Creator of the stars of night
God is working his purpose out
God, you have given us power
Isaiah the prophet foretold
Lo, he comes with clouds descending
(*Jesus comes with clouds descending*)

ELW-724; H-570, 571; PH-413; UM-433
ELW-245; GC-337; H-60; MH-177; PH-4; UM-692
H-534
H-584
WLP-723
ELW-435; H-57, 58; UM-718
MBW-259; PH-6

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 *Presented blameless in the Day of our Lord Jesus Christ*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— **so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.** God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Blest are the pure in heart
God of grace and God of glory
O heavenly Word, eternal Light
O holy city, seen of John

H-656
ELW-705; H-594; MBW-751; PH-420; UM-577
H-63
GC-767; H-582, 583; UM-726

Mark 13:24-37*Be ready; you don't know the Day*

'But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. **Therefore, keep awake**—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

The day of the Lord
Hail to the Lord's Anointed
O day of God draw nigh
People look east

HW-37
ELW-311; H-616; UM-203
H-600, 601; MBW-681; UM-730
ELW-248; GC-318; PH-12; UM-202; WLP-724

Year C

O Radix Jesse

Jeremiah 33:14-16*Righteous heir of David coming*

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

O day of God draw nigh
This is the day the Lord hath made
Wait for the Lord

H-600, 601; MBW-681; UM-730
H-50
ELW-262; GC-332; MT-II-78

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13*Presented blameless in the Day of our Lord Jesus Christ*

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

God of grace and God of glory
Soon and very soon
View the present through the promise

H-594, 595
LEVAS 14; ELW-439
NHLC-17

Luke 21:25-36*Christ coming in power and glory*

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

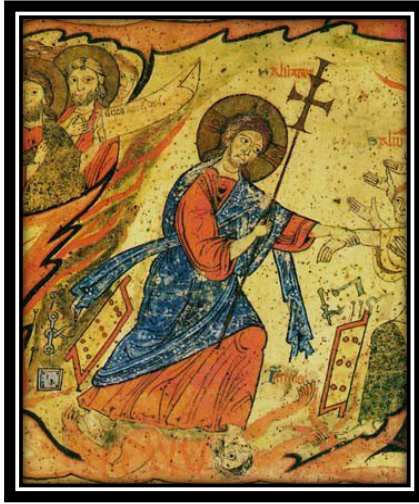
Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Lo, he comes with clouds descending
(*Jesus comes with clouds descending*)
Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendor
Many and great

ELW-435; H-57, 58; UM-718
MBW-259; PH-6
ELW-475; H-307
ELW-837; H-385



ADVENT 5

O Clavis David

Key of David

All Years

Come now, O Prince of peace
The great Creator of the worlds
Jesus came adored by angels
O Savior rend the heavens

ELW-247; SF-2232; WLP-795
H-489
H-454
MH-175

Year A

O Clavis David

Isaiah 11:1-10

Vision of God's Holy Mountain

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth
with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips
he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
The wolf shall live with the lamb,

the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play
over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand
on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full
of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.
On that day the root of Jesse
shall stand as a signal to the peoples;
the nations shall inquire of him,
and his dwelling shall be glorious.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Each winter as the year grows older
He came down
Isaiah the prophet foretold
O day of peace

ELW-252; W'75-68
ELW-253
WLP-723
ELW-711; H-597; PH-450; UM-729

Romans 15:4-13

Root of Jesse to rule Gentiles

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

*'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name';*

and again he says,

*'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people';
and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,*

and let all the peoples praise him';
 and again Isaiah says,
'The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.'

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Laudate omnes gentes
 O Lord, now let your servant
 Rejoice, ye pure in heart!

MT1-12; WLP-830
 ELW-313
 ELW-873; H-556

Matthew 3:1-12

John the Baptist: the kingdom of heaven is near!

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight."

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
 Prepare the way, O Zion (*Prepare the royal highway*)
 There's a voice in the wilderness crying
 What is that crying at Jordan

ELW-249; GC-321; H-76; PH-10
 H-65; ELW-264; PH-13
 ELW-255
 H-69

Year B

O Clavis David

Isaiah 40:1-11

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'

And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,

O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,

lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,

'Here is your God!'

See, the Lord God comes with might,

and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs in his arms,

and carry them in his bosom,

and gently lead the mother sheep.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Comfort, comfort ye my people

O God of every nation

A Song to the Lamb

This is the feast of victory for our God

ELW-256; H-67; PH-3; VF-32; W'75-60

ELW-713; H-607; UM-435

WLP-894

ELW-various; GC-429; H-417; UM-638

2 Peter 3:8-15a*Hastening the coming Day of God*

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with **the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.** The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. **But the day of the Lord will come like a thief,** and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, **while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace,** without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

The day of the Lord
O day of God draw nigh

HW-37
H-600, 601; MBW-681; UM-730

Mark 1:1-8*Mission of John the Baptist re: Kingdom*

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

**'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight."'**

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, **'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me;** I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

On Jordan's bank
Prepare the way of the Lord
Prepare the way, O Zion
Prepare the way (canon)
Prepare ye the way
The voice of God goes out

ELW-249; GC-321; H-76; PH-10
EA-10; UM-207)
H-65; PH-13
MT-II-50; GC-336
MHSO-63
W-358

Year C

O Clavis David

Malachi 3:1-4*Day of refiner's fire and fuller's soap*

See, **I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me,** and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- **indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.** But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, **until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness.** Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Before thy throne O God we kneel
Blest are the pure in heart
Prepare the way O Zion

H-574
H-656
H-65

Philippians 1:3-11*Rejoice! The Lord is near*

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. **I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.** It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced **the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.**

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Come my way, my truth, my life
Rejoice, rejoice believers
Seek ye first the kingdom of God

H-487; ELW-816
H-68; ELW-244
GC-615; H-711

Luke 3:1-6*John the Baptist prophesies coming salvation*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, **proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins**, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

**Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.**

Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

**Hark a thrilling voice is sounding
Lift up your heads
Prepare the way**

ELW-246; H-59
H-436; UCC-117; W-463
MH50-63



ADVENT 6

O Oriens

Light from the east

All Years

As the dark awaits the dawn
Christ is the world's true light
Christ be our light
Drawn to the light
I want to walk as a child of the light
Kindle a flame to lighten the dark
Light dawns on a weary world
The Lord is my Light
Lord of life, we come to you
Lord of light
Praise the one who breaks the darkness
Send out your light
Stir up your power
Thy kingdom come, O Lord
Veni Lumen Cordium I & II
With you, O Lord

ELW-261
H-542
ELW-715
ELW-593
ELW-815; GC-507; H-490; UM-206
HW-117
ELW-726
MT2-73
OAU-53
ELW-688
ELW-843
CYP-48
HV-39
H-613
MP #44-45
MP #31)

Year A

O Oriens

Isaiah 35:1-10

Desert will rejoice and blossom

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

The desert shall rejoice
Hills of the north, rejoice
O for a thousand tongues to sing
Thine arm, O Lord

WLP-722
W-365
ELW-886; H-493
H-567

James 5:7-10

The judge is standing at the doors!

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Fling wide the door
Judge eternal, throned in splendor
O Lord, how shall I meet you
Prepare the way, O Zion
Prepare the royal highway

ELW-259
H-596
ELW-241
H-65; PH-13
ELW264

Matthew 11:2-11***John the Baptist to Jesus: are you the Messiah? Yes.***

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Come, thou long expected Jesus
Father eternal, ruler of creation
O come, divine Messiah
Seek ye first the kingdom of God

ELW-254; GC-254; H-66; MBW-262; UM-196
H-573
GC-333
GC-615; H-711

Year B

O Oriens

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Proclaim the year of the Lord's favor

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the
oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Praise the one who breaks the darkness
The voice of God goes out
We are called

ELW-843
W-358
ELW-720; GC-718

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 *Rejoice, be blameless in the Day of our Lord Jesus Christ*

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; **hold fast to what is good**; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself **sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.** The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Blest are the pure in heart
O heavenly Word, eternal Light

H-656
H-63

John 1:6-8, 19-28*John the Baptist points to the Messiah*

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, **"Make straight the way of the Lord,"**' as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

On Jordan's bank
Prepare the way of the Lord
Prepare the way, O Zion
Prepare the way (canon)
Prepare ye the way
There's a voice in the wilderness crying
What is that crying at Jordan

ELW-249; GC-321; H-76; PH-10
EA-10; UM-207
H-65; PH-13
MP2-50; GC-336)
MHSO-63
H-75
H-69

Year C

O Oriens

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Rejoice! God's vengeance averted

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away the judgments against
you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

The LORD, your God, is in your midst,

a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,

he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing

as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,

so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors

at that time.

And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise

and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home,

at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised

among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes

before your eyes, says the LORD.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Lift up your heads

My life flows on in endless song

Prepare the Royal Highway

Prepare the way O Zion

Sing ye faithful, sing with gladness

H-436; W-363

ELW-763; GC-603

ELW-264

H-65

H-492

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice! The Lord is near

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Joy to the world

Rejoice, rejoice believers

ELW-254; H-66; W-364

ELW-267; H-100 (Suggested tune: Richmond)

ELW-244; H-68

Luke 3:7-18*John the Baptist; people filled with expectation*

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? **Bear fruits worthy of repentance.** Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, **"What then should we do?"** In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.**"

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Christ is the world's true light
Creator of the earth and skies
Herald, sound the note of judgment
Prepare the way of the Lord

H-542
H-148
H-70
MH50-61; W-369



ADVENT 7

O Emmanuel

God with us

All Years

Glorious the day when Christ was born
Savior of the nations, come
Unexpected and mysterious

H-452
ELW-263; H-54; PH-14; UM-214; W-372
ELW-258

Year A

O Emmanuel

Isaiah 7:10-16

Woman's son to be Emmanuel

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

O come, O come Emmanuel
O Word of God Incarnate
(O Christ the Word incarnate)
Savior of the nations, come

ELW-257; GC-317; H-56; PH-9
ELW-514; PH-327
H-632
ELW-263; H-54; PH-14; UM-214; W-372

Romans 1:1-7

Jesus, of David, but God by resurrection

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,
To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Blessed be the God of Israel
From God Christ's deity came forth
Word of God, come down on earth
(use ELW tune)

ELW-250, 552; WLP-889
H-443
ELW-510; H-633

Matthew 1:18-25*Joseph espouses Mary*

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for **the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.**' All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,' which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
Savior of the nations, come
The Word whom earth and sea and sky

ELW-272; GC-368; H-81
ELW-263; H-54; PH-13; UM-214; W-372
H-263

Year B

O Emmanuel

2 Samuel 7:1-11

God's promise through David

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; **for the Lord is with you.**'

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, **the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.**

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Blest be the King whose coming
Hail to the Lord's Anointed
Lift up your heads

H-74
ELW-311; H-616; MBW-263; UM-203
H-436; PH-8; UM-213

Romans 16:25-27

Glory to God (benediction)

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and **the proclamation of Jesus Christ**, according to the revelation of **the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed**, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the **obedience of faith**— to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

At the name of Jesus
Creator of the stars of night
God is working his purpose out

ELW-416; H-435; UM-168
ELW-245; GC-337; H-60; UM-692
H-534

Luke 1:26-38

Annunciation to Mary

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

The angel Gabriel
 Canticle of the Turning
(My soul gives glory to my God)
 Gabriel of high degree
 Gabriel's message
 My soul does magnify
 No wind at the window
 Praise we the Lord this day
 Tell out my soul
 The Word whom earth and sea and sky

H-265; PH-16
 ELW-723; GC-556
 UM-198
 H-266 (choral)
 H-270
 ELW-882
 ILS-18 (choral)
 H-267
 H-437, 438; UM-200
 H-263

Year C

O Emmanuel

Micah 5:2-5a

One shall come to rule from Bethlehem

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
 who are one of the little clans of Judah,
 from you shall come forth for me
 one who is to rule in Israel,
 whose origin is from of old,
 from ancient days.
 Therefore he shall give them up
 until the time
 when she who is in labor has brought forth;

then the rest of his kindred shall return
 to the people of Israel.
 And he shall stand and feed his flock in the
 strength of the LORD,
 in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
 And they shall live secure,
 for now he shall be great
 to the ends of the earth;
 and he shall be the one of peace.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Blest be the king whose coming
 Little Bethlehem of Judah
 O day of peace

H-74
 UCC-113
 ELW-711; H-597

Hebrews 10:5-10

When Christ came into the world

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
 "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
 but a body you have prepared for me;
 in burnt offerings and sin offerings
 you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'
 (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Lord Christ when first you came to earth
 O love how deep, how broad, how high
 To mock your reign

ELW-727; H-598
 H-448, 449
 H-170

Luke 1:39-45(46-55)***Visitation to Elizabeth by Mary***

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

[And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has looked with favor
on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations
will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One
has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud
in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful
from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise
he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants
forever."]

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Canticle of the turning
(*My soul gives glory to my God*)
Magnificat (canon)
My soul does magnify
Praise we the Lord this day
Tell out my soul
The Word whom earth and sea and sky

ELW-723; GC-556
UM-198
MT1-104
ELW-88
H-267
H-437, 438; UM-200
H-263