

PLANNING CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

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YEAR C

First Sunday in Advent

The judgment is coming, but there will be deliverance for God's people.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 21:25-36	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Jeremiah 33:14-16	Genesis 19:15-17, 23-29
<i>Second Lesson</i>	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	
<i>Psalm</i>	25	
<i>Color</i>	Blue or Purple	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Alleluia. (Revelation 22:20)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 21:25-36

Jesus has proclaimed to us that he will come again to judge the world. While it is not for us to know "the day or hour," our Savior would not leave us ignorant of the coming judgment. Eschatological signage abounds for those looking through eyes of faith. Yet, even as we anticipate his coming again to be our judge, we need not cower in fear, for with him comes the deliverance promised of old.

FIRST LESSON: JEREMIAH 33:14-16

Again and again the Lord had promised blessings for his people, if they would only obey his commands. Yet generation after generation had turned away from the Lord and sought self over Savior. When Jeremiah heard the Word of the Lord he was experiencing the wrath of the Lord carried out on rebellious Judah. To the faithful, come words of promise: Justice will be carried out on the wicked and there will be deliverance. The line of David will continue as a "righteous branch" sprouts. He comes to restore the desolate land and the decimated people. He comes to bring peace and safety. He comes to bring life. Therefore he will be called "the Lord Our Righteousness."

SECOND LESSON: 1 THESSALONIANS 3:9-13

The Apostle Paul met the righteous branch of David face to face; he saw the promise of "the Lord Our Righteousness" fulfilled. Therefore he exhorts the Thessalonians and all believers - those who know the Christ's deliverance from sin - to continue living lives of faith and hope in the promise that the Lord Jesus will come again to bring us to eternal life.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 19:15-17, 23-29

In the midst of God’s spectacular judgment on the wicked peoples of Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot and his daughters experience the Lord’s gracious deliverance from destruction. Let us not hesitate to leave behind the things of this world for the promise of eternal deliverance. Let us not look back on what might have been, but ahead to the promised salvation of the Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

2 Savior of the Nations, Come

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

1 The Advent of Our King
9 Jesus, Your Church with Longing Eyes
15 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding
21 Hosanna to the Coming Lord
25 The King Shall Come
26 Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring
29 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending
30 Rise, Arise
47 Behold, a Branch is Growing
82 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

207 The Day Is Surely Drawing Near
208 Great God, What Do I See and Hear
209 Day of Wrath, Oh, Day of Mourning
219 Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See
226 To Your Temple I Draw Near
376 Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness
386 Now I Have Found the Firm Foundation
438 In God, My Faithful God
597 May God the Father of Our Lord
704 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

Second Sunday in Advent

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

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

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 3:1-6	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Malachi 3:1-4	
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Philippians 1:3-11	1 Corinthians 4:1-5
<i>Psalm</i>	24	
<i>Color</i>	Blue or Purple	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. All mankind will see God's salvation.
Alleluia. (Luke 3:4, 6 cf. NIV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 3:1-6

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

FIRST LESSON: MALACHI 3:1-4

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

SECOND LESSON: PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

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

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 4:1-5

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

16 On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

3 Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates
 4 Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates
 11 Comfort, Comfort All My People
 13 There’s a Voice in the Wilderness Crying
 14 Arise, O Christian People
 20 When All the World Was Cursed
 27 O Jesus, Lamb of God, You Are
 30 Rise, Arise
 80 Angels from the Realms of Glory
 131 All Glory, Laud, and Honor
 275 Blest Be the God of Israel

276 Praise Be to The Lord
 363 The King of Glory Comes
 416 How Firm a Foundation
 542 Dear Lord, to Your True Servants Give
 547 We Bid You Welcome in the Name
 548 O Lord, in Prayer You Spent the Night
 552 By All Your Saints Still Striving
 701 Zion, at Your Shining Gates
 702 Prepare the Royal Highway
 768 How Firm a Foundation

Third Sunday in Advent

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

Rejoice at the Lord’s coming deliverance.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 3:7-18	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Zephaniah 3:14-17	Nehemiah 8:9-18
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Philippians 4:4-7	
<i>Psalm</i>	130	14
<i>Color</i>	Blue or Purple	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia. (Matthew 11:10 cf. NIV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 3:7-18

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

FIRST LESSON: ZEPHANIAH 3:14-17

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

SECOND LESSON: PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

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

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: NEHEMIAH 8:9-18

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

14 Arise, O Christian People

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

7 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

11 Comfort, Comfort All My People

15 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

16 On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

20 When All the World Was Cursed

27 O Jesus, Lamb of God, You Are

205 O Lord, Look Down from Heaven

305 From Depths of Woe I Cry to You

411 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

443 Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing

540 Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng

552 By All Your Saints Still Striving

703 My Soul in Stillness Waits

710 Jesus, Once with Sinners Numbered

723 Holy Spirit, the Dove Sent from Heaven

733 Rejoice in God

738 In Hopelessness and Near Despair

745 May the Peace of God

Fourth Sunday in Advent

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

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

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 1:39-55	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Micah 5:2-5a	Genesis 4:1,2, 6-8, 25—5:5
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Hebrews 10:5-10	Revelation 12:1-6
<i>Psalm</i>	85	
<i>Color</i>	Blue or Purple	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. Alleluia. (Matthew 1:23)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 1:39-55

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

FIRST LESSON: MICAH 5:2-5A

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

SECOND LESSON: HEBREWS 10:5-10

The writer to the Hebrews explains the significance of God made flesh by stressing the sacrificial purpose for the Christ's body. Quoting Psalm 40:6-8, the Lord gives us confidence in willingness of the Christ to make the

only true sacrifice once for all. He had to become man, so that by his body we might be made holy once and for all.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: REVELATION 12:1-6

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

23 Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 20 When All the World Was Cursed | 194 Oh, that I Had a Thousand Voices |
| 24 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came | 274 My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord |
| 39 Now Praise We Christ, the Holy One | 378 All Mankind Fell in Adam’s Fall |
| 53 To Shepherds as They Watched by Night | 396 In Adam We Have All Been One |
| 58 See in Yonder Manger Low | 399 To God Be the Glory |
| 65 O Little Town of Bethlehem | 552 By All Your Saints Still Striving |
| 66 O Little Town of Bethlehem | 705 The Night Will Soon Be Ending |

The Nativity of Our Lord—Christmas Eve

A light shines in the darkness, bursting forth into our hearts and lives as the Word is made flesh. The glory of the Lord marks the fulfillment of promise as the Light of the world is born into the world. We who have been purified and brought into the Light reflect that light in our present age. We proclaim what we have seen and heard: “A Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 2:1-20	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Isaiah 9:2-7	Micah 5:2-5a
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Titus 2:11-14	1 John 1:1-9
<i>Psalm</i>	96	
<i>Color</i>	White	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all glory in the life to come; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. Alleluia. (Luke 2:11)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 2:1-20

The time had come for God to fulfill what had been spoken of through the prophets. With the birth of Jesus, light shone in darkness. Heavenly messengers and the glory of the Lord tell of his birth. We join the shepherds in hastening to manger to see him who “shines, the long expected.”¹ Let us share the Good News: “Salvation unto us has come.”²

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 9:2-7

Isaiah was called to harden the hearts of those who had turned away and to strengthen the hearts of those still looking for the promised redemption of Israel. Among some of the harshest judgment on Israel’s apostasy come these words of comfort for the faithful. The darkness of sin will be scattered. A light will dawn. He will be everything the LORD has promised. The Lord יהוה צבאות will accomplish it.

¹ *Christian Worship Hymn 35 st.3*

² *Christian Worship Hymn 390 st.1*

SECOND LESSON: TITUS 2:11-14

Just as Israel longed for the coming of the Messiah, so we long for the coming again of the Christ. The babe of Bethlehem has come; the fight is won; victory is assured. Now we live in his light until he comes again in glory.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: MICAH 5:2-5A

Last Sunday (Advent 4C) built anticipation, today we celebrate its fulfillment. Stressing the eternal nature of the Christ Child, Micah foretells the coming of the Shepherd King who will bring peace to the ends of the earth.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: 1 JOHN 1:1-9

In words that echo the first chapter of his gospel, John proclaims what he, too, has “seen and heard.” Jesus has come to bring the light of salvation from sin, righteousness and fellowship with God.

HYMN OF THE DAY

- 37 Once Again My Heart Rejoices
- 38 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2 Savior of the Nations, Come | 61 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing |
| 28 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord | 62 Joy to the World |
| 34 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice | 63 Angels We Have Heard on High |
| 40 O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is | 65 O Little Town of Bethlehem |
| 42 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising | 66 O Little Town of Bethlehem |
| 43 To Thee My Heart I Offer | 67 What Child Is This |
| 44 Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light | 68 Away in a Manger |
| 46 Your Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We | 90 The People that in Darkness Sat |
| 47 Behold, a Branch Is Growing | 245 Sing a New Song to the Lord |
| 50 Once in Royal David's City | 247 Earth and All Stars |
| 51 I Am So Glad When Christmas Comes | 366 O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild |
| 52 On Christmas Night All Christians Sing | 377 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice |
| 53 To Shepherds as They Watched by Night | 703 My Soul in Stillness Waits |
| 54 Where Shepherds Lately Knelt | 705 The Night Will Soon Be Ending |
| 56 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child | 706 A Stable Lamp is Lighted |
| 58 See in Yonder Manger Low | 707 Peace Came to Earth |
| 60 Silent Night! Holy Night | 708 Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year |

The Nativity of Our Lord—Christmas Day

The glory of the Lord permeates the lessons for Christmas Day. With the glory of the Lord still shining from Luke 2, we assemble once again to celebrate with joy the Word made flesh. The mystery of the incarnation is beyond us. Yet we are blessed to participate in him who is born the Bread of Life in the House of Bread. How beautiful is the good news, how radiant his glory, how perfect his timing, how gracious is the Father to give us his son for us and for our salvation.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	John 1:1-14	John 1:1-18
<i>First Lesson</i>	Isaiah 52:7-10	Exodus 33:18-23; 34:5-7
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Hebrews 1:1-9	
<i>Psalm</i>	98	
<i>Color</i>	White	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, grant that the birth of your one and only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law. Alleluia. (Galatians 4:4,5a)

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 1:1-14

In typical Johannine fashion, the inspired Apostle elegantly recalls the loving purpose of the Lord in Jesus. From the beginning Word, to the light-shining-in-darkness of Isaiah, to the preparatory work of John the Baptizer, the Apostle John points to Jesus as the fulfillment of the glory of the Lord, full of grace and truth.

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 52:7-10

The Lord's mighty deliverance in battle, pictures his mighty victory for his people over sin, death, and devil. The "beautiful feet" of his messengers are privileged to bear the Good News of glorious redemption, "the salvation of our God."

SECOND LESSON: HEBREWS 1:1-9

Tying the Old Testament prophecies to New Testament fulfillment, the writer to the Hebrews describes the being and purpose of the Christ-child: from eternity, he is the Son, the Word, the Heir, the Radiance of his Glory, God himself made flesh for the purification of sins and the rule of righteousness.

SUPPLEMENTAL THE GOSPEL: JOHN 1:1-18

The supplemental addition of verses 15-18 recall the supplemental First Lesson selected from Exodus. Moses saw it. John saw it. And now we, through eyes of faith, see it too – the glory of the LORD

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: EXODUS 33:18-23; 34:5-7

The exegesis for the name of the LORD is heard on Mt. Sinai and seen in the fulfillment of his name. Moses saw it on the Mount of Transfiguration. John saw it. And now we, through eyes of faith, see it, too – the glory of the LORD in the fullness of the Incarnation.

HYMN OF THE DAY

33 All Praise to You, Eternal God
35 Of the Father's Love Begotten

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

2 Savior of the Nations, Come
36 A Great and Mighty Wonder
39 Now Praise We Christ, the Holy One
40 O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is
41 Let All Together Praise Our God
45 Oh, Rejoice, All Christians, Loudly
48 When Christmas Morn Is Dawning
49 Rejoice, Rejoice, This Happy Morn
50 Once in Royal David's City
55 Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful
57 Go, Tell It on the Mountain
58 See in Yonder Manger Low
59 Christ the Lord to Us Is Born
61 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
62 Joy to the World

64 Let Us All with Gladsome Voice
67 What Child Is This
237 Lord of Lords, the Sparkling Heavens
245 Sing a New Song to the Lord
254 The Day Full of Grace
281 God Has Spoken by His Prophets
366 O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild
369 Beautiful Savior
370 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name
400 O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth
568 Good News of God Above
570 O Christians, Haste
710 Jesus, Once with Sinners Numbered
751 Word of God, When All Was Silent

First Sunday after Christmas

In the family of believers, it is our brother Jesus who changed the future for Abraham’s descendants. To be about the Father’s will meant sharing in our humanity and destroying the power of death.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 2:41-52	
<i>First Lesson</i>	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26	
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Hebrews 2:10-18	
<i>Psalm</i>	111	
<i>Color</i>	White	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming deliver us from the corruption of our sin and transform us into the likeness of his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. Alleluia. (Colossians 3:15a)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 2:41-52

With an emphasis on the two natures of Christ, these words from Luke reveal Jesus’ growth “in favor with God and men.” Yet, very clearly, Jesus always understood his purpose was to carry out the Father’s plan of salvation. Though he willingly he obeyed Mary and Joseph, more striking is his willing obedience to the Father’s will.

FIRST LESSON: 1 SAMUEL 2:18-20, 26

The similarities between the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus are striking: a gracious gift to his mother, the boy Samuel was dedicated to the Lord’s service, ministering in the Tabernacle. By grace he would grow “in favor with God and men.” By grace he would willingly carry out the “Father’s things/business” all the days of his life.

SECOND LESSON: HEBREWS 2:10-18

With the words of John 1 still ringing in our ears, the writer to the Hebrews lays out the loving purpose of God in Christ Jesus. It is fitting that the Author of Salvation should make his One and Only Son like those he came to save. As our brother, he knows our weaknesses and temptations. Yet, in service to God, he carried out the Father’s will. Having overcome death and made atonement for our sins, he now claims us as members of his family.

HYMN OF THE DAY

41 Let All Together Praise Our God

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

53 To Shepherds as They Watched by Night

226 To Your Temple I Draw Near

271 We All Believe in One True God

343 Christ Is the World's Light

366 O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild

501 Our Father, by Whose Name

502 Lord of the Home

506 Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall

707 Peace Came to Earth

753 Father, God of Grace, You Knew Us

Second Sunday after Christmas

Promises kept: we celebrate with joy how God fulfilled them all.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 1:68-75	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Genesis 17:1-7	2 Samuel 7:8-16
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Galatians 4:4-7	Colossians 1:13-20
<i>Psalm</i>	148	
<i>Color</i>	White	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia. (Psalm 98:3b)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 1:68-75

Zechariah had learned to trust God's promises. After months of silence, he bursts forth to sing of God's promises kept (note the aorists!) Blessed be the God of Israel who has come to redeem his people. The struggle with sin of spiritual Israel was over. Salvation has come just as the LORD, the God of free and faithful grace, had sworn by his own name. With the joy of salvation and the confidence of promises fulfilled, we fearlessly serve the LORD in righteousness.

FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 17:1-7

The LORD, the God of free and faithful grace, appears to Abram at the age of ninety-nine to again confirm his gracious covenant and promise. This time, the Lord changes his name to Abraham saying, "I have made you a father of many nations." Notice the qal perfect in verb making this a kept promise in the timelessness of the LORD.

SECOND LESSON: GALATIANS 4:4-7

Thousands of years had passed, generations had come and gone, since the promise made by God in the Garden. But all those years were not wasted, but preparatory. Finally, when everything had been perfectly prepared, God kept the Garden Promise and sent his Son, born of woman. The promise kept has transformed us from slaves to sons and heirs. The surety of his promises kept provides the certainty of our coming inheritance.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: 2 SAMUEL 7:8-16

The Lord promises peace to David’s kingdom of Israel and a descendant who will establish his throne for eternity. But this eternal throne named for David will be greater than that from which David ruled God’s people. For the this ruler and throne will be established by the LORD.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: COLOSSIANS 1:13-20

God had promised to establish a house and kingdom for David forever. Looking around the Ancient Near East at the beginning of the Christian era, it must certainly have seemed that God’s promised to David had failed. There was no king in Israel; David’s line had been cut off and his kingdom destroyed. But God keeps his promises, no matter how unlikely they may seem. Zechariah sang about the horn in the house of David. In Christ, David’s Son, God kept every promise.

HYMN OF THE DAY

34 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 6 Come, O Long-Expected Jesus | 334 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow |
| 28 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord | 536 Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head |
| 61 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing | 556 Rise, Shine, You People |
| 86 The Only Son from Heaven | 711 Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure Eternal |
| 93 Hail to the Lord's Anointed | 747 There is a Redeemer |
| 122 Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle | 750 Christ, the Word of God Incarnate |
| 247 Earth and All Stars | 751 Word of God, When All Was Silent |
| 275 Blest Be the God of Israel | 753 Father, God of Grace, You Knew Us |
| 276 Praise Be to the Lord | |

The Epiphany of Our Lord

The Eastern Church celebrates January 6th as the Nativity of our Lord. For the West, the Epiphany of Our Lord is the continued celebration of the birth of the Savior of Nations. So bright is the dawning of the Son, so great is the fullness of his glory, that his light not only fills the dark streets of Bethlehem, but the ends of the earth. Jew and Gentile alike gather to worship him who is born ruler of Judah and Shepherd of all Israel.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Matthew 2:1-12	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Isaiah 60:1-6	1 Kings 10:1-9
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Ephesians 3:2-12	
<i>Psalm</i>	72	
<i>Color</i>	White	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, by the leading of a star you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith, to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him. Alleluia. (Matthew 2:2b)

THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:1-12

So long on the outside, looking in, the nations of the earth had viewed the glory of the Lord with a sense of mystery and awe while all but a faithful few in the chosen nation of Israel forsook and dishonored the God of the covenant. Yet, in the Lord's faithfulness, the promise is fulfilled as the Savior is born. The heralding star beckons the Magi to come and worship the King. Others wish to come for the purposes of evil. But the power of the Most High protects the Hope of Nations in his mother's arms. We offer our best in response to the greatest treasure – salvation in Christ.

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 60:1-6

The oppressive darkness of sin is shattered as the כְּבוֹד יְהוָה dawns on the peoples of the earth. But this light reaches beyond the covenant people of Israel. This light reaches to the ends of the earth, inviting all to step into the radiance of its light.

SECOND LESSON: EPHESIANS 3:2-12

Paul knew what it meant to be suddenly bathed in light for the ultimate good of his soul. Now he rejoices in the revelation of the Christ not only to the House of Israel but to the Gentiles – fellow heirs in the promise of Christ Jesus.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: 1 KINGS 10:1-9

The Queen of Sheba arrives with opulence in her train, but a seeking in her heart. In the court of Solomon she sees the faithfulness of the God of Israel. Her joy is evident as she offers praise to the eternal Lord. She typifies all the Gentiles nations who would hear of the mystery of Christ and come to the brightness of his dawn.

HYMN OF THE DAY

79 How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

56 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

67 What Child Is This

80 Angels from the Realms of Glory

81 Arise and Shine in Splendor

82 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

83 As with Gladness Men of Old

84 Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

87 Hail, O Source of Every Blessing

91 The Star Proclaims the King Is Here

92 Brightest and Best

93 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

94 O Jesus, King of Glory

250 From All that Dwell Below the Skies

279 O Word of God Incarnate

556 Rise, Shine, You People

735 Speak, O Lord

First Sunday after the Epiphany—The Baptism of Our Lord

The long-expected Christ has arrived; the waiting is over as the Son of David is anointed. The Father's approval sounds from heaven and book-ends the season of Epiphany, when with the Holy Spirit and with power it thunders again on the Mount of Transfiguration as the Son is revealed in glory.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 3:15-17, 21,22	
<i>First Lesson</i>	1 Samuel 16:1-13	
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Titus 3:4-7	
<i>Psalm</i>	2	
<i>Color</i>	White	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased. Alleluia. (Mark 1:11b)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 3:15-17, 21,22

The word of the Lord through John and the waters of his baptism powerfully proclaimed preparation for the arrival of the Messiah. For he would come with justice to rule the people with equity. At his own baptism, Jesus is anointed with the Holy Spirit and power as our Prophet, Priest, and King to the approval of the Father. Just as he who knew no sin was baptized, our baptism is also an anointing by the Spirit, but for the forgiveness of our sins. This is our connection to Christ and his redeeming work.

FIRST LESSON: 1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

Young David is anointed by Samuel to Shepherd the Lord's people, Israel. Centuries later would come fulfillment with the anointing of the Christ and the Lord's royal priesthood of all believers.

SECOND LESSON: TITUS 3:4-7

Baptism brings the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Christ and David were anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power. When we were baptized, the Spirit was poured out on us as well. It was a washing that brought rebirth for sin-deadened hearts and spiritual renewal for fleshly minds. Note how one-sided our baptism is! Like David, there was nothing in us that the Lord should choose us. But as young David was

chosen over his older brothers and made into Israel's king, so we who are worth nothing, become what God makes us: heirs having the hope of eternal life.

HYMN OF THE DAY

88 To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord

89 To Jordan's River Came Our Lord

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

82 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

91 The Star Proclaims the King Is Here

203 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

294 Baptized into Your Name Most Holy

297 Baptized in Water

299 All Who Believe and Are Baptized

371 Oh, Love, How Deep

529 Built on the Rock

613 Come, You Thankful People, Come

709 Christ, Your Footprints through the Desert

710 Jesus, Once with Sinners Numbered

723 Holy Spirit, the Dove Sent from Heaven

736 All Christians Who Have Been Baptized

737 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

739 Baptismal Waters Cover Me

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Jesus comes as the invited guest to reveal the splendor of his glory. As we behold his glory, we delight in our bridegroom. For he delights in us, bringing to us his righteous deliverance, the strength of his Spirit, and the divine dimensions of his immeasurable love.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	John 2:1-11	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Isaiah 62:1-5	Exodus 7:14-24
<i>Second Lesson</i>	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	Ephesians 3:14-21
<i>Psalm</i>	133-134	
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you gave your one and only Son to be the light of the world. Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and believed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. He said to me, "You are my servant in whom I will display my splendor." Alleluia. (Isaiah 49:3 cf. NIV)

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 2:1-11

This account from the Gospel of John is not so much a stamp of approval on wedding celebrations as it is a display of glory by our bridegroom, Jesus the Christ. The Savior's meeting of an immediate need was a secondary benefit to the revelation of his glorious power, his divine authority and the confirmation of his first disciples' faith.

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 62:1-5

The Lord proclaims good news to Zion: the once rejected harlot will stand as his bride. To his glory, she will stand together with him in righteousness and salvation. No longer called Deserted and Desolate, she will be recognized as the delightful bride of the Lord, the jewel of his crown.

SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-11

This selection begins a reading of the latter chapters of 1 Corinthians, taking us on a journey through proper use of spiritual gifts and the glory of the resurrection. On this day of reverent joy at the glory of the Lord revealed to fainting hearts, we rejoice at the Lord's delight to make the Church his bride. As gifts to his bride, come the gifts of the Spirit for the common good.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: EXODUS 7:14-24

Before Pharaoh, God changed water into blood: this was an act of divine judgment on an unbelieving people. The power of God was meant to break open hearts of stone, or harden them further. This, like all the plagues, occurred that Pharaoh might know the LORD. How amazing to read this miracle of God’s judgment changing water to a stinking, undrinkable liquid, and then read the Gospel where the Son of God does just the opposite. In a miracle of Grace, the Son of God takes water and makes it into the finest tasting wine.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: EPHESIANS 3:14-21

This selection from Ephesians chapter three brings comfort and confidence to the heart of Christ’s bride. As his bride, rooted in his love, we can only begin to grasp the immeasurable width, length, height and depth of his love. We join in echoing Paul’s prayer: to him be glory.

HYMN OF THE DAY

82 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 91 The Star Proclaims the King Is Here | 446 I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus |
| 93 Hail to the Lord’s Anointed | 479 Jesus, Your Boundless Love to Me |
| 134 O Bride of Christ, Rejoice | 481 O God, Your Hand the Heavens Made |
| 177 Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest | 494 Blest Be the Tie that Binds |
| 178 Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest | 538 The Church’s One Foundation |
| 186 O Spirit of Life, O Spirit of God | 566 We All Are One in Mission |
| 190 We Now Implore God the Holy Ghost | 602 God of Love and God of Marriage |
| 317 O Lord, We Praise You | 746 You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd |
| 355 Take the World, but Give Me Jesus | 749 The Love of Christ, Who Died for Me |
| 357 Jesus, Lover of My Soul | 752 In Christ Alone |
| 365 Love Divine, All Love Excelling | 765 Day by Day |
| 371 Oh, Love, How Deep | 773 In Unity and Peace |

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Jesus reveals himself as the Anointed one with the Father’s authority to proclaim himself as fulfillment of prophecy. The Word made flesh points to the Word and boldly proclaims, “Fulfillment.” This bold proclamation carries joy to the very heart of the body of Christ and emboldens its members to proclaim the same.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 4:14-21	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Isaiah 61:1-6	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
<i>Second Lesson</i>	1 Corinthians 12:12-21, 26,27	Acts 4:23-31
<i>Psalm</i>	19	
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and to teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we, too, may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching, preaching, and healing every disease. Alleluia. (Matthew 4:23 cf. NIV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 4:14-21

All that was promised to Adam and Eve, all that was renewed with the Patriarchs, all that was foretold through Isaiah, all that was passed from generation to generation...is fulfilled. It is no longer a future promise to fainting hearts, blind eyes, and bound souls. It is a promise fulfilled as the Anointed One reveals himself to be the Fulfillment. Let there be no doubt, the Messiah has come. (This lesson continues next Sunday with one week building on the next. Consider tying both lessons together in a sermon series. The caution to the preacher is to refrain from bringing too much of next Sunday’s lesson into this Sunday’s sermon.)

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 61:1-6

Isaiah records for broken hearts and imprisoned souls the Voice of Salvation. The Anointed one proclaims healing and freedom—the making of all things right. No longer will there be sin and sorrow, but restoration and righteousness. How these words must have touched the despondent hearts of the faithful in Israel! How these words touch the hearts of those who have seen the Fulfillment! This *is* the Year of the Lord’s Favor. (For a stronger dose and a deeper appreciation of the sweetness of the gospel in Isaiah, consider reading Isaiah 58-66.)

SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-21, 26,27

Last Sunday, the believer was brought to appreciate the different gifts the Spirit gives to each believer. This Sunday, the believer is brought to appreciate the unity of the body of Christ. Though different parts, yet each is a part of the one body.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: NEHEMIAH 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

The wall complete, Nehemiah gathers the people to hear the reading and exposition of the Word of the Lord. Just as the Word had central place in the restoration of Jerusalem, so the Word has central place in the restoration of Spiritual Jerusalem. For the Word reveals the Messiah and brings joy to the sin-weary heart.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: ACTS 4:23-31

The Apostles are blessed to see the fulfillment of prophecy: Messianic Psalm 2 foretells of Herod and Pilate conspiring against the Lord's Anointed. Yet it was the will of the Lord that was carried out for the salvation of many souls. It is the message of this promise fulfilled, revealed to the Apostles, that spurs them on to speak this same message with like boldness: This prophecy is fulfilled!

HYMN OF THE DAY

85 O God from God, O Light from Light

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

12 Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes
 79 How Lovely Shines the Morning Star
 84 Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun
 93 Hail to the Lord's Anointed
 182 Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling
 203 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word
 237 Lord of Lords, the Sparkling Heavens
 238 Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul
 246 The Stars Declare His Glory

340 Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
 353 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness
 357 Jesus, Lover of My Soul
 496 Glorious in Majesty
 520 Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old
 542 Dear Lord, to Your True Servants Give
 566 We All Are One in Mission
 711 Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure Eternal
 717 When You Woke that Thursday Morning

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Our human inclination is to listen without faith. This can only lead us to the brow of a cliff and throwing Jesus out of our lives. But the Savior of the Nations comes with his gracious words of redemption and membership in his body. The Word of the Lord is proclaimed through the revelation of his Anointed One. In him faith is rooted, love flourishes, and salvation is known from generation to generation.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 4:20-32	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Jeremiah 1:4-10	1 Kings 17:7-16
<i>Second Lesson</i>	1 Corinthians 12:27—13:13	Romans 10:18—11:6
<i>Psalm</i>	78	
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, you know that we are surrounded by many dangers and that we often stumble and fall. Strengthen us in body and mind, and bring us safely through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord is on me; he has anointed me to preach good news. Alleluia. (Luke 4:18a cf. NIV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 4:20-32

The gracious words of the Anointed One win admiration but not hearts of faith. When confronted by their own unbelief and the inclusion of Gentiles in spiritual Israel, “Joseph’s son” is driven from the synagogue to be thrown from the cliff. Yet the Savior of the nations passes through the angry mob to continue his mission and reveal himself in Capernaum.

FIRST LESSON: JEREMIAH 1:4-10

Child-like Jeremiah is called to wield the powerful Word of the Lord. For all who proclaim it, there is comfort that its impact ought not be judged by the preacher. The reception for the Word of the Lord is in keeping with the Lord’s intent. For some, the Word of the Lord comes to tear down, uproot, and overthrow. For others the Word of the Lord comes to build and plant in what was once a barren wasteland. (This week is the call of Jeremiah. Next week is the call of Isaiah.)

SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:27—13:13

Paul outlines the next step toward understanding the proper use of spiritual gifts. Though the many members of the body of Christ are blessed with various gifts, yet the heart of its unity is the love of Christ. Love between the member and his Lord, and love between the members themselves.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: 1 KINGS 17:7-16

The Word of the Lord is carried by the prophet Elijah to the widow at Zarephath. Though not of the chosen House of Israel, yet salvation came to her house through the prophet. Along with Namaan the Syrian, Jesus cites this account to offer proof that the Word of the Lord will go outside Israel when it rejects the Anointed One.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 10:18—11:6

Paul describes Israel’s rejection of the Lord. Surely the Word of the Lord was available. The Anointed One was revealed through prophecy in their midst. Yet he was rejected and despised. And so the Word of the Lord, the revelation of the Anointed One has been made to those not of the covenant people. Still, the Lord has reserved a remnant from among Abraham’s children, a remnant chosen by grace.

HYMN OF THE DAY

395 Seek Where You May to Find a Way
 556 Rise, Shine, You People

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

203 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word
 204 O God, Our Lord, Your Holy Word
 205 O Lord, Look Down from Heaven
 281 God Has Spoken by His Prophets
 283 Speak, O Savior; I Am Listening
 293 God's Word Is Our Great Heritage
 353 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness
 356 You Are the Way; through You Alone
 363 The King of Glory Comes
 384 By Grace I'm Saved

452 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus
 461 From Eternity, O God
 490 Love in Christ Is Strong and Living
 495 Not for Tongues of Heaven’s Angels
 498 Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire
 503 Oh, Blessed Home, Where Man and Wife
 512 Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds
 541 Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide
 544 Preach You the Word
 564 There Is a Balm in Gilead

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Jesus reveals himself as the Lord's Anointed with the power and authority to call us to serve as his messengers.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 5:1-11	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Isaiah 6:1-8	Judges 13:6-24
<i>Second Lesson</i>	1 Corinthians 14:12b-20	Romans 10:13-17
<i>Psalm</i>	85	
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you sent your one and only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us to believe what the Scriptures proclaim about him and do the things that are pleasing in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." Alleluia. (John 8:12 cf. NIV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 5:1-11

In calling the disciples to be full-time fishers of men, Jesus reveals his power as the Lord's anointed. What a beautiful picture of future fishing for these maturing disciples. For the miracle of this abundant catch of fish would only be surpassed by the fishing for souls to which they were called. What a privilege for us to answer the same call, to lay our hands on the net of the gospel, and be fishers of men.

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 6:1-8

God called Isaiah to the prophetic office with a grand vision of heaven. This man of unclean lips was called to carry the message of salvation for the Lord. Though sin had separated him from the Lord Almighty, yet the LORD of free and faithful grace took away his guilt and atoned for his sin. With a pure and contrite heart Isaiah boldly answers the Lord's call. (This week is the call of Isaiah. Last week was the call of Jeremiah.)

SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 4:12B-20

After describing the attitude of the heart in connection with spiritual gifts, Paul moves into the application of such Christ-imitating love regarding spiritual gifts, specifically the gift of speaking in tongues. Spiritual gifts are not given out like so many children's toys, to use for self or personal glory. Love goes hand-in-hand with spiritual gifts when they are used for the building up of the body of Christ. Love for our neighbor is a hallmark of the messengers of Christ.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: JUDGES 13:6-24

The Word of the Lord appears to Samson’s parents to foretell his birth as an instrument of the Lord’s deliverance. Samson would be dedicated as a Nazarite of God, just as the Angel of the Lord directed. He would carry the Lord’s message of destruction on the Philistines and rescue for God’s people until the day of his death.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 10:13-17

This *sedes doctrinae* for conversion describes in detail its process through the Word. Yet the emphasis on this Sunday highlights not only the work of the Holy Spirit through the Word but also the privilege given to sinful human beings called to serve as Gods messengers, proclaiming that which has the power to bring people to faith. How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!

HYMN OF THE DAY

93 Hail to the Lord’s Anointed

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

195 Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty
 267 Isaiah, Mighty Seer in Days of Old
 278 Holy God, We Praise Your Name
 361 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
 436 Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep
 453 Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spoke
 470 Praise to You and Adoration
 481 O God, Your Hand the Heavens Made
 525 The Son of God, Our Christ
 555 For All Your Saints, O Lord

560 I Hear the Savior Calling
 566 We All Are One in Mission
 568 Good News of God Above
 570 O Christians, Haste
 573 Hark! The Voice of Jesus Crying
 575 How Shall They Hear the Word of God
 770 O Christ, Who Called the Twelve
 772 When Jesus Came from Nazareth
 778 How Shall They Hear Who Have Not Heard

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

Spiritual and eternal blessings belong to those who put their trust in the Lord's Anointed.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 6:17-26	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Jeremiah 17:5-8	Deuteronomy 30:1-10
<i>Second Lesson</i>	1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20	2 Corinthians 12:7-10
<i>Psalm</i>	1	37
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, in mercy receive the prayers of your people. Grant them the wisdom to know the things that please you and the grace and power always to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. (John 6:68 cf. NIV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 6:17-26

After a night of prayer on the hilltop, Jesus descends, revealing his power as the Lord's Anointed to heal and restore. The disciples are instructed about both blessings and woes in connection with the kingdom of God. Blessing comes to those who put God first and live lives of faith, seeking to put the spiritual ahead of the physical. This faithfulness will be eternally rewarded as evidence of faith.

FIRST LESSON: JEREMIAH 17:5-8

Those who trust in themselves and all the world offers will find ruin and destruction. Those who put their confidence in the Lord and live according to his ways will bear fruit into eternity. (There is some parallelism here with Psalm 1.)

SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:12, 16-20

The on-going readings from 1 Corinthians move to a two-week treatment of the resurrection in chapter 15. Paul answers the objections to the resurrection of the dead by linking the resurrection of the dead to Christ's resurrection. With Christ's resurrection at the heart of our faith, we can be confident of our own resurrection from the sleep of death.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: DEUTERONOMY 30:1-10

Beginning in chapter 28, the Lord foretells of blessings and curses in connection with the obedience of the Lord's covenant people. They would go on to experience curses from the Lord even to the point of exile from the Promised Land. Yet the Lord of free and faithful grace fulfilled his promise of blessed restoration.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: 2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-10

The apparent curse of a “thorn in the flesh” does not seem like a blessing to the world. Yet, what a humbling bounty of blessing comes to the believer who clings to the promise “my grace is sufficient for you.”

HYMN OF THE DAY

283 Speak, O Savior; I Am Listening

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

85 O God from God, O Light from Light

93 Hail to the Lord’s Anointed

144 Christ Is Arisen

160 This Joyful Eastertide

211 I Know of a Sleep in Jesus’ Name

353 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

372 I Lay My Sins on Jesus

379 Amazing Grace—How Sweet the Sound

403 I Know My Faith Is Founded

421 All Depends on Our Possessing

430 Evening and Morning

434 Lord, You I Love with All My Heart

438 In God, My Faithful God

446 I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus

465 Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

466 Though Thoughtless Thousands Choose

475 The Man Is Ever Blest

507 Lord of Our Growing Years

523 God of Grace and God of Glory

550 Behold a Host, Arrayed in White

557 On Galilee’s High Mountain

721 If Christ Had Not Been Raised from Death

758 Blest Are They

763 Jesus Sat with His Disciples

781 I Lie, O Lord, within Your Care

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

As love has been shone on us from the Lord's anointed, so we reflect that love to all, even to our enemies.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 6:27-38	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Genesis 45:3-8a, 15	
<i>Second Lesson</i>	1 Corinthians 15:35-38a, 42-49	Romans 12:14-21
<i>Psalm</i>	103	
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious Father, keep your family, the Church, always faithful to you, that we may lean on the hope of your promises and be strong in the power of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Alleluia. (Luke 6:36)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 6:27-38

After preaching of blessings and woes to the human heart, Jesus continues by contrasting human love and action with his own selfless love. The Christ-imitating Golden Rule finds no greater, no more challenging application than this: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you.

FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 45:3-8A, 15

How quick we are to withhold love when we have been wronged, clinging to anger in a pathetic attempt to make the offender suffer from our displeasure. Praise be to God such treatment is not ours in Christ. Consider Joseph: sold by his brothers, imprisoned, forgotten. Yet he reflected the love of the Lord - revealing himself to his brothers, bringing them to repentance, and providing for their needs.

SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-38A, 42-49

Paul continues his discussion of the resurrection by explaining the connection between the mortal body and the raised, glorified body. Buried with the corruptible body of the first Adam, we will be raised with the glorified body of the second Adam, fit for eternity with him who is the Christ.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 12:14-21

Now that blessing and cursing has been established as the work of the Lord (last Sunday's lessons) it is not ours to play God. Yet the believer is compelled to show goodness to all as goodness has been shown to us. Evil will thus continue to be overcome with good, just as all evil has been overcome by the perfect goodness of the Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

492 Son of God, Eternal Savior

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

167 Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense

234 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

238 Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul

257 My Soul, Now Bless Your Maker

459 O God, My Faithful God

479 Jesus, Your Boundless Love to Me

490 Love in Christ Is Strong and Living

493 Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

494 Blest Be the Tie that Binds

498 Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire

505 Love Is the Gracious Gift

521 Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace

760 When Peace, like a River

773 In Unity and Peace

Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany

Faith produces fruits of love.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 6:39-49	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Jeremiah 7:1-7	Genesis 6:11-22
<i>Second Lesson</i>	1 Corinthians 16:5-9, 13,14	1 Corinthians 5:9—6:4
<i>Psalm</i>	92	
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and eternal God, you govern all things in heaven and on earth. In your mercy hear our prayers and grant us your peace all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end. Alleluia.
(Lamentations 3:22 RSV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 6:39-49

The blind cannot lead the blind. A hypocrite cannot see the truth. A bad tree cannot produce good fruit. But those who can see lead the blind. Those who are faithful can help a spiritually struggling brother. A good tree produces good fruit. Yes, true faith overflows in an abundance of good works. For the one who hears the Word of the Lord and puts it into practice will be like his teacher, joyfully carrying out the Father's will.

FIRST LESSON: JEREMIAH 7:1-7

Jeremiah is once again called on to proclaim the harsh reality for the chosen people: Membership in a church does not necessarily mean membership in the Church. True faith expresses itself in faithful service to God and our neighbor. The people of Judah confused citizenship in the kingdom of Judah with citizenship in the Kingdom of God. They may have possessed the physical temple of the Lord, but their actions did not reflect possession of faith in the Lord himself.

SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 16:5-9, 13,14

The on-going readings in 1 Corinthians come to a close with one final string of gospel imperatives. The plans the Lord has for us may take us here and there. Yet the love of Christ remains our constant strength, comfort, and hope as we remain firm in the faith, live the faith, and do everything in love.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 6:11-22

The account of Noah illustrates the Lord’s judgment on the wicked and faithfulness to his people. A world of wickedness may have surrounded him, but with the Lord’s promise motivating his heart, “Noah did everything just as God commanded him.”

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 5:9—6:4

By nature we are so eager to evade spiritual confrontation and desperate to avoid the dreaded phrase, “Who are you to judge me?” Even at the cost of many a soul left to wallow in the muck of deliberate sin, we tend to keep our “opinions” to ourselves. Yet Paul calls on us to live our faith by helping our brothers and sisters to live theirs, even if it comes to excommunication. This, too, is a fruit of love. At the same time, Paul calls on us to reach out to those around us who do not know Christ so that they do not fall under eternal judgment.

HYMN OF THE DAY

236 All Praise to God Who Reigns Above

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

272 Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

318 Sent Forth by God’s Blessing

382 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

386 Now I Have Found the Firm Foundation

395 Seek Where You May to Find a Way

403 I Know My Faith Is Founded

416 How Firm a Foundation

444 If You But Trust in God to Guide You

475 The Man Is Ever Blest

497 This Is My Will

623 God the Father, Son, and Spirit

752 In Christ Alone

768 How Firm a Foundation

Last Sunday after the Epiphany—The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Jesus is revealed as the Lord of glory.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 9:28-36	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Exodus 34:29-35	
<i>Second Lesson</i>	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2
<i>Psalm</i>	148	
<i>Color</i>	White	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, before the suffering and death of your one and only Son, you revealed his glory on the holy mountain. Grant that we who bear his cross on earth may behold by faith the light of his heavenly glory and so be changed into his likeness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. A voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him.” Alleluia. (Mark 9:7b)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 9:28-36

Once again Jesus is revealed as the Lord’s Anointed. Basking in the divine glory that has been his from eternity, the Son of Man is proclaimed to be God the Son with the approval of God the Father. We stand with Moses and Elijah, the disciples, and saints throughout the ages in this sure and certain hope: the Christ has come and our salvation is at hand.

FIRST LESSON: EXODUS 34:29-35

The radiant glory of the Lord could be seen reflected in the face of Moses. With hearts veiled by the shame of sin, the people of Israel could not look upon Moses’ face. The stark contrast between the Lord’s glory and our own darkened countenances reminds us of our guilt yet foretells of the glory that awaits us through the Lord’s Anointed.

SECOND LESSON: 2 CORINTHIANS 4:3-6

The glory of the Old Covenant of Sinai fades, giving way to the New Covenant as seen in the unending glory of Jesus Christ. But it is a hidden glory, veiled from the self-righteous unbelievers of this age. In his grace, God has caused the light of his glory to be seen by hearts of faith in the face of Christ.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: 2 CORINTHIANS 3:12—4:2

The old Covenant is removed as the New Covenant is established in Christ Jesus. Through the power of the Spirit, the glory of the New Covenant is ours, reflected in lives lived to the glory of the Lord.

HYMN OF THE DAY

97 Down from the Mount of Glory

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

25 The King Shall Come

79 How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

85 O God from God, O Light from Light

86 The Only Son from Heaven

95 How Good, Lord, to Be Here

96 Oh, Wondrous Type! Oh, Vision Fair

242 Oh, that I Had a Thousand Voices

256 How Great Thou Art

280 Thy Strong Word

350 All Praise Be Yours

369 Beautiful Savior

471 Renew Me, O Eternal Light

541 Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide

586 O Splendor of God's Glory Bright

712 Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain

746 You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd

771 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

783 Stay With Us, Lord, the Sun Descends

Ash Wednesday

The Lenten journey begins with humble repentance and forgiveness from our gracious God. The Lord’s wrath on the self-righteous will be fierce. Thanks be to God that he has worked righteousness for our salvation in Jesus Christ.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 18:9-14	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Isaiah 59:12-20	2 Samuel 24:10-25
<i>Second Lesson</i>	2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:2	Revelation 3:14-22
<i>Psalm</i>	51a	
<i>Color</i>	Black or Purple	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and merciful God, you never despise what you have made and always forgive those who turn to you. Create in us such new and contrite hearts that we may truly repent of our sins and obtain your full and gracious pardon; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. (Joel 2:13 cf. RSV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 18:9-14

Pointing to the offense of others, the Pharisee dares to stand before the throne of almighty God and justify his presence in God’s kingdom. Such self-exalting champions of “righteousness” will be humbled. But those who humble themselves before the Lord’s throne of grace will be justified and declared truly righteous before him.

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 59:12-20

The flood of offense has driven back justice, leaving the sinner cut off from righteousness. Appalled, literally desolated and ravaged in spirit, at our plight, it is the Lord who intervenes for the sake of righteousness. Seeing none of it in us and no one to work it for us, the Lord comes with his own flood of righteousness to sweep away his enemies and bring salvation to repentant hearts.

SECOND LESSON: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20B—6:2

Reconciliation between God and his creation has been accomplished through Jesus Christ. Sin is no longer counted against the sinner. For it has been replaced by righteousness through Jesus’ sacrifice. At the Lord’s imploring invitation through Paul, repentant hearts come not in vain self-righteousness, but in Spirit-wrought confidence to experience again the message of reconciliation.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: 2 SAMUEL 24:10-25

In sinful pride and arrogance, David took a census of his fighting men. Could you imagine God making you choose your punishment for sin? Given three forms of punishment, David chooses a three-day plague on Israel. Brought to his knees in repentance, David seeks the mercy of the Lord and finds it. What mercy that God doesn't ask us to choose our punishment for sin. He chose it, and placed it squarely on his son, that we might be righteous.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: REVELATION 3:14-22

The spiritual apathy of the Laodiceans stands in stark contrast to the repentance of David but for the modern Christian, the Lord's indictment of the Laodiceans hits home. Neither hot nor cold, so often we go through the motions of the Christian life: lukewarm. Yet our Savior still stands at the door and knocks, waiting for our repentance. The one who was faithful and true in our place wants all to repent, be earnest that he might then have the right to sit with him on the throne.

HYMN OF THE DAY

396 In Adam We Have All Been One

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 123 Lord Jesus Christ, You Set Us Free | 306 Before You, God, the Judge of All |
| 124 Savior, When in Dust to You | 317 O Lord, We Praise You |
| 266 Kyrie, God Father in Heaven Above | 337 Delay Not! Delay Not |
| 268 Lamb of God, Pure and Holy | 376 Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness |
| 272 Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God | 401 Your Works, Not Mine, O Christ |
| 302 Lord, to You I Make Confession | 534 In the Midst of Earthly Life |
| 303 With Broken Heart and Contrite Sigh | 565 There Still Is Room |
| 304 Jesus Sinners Does Receive | 738 In Hopelessness and Near Despair |
| 305 From Depths of Woe I Cry to You | |

First Sunday in Lent

Each of us battles with temptation every day, and the results are too obvious to mention. Christ was no stranger to temptation, either. He battled, yet was without sin...for us and for our eternal righteousness. This message of victory gives us confidence as we journey through the wilderness of sin in true repentance.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 4:1-13	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Deuteronomy 26:5-10	Joshua 7:16-26
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Romans 10:8b-13	Hebrews 4:14-16
<i>Psalm</i>	91	3
<i>Color</i>	Purple	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord our strength, the battle of good and evil rages within and around us, and our ancient foe tempts us with his deceptions and empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your Word, and when we fall, raise us up again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

It is written: "Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only." (Matthew 4:10b)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 4:1-13

It was the ultimate battle of Good versus Evil: the old evil foe battled the Son of Man while the fate of humankind hung in the balance. It almost seems trite to sensationalize the temptation of Christ in such language. Yet is this not the case? At any point, had Jesus failed to resist temptation, had he bowed, or jumped, or even simply made some bread...all would have been lost. But our Champion won the battle: Jesus the Christ holds the field and the kingdom is ours forever.

FIRST LESSON: DEUTERONOMY 26:5-10

With a mighty hand the Lord worked victory over evil for his people, bringing them up out of slavery into the Promised Land. No longer slaves to sin, we long for the Promised Land of a new heaven and new earth, the home of God's elect. There is no greater prize than the love and mercy of our God. So we bow before him alone; we worship him only.

SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 10:8B-13

Christ obeyed his Father in all things. Even in the midst of temptation, he obeyed fully where we could not. When he won the battle over sin for us, there was nothing left for us to do. Christ has fully completed all the requirements of God's Law in our place. Paul tells us in verse 4 that Christ is the fulfillment (τέλος) of the Law for the righteousness of everyone who believes. For us, the obedience of the Law is fulfilled and all

that is left is the obedience of Faith: that if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: JOSHUA 7:16-26

The devastating effects of temptation are seen in the tragic story of Achan. Fresh from spectacular victory at the walls of Jericho, the Lord’s anger burned against Israel. For the city was to have been devoted entirely to the Lord as the first spoils of Canaan. Yet some of the spoils were not given to the Lord. A rout in the next battle at the hands of the Aites brought Joshua and the priests to their knees in dust and ashes. Witness the seriousness of the Word of the Lord and the hopelessness of our sin-stained obedience!

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: HEBREWS 4:14-16

How easy it would be for us to cower in fear at the Lord’s fierce anger against sin. For we are no better than Achan. We, too, have wandered from the way of the Lord to hoard and hide all that tempts. Yet the promise is sure: Jesus is our High Priest and has made atonement for our sin. We need not fear divine retribution. We can come in repentant confidence relying on the grace of God.

HYMN OF THE DAY

200 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
 201 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

117 O Dearest Jesus	455 Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You
121 Jesus, Grant that Balm and Healing	535 Our Fathers' God in Years Long Gone
192 Triune God, Oh, Be Our Stay	541 Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide
196 Lord God, to You We All Give Praise	556 Rise, Shine, You People
197 They Leave Their Place on High	567 Awake, O Spirit, Who Inspired
198 Around the Throne of God a Band	585 While Yet the Morn Is Breaking
202 If God Had Not Been on Our Side	587 Now Rest Beneath Night’s Shadow
204 O God, Our Lord, Your Holy Word	589 Now the Day Is Over
359 Jesus, My Great High Priest	592 All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night
371 Oh, Love, How Deep	593 Now the Light Has Gone Away
385 Chief of Sinners Though I Be	595 Before the Ending of the Day
411 What a Friend We Have in Jesus	620 To You, Our God, We Fly
413 When in the Hour of Utmost Need	725 The God of Love
440 On Eagles’ Wings	726 Christ, the Lord of Hosts, Unshaken
447 Who Trusts in God, a Strong Abode	781 I Lie, O Lord, within Your Care

Second Sunday in Lent

Even though he was rejected by many, the Christ was resolute on his journey to redeem us.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 13:31-35	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Jeremiah 26:8-15	
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Philippians 3:17—4:1	
<i>Psalm</i>	42-43	
<i>Color</i>	Purple	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:8b cf. NIV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 13:31-35

Prophets had been murdered for centuries by the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Yet Jesus was resolute in his mission. He would not be intimidated by Pharisaical lies or enemies of the cross. He would press on toward his goal to redeem humankind from the violence of sin, gathering the elect beneath his eternal wings.

FIRST LESSON: JEREMIAH 26:8-15

Jeremiah was rejected because he did not tell the people what they wanted to hear. Though threatened with death, he was resolute in his mission and faithfully proclaimed the Word of the Lord. Notice the invitation to repentance and mercy by the Lord of free and faithful grace that follows Jeremiah's wake-up call. But it was a call that fell on many deaf ears. This section of Jeremiah ends with the murder of Godly men. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem!

SECOND LESSON: PHILIPPIANS 3:17—4:1

Paul contrasts the journey through life of those who are enemies of the cross of Christ and those who embrace it. Be it our journey through Lent, or our journey from grace to glory, our focus remains on the message of the cross. It is only in Jesus that we can find strength to be resolute on our journey to follow him.

HYMN OF THE DAY

434 Lord, You I Love with All My Heart

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

110 My Song Is Love Unknown

127 Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

214 Jerusalem the Golden

337 Delay Not! Delay Not

351 Hail, O Once-Despised Jesus

361 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

415 Be Still, My Soul

417 I'm But a Stranger Here

440 On Eagles' Wings

449 Children of the Heavenly Father

452 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

466 Though Thoughtless Thousands Choose

565 There Still Is Room

587 Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadow

588 Abide with Me

728 Jerusalem the Golden

774 Church of God, Elect and Glorious

Third Sunday in Lent

At its heart, our Lenten journey must be one of Spirit-wrought repentance. Here is the Lenten invitation: turn from sin fully confident of the Lord's deliverance.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 13:1-9	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Exodus 3:1-8b, 10-15	Numbers 16:23-40
<i>Second Lesson</i>	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	
<i>Psalm</i>	38	
<i>Color</i>	Purple	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, look with favor on your humble servants and stretch out the right hand of your power to defend us against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. (John 3:14,15)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 13:1-9

Traipsing along our journey in the uncertainty of self-righteous self-reliance will only lead to ruin and destruction. Christ calls each of us to closely examine our lives for the fruit of repentance. The gardener is patient and long suffering, but knows well, that a tree without fruit will be cut down. However, bending to the gardener's hand in true repentance will lead to a fruitful life here and eternal life hereafter.

FIRST LESSON: EXODUS 3:1-8B, 10-15

Flames of fire that did not consume. Ground too holy for sandals, but not for sinful flesh. God appearing in power, but calling himself the LORD, the God of free and faithful love. Such are the contradictions of Law and Gospel. Today, Christ calls on us to be fruitful followers, and in this lesson he gives us the motivation to do it: our God is the great I AM, the God of the living, the God of deliverance for his people and forgiveness for his children.

SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-13

The Lord had delivered his people in spectacular fashion. Israel had every reason to trust whole-heartedly in his promises, relying on their rock, the Christ. Yet so many served their own bodies, even seeking the favor of other false gods. Let Israel's example serve as warning. Turn from temptation, leave sin behind, trust in the Lord's faithfulness to forgive, bear abundant fruit, and follow the Way out of this world to eternal life.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: NUMBERS 16:23-40

Moses served the Lord and his people as prophet, spokesman for the Word. Korah and his followers, many of whom were Levites, claimed to know better. The demands were just too great, the expectations too high for Moses to truly be speaking for the Lord. As would be done for Elijah centuries later, the Almighty gave proof of Moses' authority as a warning to Israel. Yet in the midst of rebellion and divine judgment is the mercy of God. As the holy censors are affixed to the altar the people are reminded of the perfect High Priest's sacrifice yet to come. With the shedding of his blood, there is forgiveness.

HYMN OF THE DAY

302 Lord, to You I Make Confession

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

98 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

102 Enslaved by Sin and Bound in Chains

116 In the Hour of Trial

303 With Broken Heart and Contrite Sigh

305 From Depths of Woe I Cry to You

308 As Surely As I Live, God Said

325 How Blest Are They Who Hear

339 Today Your Mercy Calls Us

342 Amid the World's Bleak Wilderness

352 Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor

423 Not in Anger, Mighty God

424 O God, Forsake Me Not

438 In God, My Faithful God

473 Savior, I Follow On

765 Day by Day

Fourth Sunday in Lent

The repentant sinner rejoices at being found in the loving embrace of the Father’s full, free, and “foolish” forgiveness.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Isaiah 12:1-6	Judges 10:6-16
<i>Second Lesson</i>	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	James 4:7-10
<i>Psalm</i>	32	115
<i>Color</i>	Purple	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 15:1-3, 11B-32

The greatest comfort for the repentant heart is the full and free forgiveness, the love and welcome of the Father. Even though our sin should separate us from the family of God, he welcomes us back into the family with the full rights sons. To the self-righteous, this seems foolish, even offensive. But for the loving Father this is cause for celebration.

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 12:1-6

Five times the LORD, the God of free and faithful grace, is mentioned in this lesson from Isaiah. His fierce anger has turned to comfort and salvation. There is no more fear of divine retribution, but joyful singing and proclamation for he has done glorious things. The Holy One has become our salvation.

SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25

Though it appears foolish to the unbeliever, the glorious message of the cross is revealed to the repentant heart as the power of God for the salvation of souls. Therefore, we preach Christ crucified.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: JUDGES 10:6-16

This preamble to the account of Jephthah is representative of all the cycles of conflict and faith throughout the book of Judges. Once again, Israel has turned from the Lord to idolatry. Once again the Lord has allowed the scourge of a foreign nation to discipline the Israelites in their apostasy. To their desperate pleas and

fruits of repentance the Lord responds with rescue. On this Sunday we notice the foolishness of God’s grace In saving Israel, and ultimately in saving us. It’s foolishness, and thank God it is!

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: JAMES 4:7-10

The heart weighed down by sin returns to the Lord in humble submission. The joy of forgiveness is always preceded by contrition and repentance. How amazing that when we humble ourselves before the Lord, God will lift us up. Look at the Gospel to see how God describes his love for sinners like us. Rejoice! How quickly the Father comes to us with the uplifting assurance of forgiveness in Christ Jesus!

HYMN OF THE DAY

- 304 Jesus Sinners Does Receive
- 437 I Trust, O Christ, in You Alone

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 116 In the Hour of Trial | 397 Just As I Am, without One Plea |
| 121 Jesus, Grant that Balm and Healing | 398 Lord, We Confess Our Numerous Faults |
| 231 Now the Silence | 403 I Know My Faith Is Founded |
| 236 All Praise to God who Reigns Above | 423 Not in Anger, Mighty God |
| 290 One Thing’s Needful | 446 I am Trusting You, Lord Jesus |
| 302 Lord, to You I Make Confession | 450 God, My Lord, My Strength |
| 306 Before You, God, the Judge of All | 510 I Pray You, Dear Lord Jesus |
| 310 I Come, O Savior, to Your Table | 569 O Christ, Our True and Only Light |
| 339 Today Your Mercy Calls Us | 579 Lift High the Cross |
| 349 Jesus, Priceless Treasure | 705 The Night Will Soon Be Ending |
| 379 Amazing Grace—How Sweet the Sound | 733 Rejoice in God |
| 383 Blessed Are They, Forever Blest | 738 In Hopelessness and Near Despair |
| 384 By Grace I’m Saved | 739 Baptismal Waters Cover Me |
| 387 Drawn to the Cross | 748 Lamb of God |
| 388 Redeemed, Restored, Forgiven | 774 Church of God, Elect and Glorious |

Fifth Sunday in Lent

How beautiful is our journey to the cross and tomb. We have seen our Savior’s battle waged against temptation. We have found confidence in his resolution to carry out the Father’s plan of salvation. We have turned to the Lord at his invitation to draw near with repentant hearts. And we have rejoiced in his loving and forgiving embrace. In these final hours before Holy Week, even as we rejoice in the great things God has done for his people throughout history, let us put the ways of the past behind us and continue to strive for that for which Christ has laid hold of us.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 20:9-19	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Isaiah 43:16-21	Isaiah 43:16-24
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Philippians 3:8-14	Romans 11:11-21
<i>Psalm</i>	73	
<i>Color</i>	Purple	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive forgiveness of sins and inherit eternal life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45 cf. NIV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 20:9-19

We find ourselves horrified by the actions of the evil tenants. In self-righteous anger we say with the Jews, “May this never be!” Jesus warns that the self-righteous Pharisees of the ages will be dashed to pieces against him, the Cornerstone. Even so, the owner of the vineyard again and again sends Word to the renters. His desire to reconnect with the wicked tenants is so great that he sends his own Son. Those who receive him with hearts of faith will gratefully bring forth fruit and, along with him, enjoy the Son’s inheritance forever.

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 43:16-21

The LORD had delivered his people from a life of slavery in Egypt and from impending death at the hand of the pursuing Egyptian army. But even this glorious rescue pales in comparison to the salvation to be worked in the Messiah. This is the Lord’s invitation to praise him for the eternal salvation he will bring.

SECOND LESSON: PHILIPPIANS 3:8-14

To Paul all that is earthly gain and glory is rubbish compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus. There is no room for the self-righteous in Christ's kingdom. We want to be found with an alien righteousness. Then we will know Christ's power, and because we have been called, gathered, and enlightened we put the past behind and strive for the eternal prize.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 43:16-24

The additional verses from Isaiah 43 provide the lesson a slightly different connection to the Gospel Lesson. The Israelites of old foolishly clung to the ceremonial law with empty formalism. Like Pharisees of the past and present, they look to deeds rather than Christ and the gracious salvation he brings.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 11:11-21

Paul speaks particularly to those who have been *grafted* into the olive tree. In apostasy, Israel chose self-righteousness and idolatry, rejecting the LORD's covenant and his Messiah. As such they were broken off. Here we find that we live in the confidence of a two-fold knowledge: 1) We are grafted into the nourishing tree by grace; 2) We remain in the tree by faith.

HYMN OF THE DAY

110 My Song Is Love Unknown

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

125 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
 127 Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted
 225 This Is the Day the Lord Has Made
 290 One Thing's Needful
 382 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less
 386 Now I Have Found the Firm Foundation
 388 Redeemed, Restored, Forgiven
 391 God Loved the World So that He Gave
 392 Not unto Us
 401 Your Works, Not Mine, O Christ
 428 Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me
 431 I Walk in Danger All the Way

447 Who Trusts in God, a Strong Abode
 456 Forth in Your Name, O Lord, I Go
 457 Fight the Good Fight
 466 Though Thoughtless Thousands Choose
 528 Christ Is Our Cornerstone
 531 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation
 536 Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head
 622 For Many Years, O God of Grace
 714 The Lamb
 750 Christ, the Word of God Incarnate
 752 In Christ Alone
 779 I Sing as I Arise Today

Sixth Sunday in Lent—Palm Sunday

Here is the culmination of our Lenten journey of repentance and renewal. Here is final preparation for the celebration of the Paschal Mystery. The journey of Lent has prepared our hearts to ponder anew the Passion of our Lord and his glorious triumph over death and grave. With repentant hearts we join our Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, confident in his everlasting rule, hailing him as our Eternal King. At the same time, we are mindful that he is our King because he is the Messiah, the promised Son of David sent as the sacrificial Lamb of God. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 19:28-40	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Zechariah 9:9,10	Isaiah 45:22-25
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Philippians 2:5-11	Hebrews 12:1-3
<i>Psalm</i>	24	
<i>Color</i>	Purple	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We praise you, O God, for the great acts of love by which you redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ. As he was acclaimed by those who scattered their garments and branches of palm in his path, so may we always hail him as our King and follow him with perfect confidence; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

VERSE OF THE DAY

The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. (John 12:23 cf. NIV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 19:28-40

Our humble King comes in majesty. For he comes to do the will of the Father. He comes to bring salvation, righteousness, and peace: peace in heaven and glory in the highest! He came as the fulfillment of scripture, as the answer to mankind's problem, as the Hope for all the true Israel of God. On this day, the king would have his praise, from the stones if necessary. Behold the King had returned to his own city to win peace and salvation for all.

FIRST LESSON: ZECHARIAH 9:9,10

The exiled Jews find restoration not through battle with the enemy, but through a king in a time of peace. Here is hope for the tiny remnant returning to rebuild the Lord's temple. For this is the way of the Lord's salvation: Our gentle King comes with power to restore eternal peace.

SECOND LESSON: PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

The homage due a king belongs to the Christ. At the name of Jesus – "human name for God above" (CW 76 st.5) – every knee shall bow. For he has come to serve his people, not with armies and war machines, but with the obedient sacrifice of his own life. Therefore he is exalted by saints on earth and hosts of heaven.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 45:22-25

It is easy to miss the majesty of a king riding a donkey into Jerusalem. But the majesty so great that stones would praise him is on display in Isaiah’s words. He is God, and there is no other. This coming King will make every knee bow. But he comes to bring righteousness and strength. Because he brings salvation, he brings what no earthly king can provide. Bow before the Lord. For in this King will we be eternally exalted.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: HEBREWS 12:1-3

This lesson particularly emphasizes continued preparation and encourages proper focus as we anticipate the celebration of the Three Holy Days (the *Triduum*). Cast off all that entangles and hinders in order to fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

HYMN OF THE DAY

132 Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

133 Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

3 Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates

4 Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates

8 Come, O Precious Ransom, Come

29 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

110 My Song Is Love Unknown

130 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

131 All Glory, Laud, and Honor

134 O Bride of Christ, Rejoice

192 Triune God, Oh, Be Our Stay

217 The Head that Once Was Crowned

230 Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now

251 When Morning Gilds the Skies

344 At the Name of Jesus

350 All Praise Be Yours

354 Lamb of God, We Fall before You

363 The King of Glory Comes

368 O Savior, Precious Savior

370 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

371 Oh, Love, How Deep

373 O Jesus, King Most Wonderful

457 Fight the Good Fight

467 May the Mind of Christ My Savior

540 Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng

551 For All the Saints

701 Zion, at Your Shining Gates

702 Prepare the Royal Highway

704 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

716 No Tramp of Soldiers' Marching Feet

733 Rejoice in God

747 There is a Redeemer

749 The Love of Christ, Who Died for Me

756 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

771 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Maundy Thursday

Blood paints the way to salvation. Yet “not all the blood of beasts” (CW 128) could for sin atone. Fulfilling the Old Covenant, the Lamb of God establishes the New Covenant in his own body and blood.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 22:7-20	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Exodus 12:1-14	Jeremiah 31:31-34
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Hebrews 10:15-25	
<i>Psalm</i>	116	
<i>Color</i>	Purple	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus Christ, in the sacrament of Holy Communion you give us your true body and blood as a remembrance of your suffering and death on a cross. Grant us so firmly to believe your words and promise that we may always partake of this sacrament to our eternal good; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. (1 Corinthians 11:26 RSV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 22:7-20

Here is the final Passover and the establishment of the New Covenant meal. Through the sacrifice of his own body and blood, the Lamb of God brings assurance of the forgiveness of sins and strengthening of faith. Participation in this, his body and blood, proclaims his death until we eat and drink it with him in eternity.

FIRST LESSON: EXODUS 12:1-14

With the Lord’s judgment at hand the blood of lambs is a sign of his faithfulness to all Israel. The gore marks doorframes for the deliverance of Israel from the judgment of God upon Egypt. A shadow of promised salvation from eternal death through the sacrificial Lamb of God, the first Passover is to be remembered from generation to generation.

SECOND LESSON: HEBREWS 10:15-25

Linking promise to fulfillment, shadow to reality, the Holy Spirit testifies to the new covenant. The sacrifice has been made, once for all. The purifying waters of baptism have connected us to his death and life. His blood marks the door frames of our hearts. Yes, all barriers have been removed so that we may approach the God of the Covenant in the full confidence of forgiveness.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: JEREMIAH 31:31-34

Jeremiah prophesies of the New Covenant. Quoted in Hebrews 10 and fulfilled in Luke 22, this prophecy proclaims a time that has now come. Gone is the covenant of old. It is replaced by knowledge of the Lord, membership in his family, and the forgiveness of sins. He is our God; we are his people.

HYMN OF THE DAY

313 Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

101 Behold the Lamb of God

106 Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain

135 The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord

136 'Twas on that Dark, that Doleful Night

231 Now the Silence

268 Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

309 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

310 I Come, O Savior, to Your Table

311 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

312 Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared

313 Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior

315 Here, O My Lord, I see You Face to Face

317 O Lord, We Praise You

361 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

460 How Can I Thank You, Lord

717 When You Woke that Thursday Morning

740 Draw Near

741 Take and Eat

742 What Is This Bread

743 O Gracious Lord, I Firmly Am Believing

744 You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Good Friday

All of human history hinges on this day. Humbling himself before the will of the Father and the blood-thirst of men, the Son of God is slaughtered. Even worse than an ignoble death, the Father must reject his own Son since he bears the sin of the world. But all this served God’s saving purpose, and so we call this Friday...Good.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	John 19:17-30	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Isaiah 52:13—53:12	
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9	Galatians 3:10-13
<i>Psalm</i>	22	
<i>Color</i>	Black	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God Most Holy, look with mercy on this your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, be given over into the hands of the wicked, and suffer death upon the cross. Keep us always faithful to him, our only Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. (Isaiah 53:4)

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 19:17-30

The Lord of glory was crucified. This happened so that the Word of the Lord might be fulfilled. The horror of what our sins caused can only be overcome by the peace that divine love has brought. “It is finished,” and eternal life is ours.

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 52:13—53:12

From rejection and violence to death and burial, Isaiah foretells the slaughter of the Lamb of God in striking detail. How these words cut to the heart of repentant sinners as the “tender shoot” is crushed, as the silent Lamb is butchered at the hands of men. Yet we know that it must be so, for by his wounds we are healed. Though his life was poured out into death, he will see the light of life and so shall we. This our eternal hope. Even on Good Friday we worship our Living Lord.

SECOND LESSON: HEBREWS 4:14-16; 5:7-9

This lesson recalls the first Sunday in our Lenten journey. Our High Priest has been tempted, even to the point of giving up his mission to redeem the world. Yet he was without sin. His perfect obedience is the source of our salvation. As the Father’s sacrificial demands are placated we find welcome audience before his throne of grace to help us in our time of need.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: GALATIANS 3:10-13

At times the rules and regulations of the law are an addictive drug to the sinful nature as it wallows in self-righteousness. At others these same rules and regulations are limitless borders on the tortured conscience that knows no righteousness. This destructive behavior leads only to complete failure and the curse of the law: eternal death. Yet, freedom from this death sentence is available to all, for Jesus became the curse itself, buying freedom to righteousness and eternal life. This freedom from the curse of the law is ours by faith, won for us through him who was “hung on a tree.”

HYMN OF THE DAY

- 100 A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth
- 140 God Was There on Calvary

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 105 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded | 319 On My Heart Imprint Your Image |
| 107 Deep Were His Wounds | 320 On My Heart Imprint Your Image |
| 113 Upon the Cross Extended | 351 Hail, O Once-Despised Jesus |
| 114 Christ, the Life of All the Living | 359 Jesus, My Great High Priest |
| 117 O Dearest Jesus | 372 I Lay My Sins on Jesus |
| 119 Were You There | 377 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice |
| 120 What Wondrous Love Is This | 387 Drawn to the Cross |
| 122 Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle | 401 Your Works, Not Mine, O Christ |
| 126 Lord Jesus, You Are Going Forth | 413 When in the Hour of Utmost Need |
| 127 Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted | 608 I Fall Asleep in Jesus' Wounds |
| 128 Not All the Blood of Beasts | 713 In Silent Pain the Eternal Son |
| 129 Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed | 714 The Lamb |
| 137 Oh, Darkest Woe | 715 What Grace Is This! |
| 138 Oh, Perfect Life of Love | 716 No Tramp of Soldiers' Marching Feet |
| 139 Jesus, in Your Dying Woes | 718 Rest, O Christ, from All Your Labor |
| 140 God Was There on Calvary | 746 You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd |
| 268 Lamb of God, Pure and Holy | 747 There is a Redeemer |
| 302 Lord, to You I Make Confession | 748 Lamb of God |
| 304 Jesus Sinners Does Receive | 752 In Christ Alone |

The Resurrection of Our Lord—Easter Dawn

As “morning breaks upon the tomb” (CW 159) its gaping entrance and vacant depths stir a mixture of emotions among Jesus’ followers. But with proclamation of the resurrection, ignorance turns to understanding and sorrow changes to joy. With the rising of the sun faith-filled hearts soar to proclaim the angels’ message: He is risen!

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	John 20:1-18	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Isaiah 12:1-6	
<i>Second Lesson</i>	1 Corinthians 15:51-57	
<i>Psalm</i>	30	
<i>Color</i>	White	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you made the dawn of this most holy day shine with the glory of our Lord’s resurrection. Grant that we who have been raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. Alleluia. (1 Corinthians 15:22)

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 20:1-18

So many will miss the point of this Easter Day. They will not understand the impact Christ’s resurrection has had on our eternity. But the missing body and empty tomb are not the end of the story. Just as Jesus revealed himself in glory to Mary Magdalene, so he reveals himself to us that we might worship our Risen Lord.

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 12:1-6

Harkening back to Lent 4, this lesson from Isaiah underscores again the salvation that is ours with the risen Christ. Our trust has not been in vain. The well will not run dry. For the LORD, the God of free and faithful grace, has made good on his promises. “He has risen, just as he said.” Make known among the nations what he has done!

SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:51-57

Draw near to behold the mystery as Paul discusses the risen Christ’s miraculous promise, “Whoever lives and believes in me will never die.” Because Christ has been raised, and death has been swallowed up in his victory, the mortal will be clothed with immortality. His victory is ours and we shall be changed for eternity. Death has no sting; the grave has no victory. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed.

HYMN OF THE DAY

144 Christ Is Arisen

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

145 Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won

146 His Battle Ended There

147 Like the Golden Sun Ascending

148 The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

149 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

152 I Know that My Redeemer Lives

153 Alleluia! Jesus Lives

159 Morning Breaks upon the Tomb

160 This Joyful Eastertide

161 Christ Jesus Lay In Death's Strong Bands

168 With High Delight Let Us Unite

211 I Know of a Sleep in Jesus' Name

265 This Is the Feast of Victory

341 Crown Him with Many Crowns

446 I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus

552 By All Your Saints Still Striving

719 Christ has Arisen, Alleluia

720 Christ Jesus Lay In Death's Strong Bands

722 Scatter the Darkness, Break the Gloom

724 Voices Raised to You We Offer

733 Rejoice in God

749 The Love of Christ, Who Died for Me

752 In Christ Alone

788 Thanks Be to God!

The Resurrection of Our Lord—Easter Day

On this most holy of days, we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. Connected by grace, through faith, to our risen Lord, we rejoice in the victory of the resurrection and in full confidence of our own resurrection from the dead.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 24:1-12	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Exodus 15:1-11	
<i>Second Lesson</i>	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	
<i>Psalm</i>	118	
<i>Color</i>	White	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you conquered death and opened the gate to eternal life. Grant that we, who have been raised with him through baptism, may walk in the newness of life and ever rejoice in the hope of sharing his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be dominion and praise now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia. (Psalm 118:24 cf. NIV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 24:1-12

With the women, we have traveled along with Jesus through his Passion and watched as he was laid in the tomb. But the final trip to the tomb doesn't reveal the finality *of* death. Rather, it reveals the finality *for* death. What a change! No doubt Peter was confused, wondering what had happened. Do not look for the living among the dead. Death has been swallowed up in victory; Christ has risen just as he said! Death no longer has mastery over us. Easter means that death ends in life!

FIRST LESSON: EXODUS 15:1-11

The song of Moses and the Israelites foreshadows our song of joy on this day. The evil foe sought to pull us back into the slavery of sin. Yet the hand of the Lord has saved his people. Just as he rescued the Israelites through the waters of the Red Seas, so he has rescued us from sin and death through water and the Word. He has connected to the sacrificial death and victorious resurrection of his one and only Son through the waters of baptism.

SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11

The message of the Gospel, Christ crucified for our sins and raised to life for our justification, is the power of salvation for everyone who believes. Let there be no doubt: Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Not just in our minds and hearts, he has risen in the flesh. Paul appeals to eyewitnesses who still lived and told what they

had seen. Christ resurrection had no doubt; so neither does its power. The power of this message enters our hearts by the grace of God and fills us with resurrection joy.

HYMN OF THE DAY

- 156 Awake, My Heart, with Gladness
- 161 Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

- 142 Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain
- 143 He's Risen, He's Risen
- 147 Like the Golden Sun Ascending
- 148 The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done
- 149 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today
- 150 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia
- 152 I Know that My Redeemer Lives
- 155 Christ the Lord Is Risen Again
- 156 Awake, My Heart, with Gladness
- 157 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today
- 159 Morning Breaks upon the Tomb
- 160 This Joyful Eastertide
- 162 He Is Arisen! Glorious Word
- 163 Welcome, Happy Morning
- 211 I Know of a Sleep in Jesus' Name
- 225 This is the Day the Lord Has Made
- 254 The Day Full of Grace
- 265 This Is the Feast of Victory
- 341 Crown Him with Many Crowns
- 379 Amazing Grace—How Sweet the Sound
- 406 This Is the Threefold Truth
- 528 Christ Is Our Cornerstone
- 531 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation
- 552 By All Your Saints Still Striving
- 719 Christ has Arisen, Alleluia
- 720 Christ Jesus Lay In Death's Strong Bands
- 721 If Christ Had Not Been Raised from Death
- 722 Scatter the Darkness, Break the Gloom
- 749 The Love of Christ, Who Died for Me
- 752 In Christ Alone
- 786 The Song of Moses
- 788 Thanks Be to God!

Second Sunday of Easter

Final preparation to be the risen Christ's witnesses begins with sight. The apostles were blessed with visibly seeing the risen Lord. Overcoming their doubts by the power of the Spirit, they would boldly proclaim the new life to be found in the Living One. Blessed to see through eyes of faith, the vision of the First and the Last fills our hearts with this confidence: "Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again." (CW 406)

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	John 20:19-31	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Acts 5:12, 17-32	Genesis 15:1-6
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Revelation 1:4-18	2 Peter 1:16-21
<i>Psalm</i>	16	
<i>Color</i>	White	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by your Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia. (John 20:29b)

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19-31

With repeated assurances of peace the gathered disciples are overjoyed to behold the risen Christ with their own eyes. Armed with the Ministry of the Keys, Jesus commissions them to proclaim their joy and open the kingdom of heaven to lost sinners. The visible and physical proofs demanded by Thomas anticipate future doubters of the Son of Man's divinity. In his grace we behold our risen Lord through Word and sacrament. How blessed by the Spirit are we: though we have not visibly seen, yet we see our Lord and God through eyes of faith.

FIRST LESSON: ACTS 5:12, 17-32

This lesson begins a series from the Book of Acts that shows the apostles with markedly different character than the disciples in the upper room. These are not the same timid disciples who often questioned their rabbi out of lack of understanding or cowered behind locked doors out of fear. Now, even in the face of persecution, the apostles boldly proclaimed the Good News of new life. Such is the power and joy of the risen Christ in the lives of his followers.

SECOND LESSON: REVELATION 1:4-18

John’s vision exceeds our imagination. Yet the revelation of Jesus to St. John is for us a vision of promise and assurance. The brilliant vision of the all-glorious Living One brought John to his knees in abject fear. Yet the gentle hand of the First and Last and the inspiring voice of rushing waters allays fears and emboldens hearts. Once dead, now alive forever and ever, the Son of Man triumphantly holds the keys to death and Hades.

This Sunday marks the beginning of a series of Lessons from Revelation. Each directs us to lift our eyes heavenward to behold with John the eternal glory secured by our risen Lord. These lessons conclude by encouraging us to keep gazing expectantly...for he will come again.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 15:1-6

Fresh from the battle against the kings of the East, Abram has been blessed with full assurance that the Lord is his shield. Yet Abram longs to know the details of how the Lord is his great reward. At the invitation to view the celestial beauty of the Lord’s creation, Abram is assured the Lord’s great reward would not only be a son but a nation. In striking contrast to doubting Thomas, Abraham believed the Word of the Lord and it was credited to him as righteousness.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: 2 PETER 1:16-21

Peter’s testimony was certain because he was eyewitness. He had seen the glory of God in Christ on the mountain. He had seen the glory of life from death in the upper room. What did that mean? The New Testament church had a blessing: the word of the prophets made more certain by eyewitness of glory and resurrection. This word made more certain shines like light in the darkness of this world, illuminating our hearts and lives until the Morning Star returns.

HYMN OF THE DAY

165 O Sons and Daughters of the King

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

29 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending
 32 When Sinners See Their Lost Condition
 79 How Lovely Shines the Morning Star
 103 Glory Be to Jesus
 141 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing
 142 Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain
 150 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia
 153 Alleluia! Jesus Lives
 159 Morning Breaks upon the Tomb
 160 This Joyful Eastertide
 161 Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands
 168 With High Delight Let Us Unite
 211 I Know of a Sleep in Jesus’ Name

225 This Is the Day the Lord Has Made
 239 Glory Be to God the Father
 265 This Is the Feast of Victory
 291 We Have a Sure Prophetic Word
 308 As Surely As I Live, God Said
 341 Crown Him with Many Crowns
 352 Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor
 369 Beautiful Savior
 434 Lord, You I Love with All My Heart
 535 Our Fathers' God in Years Long Gone
 552 By All Your Saints Still Striving
 558 Christ High-Ascended
 704 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

719 Christ has Arisen, Alleluia

720 Christ Jesus Lay In Death's Strong Bands

721 If Christ Had Not Been Raised from Death

722 Scatter the Darkness, Break the Gloom

741 Take and Eat

750 Christ, the Word of God Incarnate

756 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

Third Sunday of Easter

The risen Christ appears to his apostles in the power of his majesty.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	John 21:1-14	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Acts 9:1-19a	
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Revelation 5:11-14	
<i>Psalm</i>	67	
<i>Color</i>	White	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. Our hearts were burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us. Alleluia. (Luke 24:32 cf. NIV)

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 21:1-14

Another miraculous catch of fish brings the disciples scrambling to worship at the feet of their Savior. He appeared in power, to assure them of his presence and providence for what lay ahead. The risen Lord still comes with power through Word and sacrament, assuring us of his forgiveness, promising his Spirit for lives of faithful service, and guaranteeing our resurrection to eternal life.

FIRST LESSON: ACTS 9:1-19A

The risen Lord appears in power to Saul on the road to Damascus. The Light of the World shines and the blind receive sight. In the same way his light has shined in the darkness of our sin-filled hearts. In Word and sacrament the risen Lord has appeared in power to create and strengthen, to fill and overflow.

SECOND LESSON: REVELATION 5:11-14

The power and majesty of the hosts of heaven joined in songs of praise is surpassed by the power and majesty of him who sits on the throne. Worthy is the Lamb to receive such praise. Our resurrected Lord guarantees that we will one day join their “Amen” for eternity.

HYMN OF THE DAY

160 This Joyful Eastertide

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

85 O God from God, O Light from Light
101 Behold the Lamb of God
143 He's Risen, He's Risen
198 Around the Throne of God a Band
218 Then the Glory
227 Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs
239 Glory Be to God the Father
249 God of Mercy, God of Grace
265 This Is the Feast of Victory
340 Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
370 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name
380 Lord, 'Tis Not that I Did Choose You
385 Chief of Sinners Though I Be

463 Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult
549 Around the Throne, A Glorious Band
552 By All Your Saints Still Striving
558 Christ High-Ascended
574 May God Bestow on Us His Grace
580 Every Morning Mercies New
714 The Lamb
725 The God of Love
727 There Is a Higher Throne
729 There Is a Blessed Home
730 Blessed Are They
748 Lamb of God
776 Sing with All the Saints in Glory
787 A Canticle to the Lamb

Fourth Sunday of Easter

On Good Shepherd Sunday God’s Word shows us our Shepherd, Jesus, who leads his flock to safe pastures and his eternal fold.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	John 10:22-30	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Acts 13:15,16a, 26-33	Ezekiel 34:25-31
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Revelation 7:9-17	
<i>Psalm</i>	23	
<i>Color</i>	White	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father’s house forevermore; for you live and reign with him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me. Alleluia. (John 10:14)

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 10:22-30

Christ’s words to his enemies were as simple as they were stark: You do not believe that I am the Christ because you are not my sheep. As a shepherd dividing goats from the sheep, Jesus drew a sharp distinction between these unbelievers questioning him and the believers who followed him. They did not know him, would not follow him, and would be lost forever. But for his disciples, for us, Christ said they knew him, they hear him, they follow him, and they will live forever. All this can only be true because our Good Shepherd is God in the flesh.

FIRST LESSON: ACTS 13:15,16A, 26-33

Paul preaches an “encouraging” message of Biblical proportions and eternal consequences. The Good News is that the Messiah has come. He is the Savior sacrificed for sinners, the conqueror of death witnessed by his followers. Jesus of Nazareth was the Son of God, verified by the Father himself. He has the power and authority to shepherd his people Israel.

SECOND LESSON: REVELATION 7:9-17

The paradox of Christ is that he is both Lamb and Shepherd. He saves his flock, by shedding his blood as the Lamb sacrificed for sin. This is the Good Shepherd we needed: God in the flesh, sacrificed for our atonement. But now, washed in his blood, the white robed host is led by the Shepherd-Lamb to the springs of living water and a life where everything that once was wrong is made right forever.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: EZEKIEL 34:25-31

See what it means to have God as a shepherd! Not just protection from wolves or finding plenty of pasture. God as Shepherd means peace and showers and fruit and crops! Security and broken yokes, safety and freedom from famine! Why would God do all this? Simply so that we might know that he is our God, and we are his people. See what it means to have God as a shepherd!

HYMN OF THE DAY

375 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

203 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word
 212 Jerusalem, Thou City Fair and High
 214 Jerusalem the Golden
 215 Jerusalem, My Happy Home
 219 Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See
 239 Glory Be to God the Father
 244 Arise, My Soul, Arise
 283 Speak, O Savior; I Am Listening
 299 All Who Believe and Are Baptized
 360 The Lord's My Shepherd; I'll Not Want
 374 My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
 376 Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness
 382 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less
 384 By Grace I'm Saved
 432 I Am Jesus' Little Lamb
 436 Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep
 442 Have No Fear, Little Flock
 508 Gracious Savior, Gentle Shepherd

549 Around the Throne, A Glorious Band
 550 Behold a Host, Arrayed in White
 551 For All the Saints
 714 The Lamb
 727 There Is a Higher Throne
 728 Jerusalem the Golden
 729 There Is a Blessed Home
 730 Blessed Are They
 741 Take and Eat
 744 You Satisfy the Hungry Heart
 748 Lamb of God
 750 Christ, the Word of God Incarnate
 752 In Christ Alone
 766 The Lord's My Shepherd; I'll Not Want
 776 Sing with All the Saints in Glory
 788 Thanks Be to God!

Fifth Sunday of Easter

The risen Lord prepares his followers for his visible departure by giving a new command: Love one another.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	John 13:31-35	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Acts 13:44-52	1 Samuel 20:12-17
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Revelation 21:1-6	1 Corinthians 13:1-13
<i>Psalm</i>	145	
<i>Color</i>	White	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord. Alleluia. (John 14:6 cf. NIV)

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 13:31-35

Having come from God and now preparing to return to God, Jesus gives his disciples the command to love one another. Disciples of Jesus are marked by their love for each other. For it is a reflection of the same love our now glorified Savior has for us. (This lesson can be closely linked with next week's Gospel Lesson, where "love" is expressed through obedience to Jesus' teaching.)

FIRST LESSON: ACTS 13:44-52

Even in the face of persecution, love led the apostles to boldly proclaim the message of the risen Christ. Filled with joy and the Spirit, Christ's love compels us to proclaim the same Word of Life.

SECOND LESSON: REVELATION 21:1-6

Jesus had told them that he was leaving. Here John gives us a picture of it, and what it will be like when we join Jesus there. St. John gives a vision of the new heaven and the new earth, the home beautifully crafted and lovingly prepared for the Bride of Christ. Here there is nothing of the old sin, death and pain. All is new for all is done.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: 1 SAMUEL 20:12-17

Jonathan loved David more than his own father, because David was the LORD's anointed. Though Saul fought against David, Jonathan would not. Jonathan displays selfless love for David inspired by the God of

free and faithful grace. At the same time, Jonathan calls on David to show the same selfless love to this son of Saul and his children.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13

Lack of love negates the greatest of spiritual gifts. This lesson is often heard at weddings. But isn't it amazing that these commands of love are not meant for husbands and wives, but for brothers and sisters in the body of Christ? Love each other like this, our Lord tells us. This is a new command, love each other this way! These verses really describe Christ's love for us, and so model the love that fulfills Christ's command.

HYMN OF THE DAY

141 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

78 O Light of Gentile Nations
 212 Jerusalem, Thou City Fair and High
 214 Jerusalem the Golden
 215 Jerusalem, My Happy Home
 219 Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See
 222 Songs of Praise the Angels Sang
 364 My Heart Is Longing
 458 May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill
 479 Jesus, Your Boundless Love to Me
 490 Love in Christ Is Strong and Living
 495 Not for Tongues of Heaven's Angels
 496 Glorious in Majesty

497 This Is My Will
 498 Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire
 504 Bless Our Loved Ones, Holy Father
 505 Love Is the Gracious Gift
 521 Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace
 524 O Fount of Good, for All You Love
 576 Spread, Oh, Spread the Mighty Word
 577 Rise, O Light of Gentile Nations
 727 There Is a Higher Throne
 728 Jerusalem the Golden
 729 There Is a Blessed Home
 776 Sing with All the Saints in Glory

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Love for Christ shows itself in obedience to his teaching and trust in his peace.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	John 14:23-29	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Acts 14:8-18	2 Kings 6:15-17
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Revelation 21:10-14, 22,23	Revelation 3:14-22
<i>Psalm</i>	65	
<i>Color</i>	White	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Father of lights, every good and perfect gift comes from you. Inspire us to think those things that are true and long for those things that are good, that we may always make our petitions according to your gracious will; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Alleluia. (John 14:23 cf. NIV)

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 14:23-29

Jesus continues to prepare the disciples for his visible departure. The new command to love one another also means loving him and his Word. Loving Jesus means obeying his teaching. We do not fear at the thought of this impossible task. The gift of the Spirit comes to bring knowledge and peace. With untroubled hearts, we believe.

FIRST LESSON: ACTS 14:8-18

Their first missionary journey continues as Paul and Barnabas flee to Lystra. Filled with the Spirit, Paul and Barnabas heal a man crippled from birth. While the crowd recognizes divine power at work, their misguided notions of divinity lead them to the wrong conclusion. Troubled by what was happening, Paul and Barnabas seize the opportunity to proclaim the true message of peace through the risen Christ.

SECOND LESSON: REVELATION 21:10-14, 22,23

As the angel points out the bride of Christ to St. John, can we help but marvel: that's us! Here is how God sees his Church: as the very bride of Christ, holy and glorious. Like a brilliant jewel the Church built on the prophets and apostles is prepared for an eternity with her loving Lord in the temple of the Lamb and the radiance of his light.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: 2 KINGS 6:15-17

Obedying the Word of God had brought Elisha and his servant to the brink of death. The servant of Elisha was gripped in fear when he saw the forces that King of Aram sent to capture his master. In a stunning revelation of divine knowledge, the servant receives spiritual sight. The sight of the vast army of fire brought peace to his fainting heart. God’s message is simple, but profound. Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God!

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: REVELATION 3:14-22

Spiritual apathy has disastrous results. The Laodiceans failed to obey the teaching of Christ. Their lukewarm Christianity was taking them to destruction. But Christ called them to new obedience and new love for him by offering them real wealth, clothes of holiness, and the salve of healing. Hear what the Spirit says and overcome the world even as the risen Lord has overcome it.

HYMN OF THE DAY

377 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

145 Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won
 177 Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest
 178 Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest
 186 O Spirit of Life, O Spirit of God
 206 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying
 212 Jerusalem, Thou City Fair and High
 214 Jerusalem the Golden
 215 Jerusalem, My Happy Home
 321 Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name
 332 Go, My Children, with My Blessing
 377 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice
 386 Now I Have Found the Firm Foundation
 396 In Adam We Have All Been One
 397 Just As I Am, without One Plea
 434 Lord, You I Love with All My Heart
 479 Jesus, Your Boundless Love to Me
 498 Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire

523 God of Grace and God of Glory
 529 Built on the Rock
 596 Let Me Be Yours Forever
 598 My Maker, Be with Me
 612 Praise to God, Immortal Praise
 614 Sing to the Lord of Harvest
 615 We Thank You for Your Blessings
 723 Holy Spirit, the Dove Sent from Heaven
 727 There Is a Higher Throne
 728 Jerusalem the Golden
 729 There Is a Blessed Home
 741 Take and Eat
 753 Father, God of Grace, You Knew Us
 759 Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled
 771 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
 776 Sing with All the Saints in Glory

The Ascension of Our Lord

Our King mounts his throne in victory to sit at the right hand of the Father.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 24:44-53	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Acts 1:1-11	Exodus 14:21-31
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Ephesians 1:16-23	Revelation 19:11-16
<i>Psalm</i>	47	
<i>Color</i>	White	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus, King of glory, on this day you ascended far above the heavens and at God's right hand you rule the nations. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth that at your command and by your power we may be your witnesses in all the world; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. Surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age. Alleluia. (Matthew 28:20b cf. NIV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 24:44-53

The Scriptures had been fulfilled. Humankind had been redeemed. Death had been conquered and the King was going home. Now, begins the work of carrying the message of Christ's victory to the ends of the earth. We are witnesses, clothed with the Spirit and filled with resurrection joy.

FIRST LESSON: ACTS 1:1-11

This account of the Ascension of our Lord, as recorded by St. Luke, complements the Gospel lesson. Jesus visibly departs, leaving his followers with the promise of the Holy Spirit, a call to witness, and the promise that he will come again.

SECOND LESSON: EPHESIANS 1:16-23

The working of God's mighty strength means that Christ has been raised from the dead and now sits on the throne of heaven. All things are under his authority for the enlightenment of his people and the fullness of his body, the Church. This is what Jesus meant when he told us all authority had been given to him. Our response? Therefore, go...

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: EXODUS 14:21-31

The Lord King rises before his people to lead them against the enemy. Even Egypt knew that the LORD was fighting for them against Egypt. How great is the victory God won! Not a single enemy survived. On this day of Ascension we remember that God in Christ joined the battle for salvation. And when Christ mounted his

throne, he had completed a total victory for us. The Word of his mouth and his protecting hand returns again and again to assure of eternal victory.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: REVELATION 19:11-16

John was blessed to see a spectacular vision of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He rides to battle, the only one with blood, because he went to battle alone. There are no blood-stained armies of heaven...just a blood-stained King. But this King won the victory of victories for he is Kings of Kings and Lord of Lords.

HYMN OF THE DAY

173 On Christ's Ascension I Now Build

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 169 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus | 350 All Praise Be Yours |
| 171 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing | 370 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name |
| 172 Up through Endless Ranks of Angels | 377 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice |
| 174 See, the Conqueror Mounts in Triumph | 536 Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head |
| 175 Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise | 557 On Galilee's High Mountain |
| 180 Holy Spirit, God of Love | 558 Christ High-Ascended |
| 216 Saints, Behold! The Sight Is Glorious | 566 We All Are One in Mission |
| 217 The Head that Once Was Crowned | 568 Good News of God Above |
| 236 All Praise to God Who Reigns Above | 571 From Greenland's Icy Mountains |
| 239 Glory Be to God the Father | 577 Rise, O Light of Gentile Nations |
| 279 O Word of God Incarnate | 579 Lift High the Cross |
| 312 Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared | 745 May the Peace of God |
| 341 Crown Him with Many Crowns | 786 The Song of Moses |

Seventh Sunday of Easter

The Season of Easter draws to a close with a look at Jesus' High Priestly prayer. Now as then, our risen and ascended Lord Jesus prays for Spirit-inspired unity between the Father and his church. With much anticipation, we look for the coming of the Holy Spirit, confidently living a new life of faith in our ascended Lord.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	John 17:20-26	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Acts 16:6-10	
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Revelation 22:12-17, 20	Romans 15:14-20
<i>Psalm</i>	8	14
<i>Color</i>	White	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son our Savior was taken up in glory and intercedes for us at your right hand. Through your living and abiding Word, give us hearts to know him and faith to follow where he has gone; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Alleluia. (John 14:18)

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 17:20-26

Our High priest has ascended his throne to sit at the right hand of the Father and intercede for his Church. In his High Priestly Prayer Jesus prays for the future Church, for us. In everything, our High Priest prays that we might enjoy the same relationship that Father and Son have enjoyed from eternity. The redemptive work complete, the connection through water and the Word established, our High Priest seeks for us unity, knowledge and eternal glory.

FIRST LESSON: ACTS 16:6-10

How richly the Lord blessed the proclamation of his Gospel in the provinces of Asia Minor. Yet, in keeping with divine will, Paul is directed by the Spirit of Jesus to take the Word of Life to the continent of Europe. With Spirit-inspired zeal Paul and companions immediately prepare to depart, eager to take the Good News to Macedonia. This is the very advancement of the Gospel for which Jesus prays in his High Priestly.

SECOND LESSON: REVELATION 22:12-17, 20

A final revelation of encouragement promises that the High Priest who now prays for us will come again, and soon! He will come with reward in hand to invite the faithful into the eternal city. Beyond the treacherous reach of rampant evil, there is eternal safety and providence for the redeemed, for all those who thirst. Come to the eternal waters of life. Come, Lord Jesus.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 15:14-20

Paul glories “in Christ Jesus in his service to God.” Such has been his privilege: to carry out the priestly duty of proclaiming the Word of the Lord to the founding generations of the early Christian Church. This, the answer to Jesus’ High Priestly prayer, continues from generation to generation. Through “signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit,” salvation has come to the Gentiles, sanctifying us into offerings “acceptable to God.”

HYMN OF THE DAY

359 Jesus, My Great High Priest

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 23 Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel | 339 Today Your Mercy Calls Us |
| 25 The King Shall Come | 365 Love Divine, All Love Excelling |
| 79 How Lovely Shines the Morning Star | 371 Oh, Love, How Deep |
| 155 Christ the Lord Is Risen Again | 376 Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness |
| 169 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus | 397 Just As I Am, without One Plea |
| 170 Draw Us to Thee | 464 Jesus Christ, My Pride and Glory |
| 172 Up through Endless Ranks of Angels | 494 Blest be the Tie that Binds |
| 205 O Lord, Look Down from Heaven | 539 In Christ There Is No East or West |
| 220 O'er the Distant Mountains Breaking | 558 Christ High-Ascended |
| 256 How Great Thou Art | 560 I Hear the Savior Calling |
| 281 God Has Spoken by His Prophets | 571 From Greenland's Icy Mountains |
| 318 Sent Forth by God's Blessing | 711 Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure Eternal |
| 336 Come unto Me, Ye Weary | 750 Christ, the Word of God Incarnate |
| 338 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say | 773 In Unity and Peace |

The Coming of the Holy Spirit—The Day of Pentecost

The fifty days have passed and the promised Holy Spirit is poured out upon the Bride of Christ. The once-hidden gospel is no longer the possession of a chosen few. For the Spirit enables the message of salvation to enflame hearts for bearing witness to the ends of the earth.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	John 15:26,27	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Genesis 11:1-9	
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Acts 2:1-21	
<i>Psalm</i>	51b	
<i>Color</i>	Red	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy Spirit, God and Lord, come to us this joyful day with your sevenfold gift of grace. Rekindle in our hearts the holy fire of your love that in a true and living faith we may tell abroad the glory of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people, and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Alleluia. (From the antiphon: Come, Holy Spirit)

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 15:26,27

Pilate questioned it, the disciples were confused by it, but Jesus promised it: the Truth. Imagine the overwhelming task before the Twelve: truthful recollection of everything they had heard and seen! Yet the promise of coming Truth not only assured timid disciples then, but disciples today, of perfect recollection. The Spirit proceeded from the Father and the Son to testify not to subjective truth but to essential Truth: the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 11:1-9

The self-glorifying pride of sinful hearts can be seen in the account of the Tower of Babel. The one language of creation was misused as a tool to keep people unified in idolatrous work. Language and tongues are confused in order to bring people to carry out the will of the Lord and fill the earth. At the same time, language and tongue would set apart the nation of Israel, limiting the proclamation of the Messianic promise through God's chosen people. Centuries later, the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit brings about not only a reversal of Babel but proclamation of the promise fulfilled to the nations.

SECOND LESSON: ACTS 2:1-21

The Christ-promised coming of the Holy Spirit reverses the confusion of Babel as the disciples are given the gift of speaking in tongues. In a rush of wind and with tongues of flame the prophecy of Joel is fulfilled. The timidity of the Twelve dissolves in fiery witnessing to the Truth. What began in the streets of Jerusalem, is even now carried to the ends of the earth.

HYMN OF THE DAY

176 Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

177 Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest

178 Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest

179 Hail Thee, Festival Day

180 Holy Spirit, God of Love

186 O Spirit of Life, O Spirit of God

187 When God the Spirit Came

188 Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid

192 Triune God, Oh, Be Our Stay

229 This Day at Your Creating Word

263 All Glory Be to God on High

272 Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

303 With Broken Heart and Contrite Sigh

332 Go, My Children, with My Blessing

377 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

400 O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth

455 Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You

564 There Is a Balm in Gilead

572 Send Forth, O Lord, to Every Place

584 O Blessed, Holy Trinity

596 Let Me Be Yours Forever

598 My Maker, Be with Me

723 Holy Spirit, the Dove Sent from Heaven

