**Advent Series Resources**

**WELS Arizona-California District Worship Committee**

**November 2015**

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

**Songs for the Savior**

The Song of Mary Luke 1:46-55

The Song of Zechariah Luke 1:68-79

The Song of Simeon Luke 2:29-32

The Song of the Angels (for Christmas Eve) Luke 2:14

**Angelic Advent Announcements**

To Zechariah Luke 1:5-25

To Mary Luke 1:26-38

To Joseph Matthew 1:18-23

To the Shepherds (for Christmas Eve) Luke 2:8-14

**Christmas in the Wilderness**

Proclaim Comfort in the Desert Isaiah 40:1-8

Proclaim Victory from the Mountains Isaiah 40:9-11

Proclaim Glory in the Heavens Isaiah 40:18-22,25-26,28

**We Hear the Christmas Angels**

Their First Note Luke 1:5-20

Their Verse Luke 1:26-38

Their Chorus Luke 2:8-12

**Promises Kept**

God Promises Peace Genesis 3:15

God Promises Blessing Genesis 12:1-6

God Promises a Throne 2 Samuel 7:1-16

**An Angel Brings Good News**

To Gideon: The Lord Is with You Judges 6:1-2,6,11-17

To Balaam: Tell Them What the Lord Says Numbers 22:21-35

To Samson’s Parents: Your Child Brings Deliverance Judges 13:1-20

**Prepare the Way for the Lord**

In Meditation Psalm 119:9-16

With Prayer Psalm 119:145-152

Through Suffering Psalm 119:65-72

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

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

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

**An Advent Meditation**

A Reflective Meditation Luke 1:67-79

A Responsive Meditation Matthew 1:18-25

A Rejoicing Meditation Luke 2:25-35

**Go Tell It on the Mountain that Jesus Christ Is Born**

The Mountain of God’s Holiness Hebrews 12:18-24

The Mountain of God’s Messengers Isaiah 40:9

The Mountain of God’s Salvation Mark 15:22,24

**Unto Us a Child Is Born**

Not Like Cain Genesis 4:1-2

Not Like Moses Exodus 2:1-6

Not Like John Luke 1:76-79

**Who Is This King of Glory?**

He Is “I Am” (i.e. Christ’s preexistence) John 8:58

He Is the “Light” John 8:12

He Is the “Good Shepherd” John 10:11

**This Is the Name by Which He Will Be Called**

A Comforting Name: Immanuel Isaiah 7:14

A Wonderful Name: Prince of Peace Isaiah 9:2,6-7

A Glorious Name: The Lord Almighty Isaiah 47:4

**The Word Incarnate**

In the Beginning John 1:1-5

In the Flesh John 1:10-14

In the Fullness of His Grace John 1:16-18

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

An Appearance to Moses: The Rescuing God Exodus 3:1-8

An Appearance to Israel: The Covenant God Judges 2:1-5

An Appearance to Manoah: The God of Life Judges 13:9-23

**Sing We Now of Christmas**

A Song for Those Who Wait:

O Little Town of Bethlehem (CW #66, #67) Micah 5:2

A Song for Those Who Fear:

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come (CW #38) Luke 2:8-20

A Song for Those Who Walk in Darkness:

Silent Night, Holy Night (CW #60) Isaiah 9:2

**The Three “R’s” of Advent**

Readiness Use First or Second Lesson from Advent 1

Repentance Use First or Second Lesson from Advent 2

Rejoicing Use First or Second Lesson from Advent 3

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

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

**The Three Offices of Jesus**

Prophet Deut 18:15-19; Ac 3:18-26; Lk 4:14-21

Priest Is 53:4-7; He 10:11-18 or 2:10-18; Jn 1:29-34

King Jer 23:5-6; Rev 11:15-18; Jn 18:33-37

**Salvation through Jesus**

Salvation through Jesus—His Forerunner Is 40:1-11; Ac 13:24-25; Jn 1:6-8,19-23

Salvation through Jesus—Foretold Gen 3:15; Ac 8:26-39; Mt 1:18-23

Salvation through Jesus—Fulfilled Is 61:1-3; Ac 3:17-26; Lk 24:36-49

**Messengers of Preparation**

The Lord Gen 3:15; He 1:1-3; Mt 25:1-13

The Lord’s Prophets Ezk 33:7-11; Ac 21:7-11; Lk 2:21-40

The Lord’s Angels Gen 18:1-10a; Ac 12:1-11; Lk 1:5-20

**Proclaimers of Peace**

Peace for Sinners Jer 33:6-9,12-16; Ro 5:1-2,6-11; Lk 7:36-50

Peace for All People Is 9:1-7; Eph 2:14-22; Lk 2:25-32

Peace for Eternity Is 65:17-25; Rev 21:1-7; Lk 19:28-38

**Jesus Is the Perfect Present**

The Present Wish List: Prophecy Mic 5:2-5a; Ac 1:4-11; Lk 1:26-38

The Present Purchased: Price & Payment Is 9:1-7; 2 Ti 2:3-5; Lk 2:25-32

The Present Packaged: Jesus Christ Ps 49:5-11; Ga 4:4-7; Lk 2:8-12

**What Is Christmas?**

Christmas is Hope Texts are not included with this suggestion.

Christmas is Peace

Christmas is Love

Christmas is Joy

Christmas is Truth

Christmas is Faith

Christmas is Forever

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

**Zoan to Zion: The New Testament in the Old Testament**

A Deliverer: Our Deliverance with Christ Ro 11:26-27 & Ps 78:12,43

A Priest: Our Privileged Priesthood with Christ Ro 12:1-2 & (select an OT “sacrifice” text)

A Victor: Our Victory with Christ Rev 2:10 & 2 Sa 7:8-16

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

**Praise the Lord!**

Praise the Lord, Our Creator! Psalm 148:1-6

Praise the Lord—No Exceptions! Psalm 148:7-12

Praise the Lord, Our Savior! Psalm 148:13-14

**What Will Jesus Find When He Comes?**

Will Jesus Find Obedience? Luke 6:43-46

Will Jesus Find Witnesses? Luke 9:25-27

Will Jesus Find Elect? Luke 18:7-8

**The Path of New Life**

Our Path—In the Shadow of the Coming One Hebrews 10:1-10

Our Path—We Have Forgiveness without our Sacrifice Hebrews 10:11-18

Our Path—With Christ We Go Forward in Faith Hebrews 10:19-25

**Behold, The King Comes!**

The Star Proclaims a King Numbers 24:17

This King Is a Gift for All Isaiah 49:6

This King Is the Glory of All Daniel 7:13-14

**Remember!**

God Remembers his Promise Luke 1:68-75

Mary Remembers God’s Word Luke 2:17-20

Mary Remembers Christ's Mission Luke 2:48-52

**Behold the Son!**

Christ Is the Son of Man Matthew 8:18-20

Christ Is the Son of David Matthew 22:41-46

Christ Is the Son of God Mark 1:1(-3)

**See the Glory of the Lord!**

The Glory of the Lord Shines Through Psalm 97:1-3

The Whole World Will See the Glory of the Lord Psalm 97:4-6

The Glory of the Lord Destroys All Idols Psalm 97:7-9

**Amazing Pictures!**

John Sees the Amazing Birth of Jesus Revelation 12:1-6

John Sees the Amazing Joy of All Believers Revelation 12:10-12

John Sees the Amazing Ministry of Christ’s Church Revelation 12:13-17

**Jesus Is The One!**

Jesus Is God’s Greatest Warrior Psalm 45:1-5

Jesus Is the King above All Kings Psalm 45:6-7

Jesus Chooses Us Psalm 45:8-12

**By Faith, Jesus Is Our Brother, Like Us**

Like Us, Jesus Is the Son of Abraham Matthew 1:1-6

Like Us, Jesus Is the Son of David Matthew 1:7-11

Like Us, Jesus Is the Son of Mary Matthew 1:12-17

**Isaiah’s Announcements of Advent**

Comfort, Comfort My People Isaiah 40;1-5

The Elect Servant of God Isaiah 42:1-4

The Lord Is My Salvation Isaiah 12:2-6

**The Surpassing Christ**

Jesus and the Prophets Hebrews 1:1-3

Jesus and the Angels Hebrews 1:4-14

Jesus and Moses Hebrews 3:1-6

**Come, Lord Jesus**

Lord Jesus, Come into my Heart Psalm 62:1

Lord Jesus, Come into my Home Zechariah 3:1

Lord Jesus, Come into my Church Psalm 95:6-8

**Lord Jesus, Come to Me!**

Lord Jesus, Come to Me with Your Love 1 John 4:7-12

Lord Jesus, Come to Me with Your Truth 1 John 4:1-6

Lord Jesus, Come to Me with Your Power 1 John 4:17-19

**The Kingdom of God**

Where Is the Kingdom of God? Luke 17:20-30

The Kingdom of God Produces Matthew 3:1-11

The Kingdom of God Is Built on Christ Matthew 7:24-27

**Old Testament Knowledge**

Old Testament Israel Knew about Judgment Day Daniel 12:1-11

Old Testament Israel Knew about the New Testament Jeremiah 23:5-6

Old Testament Israel Knew about the Holy Spirit Isaiah 12:3-4

**Zechariah’s Advent**

Zechariah Is Startled by the Word Luke 1:17

Zechariah Follows the Word Luke 1:63

Zechariah Preaches the Word Luke 1:76

**Jesus Comes**

Jesus Comes to Him who Waits for Comfort Luke 1:26,31-38

Jesus Comes to Him who Needs Enlightenment Matthew 1:20-23

Jesus Comes to Him who Doubts with Proof Luke 1:18-20

**How Did Jesus Come to Us?**

Jesus Came in Perfect Creation John 1:3

Jesus Came with Bright Promise John 1:4-5

Jesus Came Full of Grace and Truth John 1:14

**Advent Established**

The Lord’s House Is Established Isaiah 2:1-5, especially v. 2

The Lord’s Truth Is Established Isaiah 2:1-5, especially v. 3

Our Rest Is Established Isaiah 2:1-5, especially v. 4

**The King Shall Come**

The King to Come Shall Judge Revelation 19:1-4

The King to Come Shall Be Worshipped Revelation 19:5-9

The King to Come Shall Be Victorious Revelation 19:10-16

**The House of the Lord**

The House of the Lord Will Be Established Isaiah 2:1-5

The Lord’s House Is Furnished with Forgiveness Isaiah 2:6-9

The Lord’s House Is the Safest Place to Live Isaiah 2:10-22

**The Day Is Surely Drawing Near**

The Hot, Burning Day Is Coming Malachi 4:1-2

The Bright, Shining Day Is Coming Malachi 4:3-4

The Great, Dreadful Day Is Coming Malachi 4:5-6

**The People of Advent**

Elizabeth Learns Luke 1:25,42

Mary Rejoices Luke 1:46-55

Zechariah Warns Luke 1:68-79

**Advent Words**

Watch! Haggai 1:1-7

Prepare! Haggai 1:8-15

Rejoice! Haggai 2:1-7

**Advent Worship**

An Earthly Worship Place: The Tabernacle Exodus 35:21-26

An Earthly Worship Place: The Temple 2 Chronicles 6:12-16, 7:1-3

Our Eternal Worship Place: Heaven Revelation 21:22

**Bring Me, Jesus!**

Bring Me, Jesus, to a New Land Genesis 12:1

Bring Me, Jesus, to Be a Blessing Genesis 12:2

Bring Me, Jesus, to Be Protected Genesis 12:3

**Advent with Zephaniah**

Something Big Is about to Happen Zephaniah 1:7

The Lord Will Have the Last Word Zephaniah 2:3

The Lord Will Gather His People Zephaniah 3:14-15

**When Jesus Comes Again**

When Jesus Comes Again, It Will Be Glorious Matthew 25:31

When Jesus Comes Again, It Will Be “Division Time” Matthew 25:32-33

When Jesus Comes Again, It Will Be Permanent Matthew 25:34-46

**Get Ready!**

Zechariah, Get Ready for the Birth of Jesus! Luke 1:5-20

Mary, Get Ready for the Birth of Jesus! Luke 1:26-38

Joseph, Get Ready for the Birth of Jesus! Matthew 1:18-25

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

**Isaiah Pictures the Coming Messiah** (see *WLQ* 84:3)

As a Lowly Shoot from the Stump of Jesse Isaiah 11:1-2

As a Champion Bringing Deliverance to God’s People Isaiah 9:2-7

As a Light for the Gentiles Isaiah 49:5-7

**John the Baptist Proclaims the Savior** (see *WLQ* 83:3)

As the Lamb John 1:29

As the Baptizer John 1:32-34

As the Reaper Luke 3:17

**The Old Testament Gospel** (see *WLQ* 81:3)

The Gospel Adam and Eve Heard Genesis 3:15

The Gospel Abraham Believed Genesis 15:1-6

The Gospel Isaiah Preached Isaiah 9:6-7