

Today' Light Bible Readings

Week 14

December 2—7

Monday	Deuteronomy 1
Tuesday	Deuteronomy 2
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 3
Thursday	Deuteronomy 4
Friday	Deuteronomy 5
Saturday	Deuteronomy 6

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Advent 1

December 1, 2013

Keep watch for the unexpected coming of Christ! Its unexpectedness, however, does not change its certainty or our prayer. Rather, the coming of Christ defines our present time because we know that he comes with unexpected judgment on the unbelieving world and unexpected grace for his people. We are filled with hope, with love, and with light. With anticipation in our hearts, we long for the fulfillment, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Gathering Rite

Music chosen for the seasons of the church year has the capacity to set the tone for a particular celebration. This year during the Sundays of Advent we will use the Advent Gathering Song as our Gathering Rite to set a tone of expectant preparation for Christ's coming. The Advent Gathering Song is written in the spirit of Taizé, with a refrain sung continuously by the congregation as the choir sings superimposed verses.

ADVENT GATHERING SONG

Gently *mp* James J. Chepponis

Come, come Em - man - u - el.

Come, Em - man - u - el.

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Choir: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: To the house of the Lord we

Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: Let us climb God's mountain and

Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Morrison Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

*Our mission is to
Glorify God
as we help people*

Grow
in the
Gospel
and
Go
with the
Gospel



Welcome! We thank God that you have joined us at worship today.

Restrooms are located in the basement. Hearing loop headphones and Large Print Hymnals are available from an usher.

Today we gather together in the presence of God. He is present among us in a special way through his Word and Sacrament. We humbly acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and death of Christ. This is the focus of our worship.

Choir: Let us walk in the light and

Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: Let us wake from our sleep and

Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: For the day draws near, so

Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: Be prepared for the day God will

Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

The music continues softly as we speak the invocation, confession, absolution and prayer of the day.

Stand

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

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.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Advent (page 123 of CW)

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

BE SEATED

Hymn:

Hymn 9

STAND

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (sung) Amen.

Benediction

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: (sung) Amen. Amen. Amen.

Closing Hymn:

Hymn 220:1

Hymn of the Day:

Hymn 2

This hymn comes from one of the fathers of the early church, Ambrose. It was attributed to him as early as 372 AD. In medieval times it was prescribed for Christmas Eve in some publications and for Christmas Day in others. Luther translated it into German in Advent of 1523 as a prayer on the lips of expectant Advent Christians.

Sermon Promises Made: *God's Kingdom is Coming* Isaiah 2:1-5

STAND

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

BE SEATED

Offering

During the offering, please sign the friendship register in your pew. Thank you!

STAND

As the music grows louder the congregation again sings the refrain continuously as the choir sings the superimposed verses.

Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: Lord, have mercy upon us and

Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: Christ, have mercy upon us and

Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: Lord, have mercy upon us and

Cong: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

M: We light one Advent candle, remembering Jesus who is coming again. He will come to gather his people from everywhere, both the living and the dead.

C: We remember Jesus who will come at the end of time. None of us knows what day that will be.

M: We hear his call to watch.

C: We light one Advent candle as a sign of our watchfulness and waiting.

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

One Advent candle is lit.

Be Seated

THE WORD

First Lesson:

Isaiah 2:1-5

The first chapter of Isaiah does not paint a pretty picture of Judah and Jerusalem. "Ah, sinful nation, a people loaded with guilt, a brood of evildoers, children given to corruption" (Isaiah 1:4). But today's lesson from chapter two shows a completely different picture. Here one sees the glorious destiny that awaits her.

In the last days, in the midst of the unexpected judgment, God comes with unexpected grace for his people. The people of chapter one are changed forever. In the coming kingdom many will say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD." In the coming kingdom, God will teach the people his ways so that they walk in his paths. The coming of Christ defines our present time. We are at the doorstep of the impending age of the kingdom come. We join with Isaiah in living our lives in view of Christ's unexpected coming: "Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD!"

2 This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

² In the last days

the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established
as the highest of the mountains;
it will be exalted above the hills,
and all nations will stream to it.

³ Many peoples will come and say,

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.
He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths."

The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He will judge between the nations
and will settle disputes for many peoples.

They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.

⁵ Come, descendants of Jacob,
let us walk in the light of the LORD.(NIV)

Psalm of the Day:

Psalm 18 (p. 69 of CW)

Second Lesson

Romans 13:11-14

Understanding the present time means working and walking in love. We do this, Paul says, because the coming of our Lord is near. Notice the words he chooses: nearer, nearly, almost. The certainty of Christ's coming is never in question, only his timing. Paul encourages us to let the nearness of the kingdom and the unexpected nature of its arrival define our present time. At the very end of the night, Venus rises above the horizon and reflects the brightness of the coming dawn, promising that the day is nearly here. Christ Jesus is our Morning Star, the harbinger of God's coming kingdom. It's almost here! We let that define our present time by living as citizens of the kingdom now. It is not easy to live as in daylight while it's still dark. So Paul tells us to clothe ourselves with the only thing that will give us the power to do it: Jesus Christ our Lord.

¹¹ And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.¹² The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴ Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh. (NIV)

Verse of the Day (sung)

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These words are written they we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

STAND

Gospel:

Matthew 24:36-44

So unexpected is the coming of Christ, that neither the Church, nor the angels, nor even the Son knows the day or time. Warnings are spoken; promises are made; signs are given. But the great day will come as unexpectedly as the deluge upon the unsuspecting world. Noah had preached; Noah had built; but the world was lost in the darkness of spiritual blindness. The certainty of Christ's coming is never in question—only the timing. So Christ tells us to keep watch and to be ready, actions that define our present time.

³⁶ "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

⁴² "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: (sung) **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

BE SEATED



News From Zion



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Announcements

It has pleased our heavenly Father to call the soul of Dennis Bruegge to his eternal home. Dennis died on Saturday, Nov. 23. His funeral was on Wednesday, Nov. 27. Please remember all who mourn in prayer!

Today's Light Bible Discussion will meet this Sunday at 7:00 p.m. The Discussion Guide for December is now available in the church basement and on the radiator to the right of the double doors in church.

Justification Bible Study This Tuesday, we will finish study 2 on Justification. This study is based on part two of the paper, *Justification: In Mission and Ministry*. If you are planning to come to the study, please pick up the paper and the study ahead of time and read through them. If you can't join us for the study, please pick up copies of the paper and the study and challenge yourself by reading through them.

Promises Made Advent This year our Sunday Advent worship will focus on *Promises Made*. Each week we look at a different promise to help us prepare to celebrate the upcoming festival of Christmas. The remaining weekly themes are:

Promises Made: God's Kingdom is worth waiting for

Promises Made: God's kingdom gives us strength and courage

Promises Made: God's kingdom will come through the child Immanuel

Join us and bring a friend!

Midweek Advent Worship The theme of this year's midweek worship is: *Zion at Your Shining Gates*. The weekly themes are:

Dec. 4 Zion At Your Shining Gates is your King

Dec. 11 Zion At Your Shining Gates is your Ultimate Sacrifice

Dec. 18 Zion At Your Shining Gates is your Peace
We will worship on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Join us and bring a friend!

Adult Christ Light will meet next Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in the church. We will study the Old Testament this year.

Original Math Forget "new" math; "original" math is life changing! God, the first Mathematician and Creator of all things, uses numbers—

threes, tens, forties, and more—to demonstrate his design for creation and redemption through the work of Jesus on the cross. Join us at our new Sunday morning study in the commons next week as we explore the symbolism and patterns of the numbers God uses to convey the truth of his love through these remaining topics:

- 3-in-1: The Number of God (next Sunday)
- 2 & 4: Creation Counted
- 5 & 10: Keys to God's Word
- 7 & 12: Numbers in Revelation
- 40 & 8: A Generation of Mercy and the New Creation.

We meet Sundays at 9:15 in the commons. Join us and bring the family!

To the Congregation: Thank you for the tuition assistance we recently received for Matthew to attend Fox Valley Lutheran High School. It is a wonderful blessing to be part of a congregation that supports families who have decided to send their children to a Christian high school. Your support is truly appreciated!

To All Members (men & women) of our congregation. As of January 1 our Ladies Aid as we know it today will no longer exist. In your mailboxes you will find a letter. Please take time to read it and fill out the information and return it to the baskets in the church basement by December 15. If you have any questions please contact Mary Laabs or Janice Kuchenbecker.

Sign Up Sheets for hot lunch on Dec. 6 are in the church basement. Thanks for your help!

Calendars for 2014 are available in the church basement. Thank you to Nickel Funeral Home for providing these calendars!

Please save postage stamps from letters and cards received during the holidays for WLCFS. There is a place to put them in the library in the basement.

Volume 1, Issue 9

Dec. 1, 2013

Advent 1

Saints Triumphant

Our Mission

is to

Glorify

God

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around the

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so that we

Grow

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and

Go

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Weekly Calendar

Sunday	7:00 p.m.	Today's Light Bible Discussion
Monday	7:00 p.m.	Youth Group Bible Class
Tuesday	2:00 p.m.	Justification Bible Study, church
Wednesday	11:00 a.m.	Midweek Advent Worship
	5:15 p.m.	Confirmation, grades 6-8
	5:30 p.m.	Bible History, grades 1-5
	7:00 p.m.	Midweek Advent Worship
	8:00 p.m.	Choir
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Band
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Worship, communion
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School, church basement
	9:15 a.m.	Adult Christ Light Study, church
	9:15 a.m.	Numbers in Scripture , commons
	10:30 a.m.	Worship, communion
	7:00 p.m.	Today's Light Bible Discussion

Today's Light Bible Reading

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Our Stewardship of the Means of Grace

Worship:	298	(58, 162, 78)
Communion		(42, 110, 37)
Bible Study:	72	(22, 23, 14, 13)
Youth Study:	19	

WELS Aid & Relief

The unseasonably strong November storms in the Midwest on Sun., Nov. 17, 2013, hit hard in central Illinois. WELS Christian Aid and Relief has been in contact with Rev. Paul Schulz, pastor at Living Hope in Peoria, Ill., which neighbors the city of Washington where a tornado tore through the town.

So far, there have been no reports of any significant damage to any WELS churches or members' homes. However, the damage to the community of Washington prompted Living Hope to try to help its neighbors. Christian Aid and Relief sent an initial \$2,000 to Schultz, so the congregation

can purchase gift cards to help storm victims out with basic needs.

Also, following the typhoon in the Philippines, Christian Aid and Relief sent an initial \$5,000 to the Philippine Red Cross. Christian Aid and Relief's usual practice is to work through our missionaries and contacts in these areas. Presently WELS does not have a world mission presence in the Philippines.

Christian Aid and Relief urges you to pray for all the people, both in the U.S. and the South Pacific, who have suffered from these recent natural disasters.

Learn more about Christian Aid and Relief at www.wels.net/relief.

News from Around the WELS

England Trip Retired WELS pastor, James Humann, invites you to join him and fellow WELS members on an eleven day tour to England and Scotland. The tour dates are July 14-24, 2014. Space is limited. For a brochure e-mail JHumann383@aol.com or call 253-839-9055.

The annual Christmas Concert at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon will be on Sunday, Dec. 8, at 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. in the seminary auditorium. The 50-voice Seminary Chorus will present anthems and hymns accompanied by organ, piano, and instruments. For more info, go to the seminary's website, www.wls.wels.net.

Open Roads Don't Just Happen

Living in a place with snowy winters leaves me with mixed feelings. You don't have to wait for the snow plow in Florida or Louisiana. On the other hand, snow season means that road construction is forced to stop. Only in winter can I drive anywhere in the city without a detour!

Road construction or snow plows . . . both are necessary evils. As an engineer might point out, "Open roads don't just happen, somebody has to maintain the road, fix it, or clear it."

Open roads for the gospel don't just happen, either. The Holy Spirit has to clear away the hardness of heart and unbelief, and start a new, living heartbeat. Even then, Satan tries to keep the Spirit's means—the gospel in Word and Sacrament—from doing their job. That's when we call out God's snow plows or the highway crew—Special Ministries resources!

Your pastor can be a great preacher and your members faithfully reaching out to the neighborhood. Even then, before that neighbor with hearing problems can be reached, an assistive listening device or hearing loop may need to open the road for the gospel. The daughter in the military or the son in prison won't get the gospel without intentional Special Ministries road maintenance.

I hope you scan every issue of *His Hands* for something you can learn for expediting the spread of the gospel. Please consider supporting this work with your gifts to WELS Special Ministries, because our roadwork depends on your contributions. Keep our work in your prayers, remembering that open roads don't just happen.

From *His Hands* By Rev. Jim Behringer, director of WELS Commission on Special Ministries

Glorify

Gather

Grow

Go

