

Christian Life Resources

One Year Pericope

Advent 3

The one year lectionary (like the three year) offers several opportunities to bring life issues to the hearts of God's people. Today the Old Testament lesson foreshadows the ministry of Christ as he carries out God's glorious gospel work. As he came, he cared not only for spiritual concerns but also physical. The mission of the Messiah will do no less at his second coming for his people. The second lesson gives God glory as the gospel gives life to the simple. In the gospel, Christ commands the attention of all by the word of his message and the work of his miracles.

Prayer of the Day

Sovereign Lord, come and save your people. Rescue us with the wisdom of your Word. Revive us with your life-giving gospel—and restore us to spiritual health; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The Word

First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-6

The message of fear shook the foundations of fallen man in the garden after the first sin. The new message of the gospel is, "Do not be afraid." Let your conscience rest. Let your body relax. Let your hands stop shaking. Listen to these words as a confirmation of the person and work of Christ. Look in these words at the picture perfect second coming of the Savior. He comes again to make things right.

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 111

The Lord is gracious and compassionate as we view his works and ponder his ways. True wisdom is found in fearing his ways.

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

The gospel is the only comfort in this world. The reality is it makes no difference whom we are in society, but whom we belong to spiritually. In this upside down world, God amazingly shakes things up—by turning them right side up again. He chose the foolishness of the gospel to allow the simple a humble boast in Christ. While he shares this gospel with us, the glory is his.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. Alleluia. (Romans 1:16)

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-10

The Messiah was to do exactly as the Christ did. Look at God's mercy: the blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good

news is preached to the poor. Mercy reigns with Jesus. When he comes again, that mercy will reign over his people visibly for all eternity.

Hymn of the Day

Arise O Christian People, 14

Hark the Glad Sound, The Savior Comes, 12

Christmas 2

The one year lectionary (like the three year) offers several opportunities to bring life issues to the hearts of God's people. Suffering sometimes makes the Christian feel at odds with our heavenly Father. In our first lesson, he reminds us that it is only for a time, and he will deliver us. The second lesson highlights the beneficial nature of suffering. *It can actually be that this is for our good.* Finally, in the gospel Joseph heeds God's will. He suffers for a time in Egypt, but avoids eternal suffering. Christ is not killed by the hand of Herod.

Prayer of the Day

Merciful Lord God, count us worthy of your name, and permit us to suffer in this life, so that we may never suffer in the next. May we find in earthly trouble and hardship that you are still faithful to us, and have not left us nor forsaken us. Lead us and direct us for our eternal good; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The Word

First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:15-20

This text finds intermediate fulfillment in the deportation of Israel and final fulfillment in the death of the children at the time of Christ. If Rachel were alive to see the treatment of her children, she would weep. Still, God says to dry the well of tears. He would deliver them from the suffering of slavery.

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 18

David sings of deliverance following his suffering at the hand of Saul.

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 4:12-19

But it hurts! Often it does regardless of our age. Suffering is a part of the Christian life. It is a *gift* from God not only to make us godly, but also to bring us to God for all eternity. To call for an end to our suffering by the hand of the doctor, the hand of a friend, or our own hand is to despise the helping hand of our heavenly Father.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. Resist the Devil, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. Alleluia. [1 Peter 5:9]

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

It took advance notice to warn the children of David to desert Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph heeded God's voice immediately, and did not allow Herod to abort God's son and our salvation.

God still speaks clearly concerning life. *Do not murder*—either the elderly or the youth. May we flee to the God of grace who promises never to cut us off from the love that is in Christ Jesus.

Hymn of the Day

To Thee My Heart I Offer, 43

God's people. How neighbors compare and compete! How quickly friends become foe when interests collide. It is easy for aggression, anger, or apathy to erupt at a neighbor or enemy. But they are not godly. Today God leads us to love, and to love another as ourself. Good God, how can this be done? Find what you and I lack in our first lesson by the simple loving name of God. The second lesson begs us to love our neighbor by using God's two teachings rightly. Finally, our gospel teaches by illustration just how far God's people are willing to love.

Prayer of the Day

Sovereign Lord, your call to faith brings a change in mind *and* a change in heart. Lead us to love not only you as you first loved us, but also our neighbor. Help me to seek and do what is best for his body and soul, just as you have done for me; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Lesson: Leviticus 19:9-18

The Word

God hands down the Old Testament law code teaching his people to honor their neighbor. Love was to be the chief characteristic in how God's people dealt with each other. Love gives the poor something to eat. Love doesn't defraud someone from justice. Love gives honest wages. Love doesn't honor deep pockets, but digs deep to judge fairly. Verse 18 ends with the Tetragrammaton. In giving the commands, God reminds his people how he has dealt with them: *in free and faithful grace.*

Psalm of the Day: 133-134

What a joy it is when God leads the sinful to celebrate his love in Christ. That unity is good and pleasant!

Second Lesson: Galatians 3:15-22

If you want to help someone, law and gospel have their appropriate place. The law is put in place to *declare the whole world is a prisoner of sin.* The gospel leads people to believe and trust in Christ for rescue. Abuse of either of these teachings leaves someone on the side of the road dead in sin—either through work righteousness (law with no gospel) or through apathy (gospel with no law).

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus...If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Alleluia. [Galatians 3:26,29]

Gospel: Luke 10:23-37

The parable of the Good Samaritan is not just a nice story about a good guy. It's a divine lesson in living the law of love. Love for God means love for even our most despised enemies. Love breaks social barriers, customs, time restraints, and cost analysis. God's love for us leads us to stop and help the helpless (here physical help is emphasized), just as he has done for us in Christ.

Hymn of the Day

Savior, Thy Dying Love, 488

O Master of the Loving Heart, 491

God's people. The theme for today highlights mercy. Properly defined, mercy is pity for poor. Micah examines empty actions (or even grand displays) versus a godly heart showing mercy. Ephesians bears witness that the very mercy of God which makes us Christians ought to be evident as we conduct our lives as Christians. Finally, Jesus in the gospel in a striking display of mercy challenges our old Adam not to put off mercy, but to champion it even before our enemies.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, come and move the hearts of your people. Move us to know your will, and to walk in your ways. May we be lovers of mercy and swift to step up to serve you and our neighbor; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The Word

First Lesson: Micah 6:6-8

Finding fulfillment in the gospel lesson for the day, God is a lover of mercy. He loves to show it, and he loves it when his people exhibit it. Amazingly, true worship of God (in mercy) is seemingly juxtaposed against the sacrifices God also said he wanted. He really wanted both. However, God didn't want the rote actions of thoughtless worship in sacrifices. He wanted a heart like his own both behind the sacrifice and humble service.

Psalm of the Day: 143

David begs God to teach him his will—not just in mind, but in deed.

Second Lesson: Ephesians 4:1-6

The oneness of the Spirit brings oneness to God's people. They will bear with each other. The body of Christ is not divided, separatist, or in rebellion against another part. Instead, God's people deal with each other in a way that reflects the high calling of faith.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. Live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Alleluia. [Ephesians 4:1b]

Gospel: Luke 14:1-11

Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not? Do we get to pick the day of the week we feel like being neighborly, friendly, and helpful? Recent events in our society show that people will walk past a victim instead of calling for help. Jesus even under careful watch found opportunity to heal—even on the day God said to rest. Certainly the sick man could have waited until Sunday to be

healed. But Jesus could not wait to heal. He couldn't wait to help.

Hymn of the Day

This Is My Will, 497

O God of Mercy, God of Might, 499