

**Historic Scripture Lessons for   the Second Sunday in Advent
Old Testament**

Micah 4:1-7 NIV In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. 2 Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house 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. 3 He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. 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. 4 Every man will sit under his own vine and under his own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the LORD Almighty has spoken. 5 All the nations may walk in the name of their gods; we will walk in the Name of the LORD our God for ever and ever. 6 "In that day," declares the LORD, "I will gather the lame; I will assemble the exiles and those I have brought to grief. 7 I will make the lame a remnant, those driven away a strong nation. The LORD will rule over them in Mount Zion from that day and forever.

Epistle

Romans 15:4-13 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. 5 May the God Who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, 6 so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. 8 For I tell you that Christ has become a Servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs 9 so that the Gentiles may glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing hymns to Your Name." 10 Again, it says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people." 11 And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and sing praises to Him, all you peoples." 12 And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, One who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in Him." 13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Gospel

Luke 21:25-36 "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. 26 Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. 27 At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your Redemption is drawing near." 29 He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. 30 When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. 31 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the Kingdom of God is near. 32 I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My Words will never pass away. 34 Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. 35 For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL 
2nd Sunday in Advent   Watch the Signs!   
December 6th, 2015 ✕ 9:30 am



**Woodcut illustration from a 1695 Bible – Luke 21:25-36
Jesus returns in the clouds with signs in the heavens.**

Image courtesy of the Digital Image Archive, Pitts Theology Library, Candler School of Theology, Emory University

<http://www.pitts.emory.edu/dia/detail.cfm?ID=7331>

OSL OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH OSL

www.ELS.org = www.EvangelicalLutheranSynod.org

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Phone: (863) 859-3400 ~ Web: www.OSLlakeland.org

BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:45 AM
 ✦ A.R. Burmeister 430-5859 ✦ Organ: Janice Thomas (813) 650-9198

December 6th, 2015 Advent-2 *Signs of the Coming*

TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER: If you are new to the area or Our worship and have never communed with us before, please speak with the pastor before Communing. If you are not currently a member of an ELS or WELS congregation, we ask that you please **wait to take communion until you can speak with our pastor.** Out of Christian love and consideration to you the guest, we want you to have the opportunity to learn what our church teaches about the Bible and Sacraments before you unite with us in taking Holy Communion. Thank you for your understanding. God bless your Worship.

OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP Printed in the red TLH hymnal starting at p.15.

Hymns	TLH# (v)	1st Line of Hymn
Invocation Hymn	60 (5v)	Hark, A Thrilling Voice is Sounding
Hymn of the Day	611 (7v)	<i>Sing 1-4</i> The Day Is Surely Drawing Near
Offertory Verse	644 (1v)	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>
Distribution Hymn	58 (9v)	O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee(?)
Closing Hymn	451 (4v)	Stand Up! - Stand Up for Jesus

Suggested Bible readings for the weekdays of the 2nd Sunday in Advent (Year)

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday
 I Ch.17:1-27 II Ch.7:11-22 Isaiah11:1-10 Jer. 23:2-8 Jer. 30:1-22 Jer.33:14-26
 Act17:16-34 I John 4:9-16 Coloss. 1:1-8 Phi.2:12-18 Phi. 3:12-16 Col. 3:1-11

PROPERs for ADVENT-2 (2nd Sunday of the New Church Year) December 6th

INTROIT Daughter of Zion, surely your Salvation is coming. The Lord will cause His glorious voice to be heard, and you will have gladness of heart. Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock. Stir up Your Strength, and come and save us! ...from Psalm 80

COLLECT Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, so that by His coming we may worship You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reign with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. C: ♪ A- -men.

GRADUAL C: Alleluia! From Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth. Our God comes and will not be silent. Gather My saints to Me, those who have a covenant with Me by sacrifice. Alleluia! Alleluia! The powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Alleluia! Psalm 50:1-5

SCRIPTURE LESSONS (printed on outside back page of bulletin)

O.T. Micah 4:1-7 Signs in the Last Days in the Mountains & the Hills.
 Epi. Romans 15:4-13 The Gentiles will come to faith in Christ.
 Gos. Luke 21:25-36 Watch (the Signs) for our Lord Jesus' 2nd Advent.

OFFERTORY VERSE Sung as offering brought forward. If able please rise. #644

C: ♪ Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye Heav'nly Host

PRAISE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY GHOST. A-MEN.

PRAYER REQUESTS:	Member or Relation	Pray for...
Jeanette Ammann	(Donna's daughter)	Health. Pray for healing and peace
Rex Headapohl	(Carol)	Rex fell, bump on head, is recovering at home
Elma & Jim Hendricks	E&J's health and Elma's brother and sister-in-law	
Linda Kryszak		Linda's ongoing health. Plus stress of selling house
Dee Kurczewski	(David)	Dee's ongoing health. Dee at home. David helps
Richard Lininger	(Janice' Uncle)	Passed away. Comfort for family
Mary, Pam & Karen		Friends & family of DonnaM, all battling health issues
Vivian Temple	(Tom)	Vivian showing improvement at home. Tom helping
Janice Thomas		Janice had round two of six chemos Tuesday. Strength
James & Delores Vanesky		Jim is back at home. Also pray for Delores' health
Steve Wendt	(Ethel)	Had a safe trip, but Steve fell, bumped and bruised

Volunteers	Today	Next Sunday
Greeters	Orpha & John Weber	Joan Patrick
Treaters	(Volunteer)	(Volunteer)
(Head) Usher	John Weber	John Weber

Statistics	Sunday + Wed.	Year to date Avg.
Sunday Attendance / Communion	23 / - -	28 / 25
Bible Class Attend / Sunday School	- - / -	11 / 0
Last Sunday Offering/Year To Date	\$	\$
Average; Actual Expenses / Budget	Need/wk \$	\$ / \$

Calendar of Events		
Sunday, 12/6	8:30 am	Bible Study Sacraments, LORD'S SUPPER
Second Sunday of Advent and of the New Church Year	9:30 am 10:45 ff... 4:00 pm	Worship (WITH Communion) Fellowship, Coffee ...Please stay & talk New Life - Sebring 25 th Anniversary
Wednesday, 9 th	4:30 pm 7:00 pm	Advent-2-W (Midweek) Worship OSL December Council Meeting
Friday, 12/11	5:30 ff...	Sawyers' Open House - 2490 Torrens
Saturday, 12/12	6:00 ff...	OSL Christmas Dinner Party at church
Sunday, 12/13	8:30 am 9:30 am 10:45 ff...	Bible Study Ministry o' Keys, Confession Worship (NO Communion) Fellowship, Coffee ...Please stay & talk

Our Savior Elders are: Jim Vanesky 644-7807; John Weber 853-5458 & Don Wienke 815-8892. Please contact them with your concerns.

- ✦ Second Midweek Advent Vespers this Wednesday, December 9th 4:30 pm.
- ✦ Sawyers request the courtesy of RSVP to their Open House this Friday 5:30pm.
- ✦ 2015 OSL Christmas Dinner Party is this Saturday evening 6 pm! Sign-up. Wednesday: 12/9 Advent-2 Midweek (BLACK ELH p.120) ELH #s 87 110 139 Next Sunday: 12/13 Advent-3 (No L.S. p.5) TLH Hymn #s 61 63 441 66 47

ADVENT-2C Luke 21:25-36 "TAKE HEED 4 YOURSELVES" 12.06.15 OSL

INTRODUCTION I like Advent. I love the **sounds** of Advent, **hymns** look both **backward** and **forward**. Back to Christ's first appearing in **humility** as the Child of the Virgin. And forward to His coming in glory on the **Last Day** when every knee will bow and every tongue in heaven, on earth, and under the earth will confess "Jesus Christ is Lord" to the glory of God the Father. Some (hymns) are somber, plaintive cries - "**Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel, ... (and ransom captive Israel. That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel will come to you, O Israel.**") Others are "full of" **Rejoicing**: "**Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding. Christ is near, we hear it say. Cast away the works of darkness, all you children of the day.**" Or, "**Savior of the Nations, Come.**"

I love the **sights** of Advent. The **Advent wreath**, an eternal circle of evergreens branches. Jesus Christ is the same **yesterday, today, and forever**. He is the eternal God and yet for our sakes became mortal man and died so that in Him we might be ever green with His eternal life. The **four** candles, counting down the Sundays, reminding us that Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, the Light no darkness can overcome.

I love the **images** of Advent - the Prophetic Word is on the brink, ready to be fulfilled. Human history literally "**pregnant**" with the **promises of God**. An angel whispers in the ear of a young **virgin** girl. **John the Baptizer** appears out of nowhere in the wilderness, preaching and baptizing, preparing a people. Messiah is near! Get ready to meet him! **Repent and be baptized!**

But I must confess that there are times when I'm driven to despair, just about ready to **give up on Advent**. The competition from shopping malls and Santa Claus and those sleigh bells jing-jing-jinglin' seems too much for Advent to bear. The culture has pushed the Christmas season - excuse me "holiday season" back to (American-)Thanksgiving, ...or even Reformation/Halloween. It seems so irrelevant, so out of touch to watch and wait while everyone is running around from one thing to the next. Maybe we should do as we do with our national holidays and reschedule **Advent for January** (when **Epiphany** is) when we can give it its proper attention.

But then I think, no. This is perfect. **This is exactly the way it should be**. It's kind of a picture of the way Jesus said it will be in the End times. When **the whole world least expects it**, when everyone is busy planning their next social engagement and doing business and having a grand old party, **Wham! the End comes like a thief in the night**.

And so maybe it's good and right for us to do this counter-cultural thing, to **watch and pray for the coming of Jesus** while the rest of the world watches for bargains and prays for the lines to be short and traffic to be light. Maybe it's good for us to **set aside some** of this "holiday cheer" and light a **purple candle** (in the darkness) and sing those ancient prayers to Immanuel, begging Him to **come and redeem His people**. Maybe it's good for us, who are so accustomed to getting everything **now**, without waiting, to practice a little *delayed gratification* and **hold off just a little bit**, because we know that there is a **greater Reason**

for this Season than boosting the year end sales figures. Maybe it's good for us to let our **faith "interfere with our lives,"** and **not the other way around**.

God in the **flesh** has come **to save us!** The eternal Son of God came down from Heaven, from the right hand of God, and took on human flesh and blood, and in humility obeyed His own Law perfectly and died to save the world. This same Jesus Christ, bodily Risen from the dead and reigning in ascended glory will appear again, no longer covered in humility, but shining with a **brightness that will make the sun look like a 40 watt bulb**. He comes to judge the living and the dead. He comes to raise the dead to life and to change the living in an instant. He comes to judge the world by His Cross, to give all who trust in Him eternal life and to condemn all who refuse His Salvation.

**Every eye shall now behold Him - Robed in glorious majesty
Those who set at nought and sold Him - Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, - Shall their true Messiah see!**

We, as the Church, have **work to do - to prepare the world** for Jesus' Coming. That's why God has a church **in the world**, to prepare the way for the Lord, to keep a watchful eye out for the day of His coming. To keep soberly alert while the rest of the world dozes in a drunken stupor. To keep vigil, in these darkening days of the world's winter. To watch and pray.

Jesus said to His disciples in Luke's Gospel, **verse 34**, "*Be careful. Take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be heavy, weighed down by dissipation*" (= that word means that sort of **hangover heaviness** that comes with excessive eating and drinking some of us familiar with the sensation?) *with drunkenness, with the cares and concerns of this life.*" Jesus seems to have our (21st-century) "**holiday season**" in mind, doesn't He? Dissipation, drunkenness, anxiety. Sounds like December to me. Jesus **knows His disciples** (then), how easily they are distracted, how quickly they will go back to the old way of life. He **knows us** (now) that way too. He knows that our spirit may be willing, but **our old flesh is terribly weak**. He knows that we begin with the best of intentions, but so often our follow-up or follow-through isn't very good. Jesus knows all that.

Still, Jesus warns us. "*Be careful, lest your hearts be heavy.*" Heavy here is not just with cholesterol and heartburn. That's **the least of it**. Heavy with the **anxieties of life** that press us down on every side. **Jobs** in a slow economy. A **roof** over our heads. **Food** for our tables. Keeping **the kids** out of trouble. And then all the little pressing things we take on ourselves. We don't know quite how they got started, but each one claims just a little bit more of our time, our strength, our attention, and add them all up until it seems **there isn't any more left**. Our **calendars** are full, our **lives** our full, our **days** are full. Our hearts become heavy as rocks.

LAW **This** is our (21st-century) idolatry. Our "**idols**" are killing us, consuming us bit by bit. **Luther** called the human heart a great "idol factory." Unbuckled from the **fear, love, and trust in God above all things**, (1st-Comm) the heart will latch on **to just about anything**. It's like that hooked part of velcro separated from the fuzzy part. It will **stick to almost anything**. That's **our heart**, beating with the lusts and desires of Adam, the ambition to be gods, to

control the universe, (or at least those around me). To live for pleasure, for thrills, for excitement, for whatever will make us happy.

GOSPEL And the irony is that it all weighs down our hearts with cares the human heart **was NOT meant to be**. Jesus would rather have us **light-hearted, not** filled with anxiety and worry, not bloated and drunk, not clogged with cares and concerns. **Free and happy**-hearted people – yet still alert, ready, awake, watchful. That's the correct posture of Advent, and that's the posture for living in the(se) Last days. "You know not the day or the hour." And when the Big Day comes, it will spring like trap, so **Be Ready!**←-Last Sun. We want to and should be happy because our Jesus has taken **all our cares and anxieties away!** He took them **all the way to the Cross!** There, because now our biggest worry by far = **our sin, is totally removed**, it makes all those other (so much more trivial) worries of our lives just look a **lot** smaller, huh?

There some **big errors** in how some people view the Last Day coming. One is that the Last Day will be preceded by signs **that make it predictable**. No friends, **thieves in the night don't call ahead**. That's **not** how Jesus says it's going to happen. And since He's the One who going to appear, we **should take Him at His Word**. He says that the Day will come suddenly upon **all** who live on the face of the earth. **All**, ...as in **Everyone**. No **rapture**, no special entrance for privileged believers. Just one big instantaneous cosmic End, with bright shining Jesus appearing like lightning from horizon to horizon. And there will be less warning for that Day, than people and places get for **an earthquake**.

CONCLUSION Maybe that's the best End times analogy to think about. **Earthquakes**. (Because) Unlike tornados, hurricanes, floods, and fires, earthquakes come with **no warning** and we still have no way to predict them. All you can do is be ready for whenever the day of the big one will hit.

MEDITATIONS 7 THEMES or THOUGHTS for this Week('s) Gospel:
1. EYES OF FAITH WATCH FOR THE SIGNS (25-28) **Sun, moon, stars, ...**
2. WATCH FOR THE SON OF MAN COMING AS KING (27) Cloud of **glory**
3. WATCH AND **BE HAPPY** ☺ (28) **Stand up and lift up your heads/chins**
4. WATCH! THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS **NEAR** (29-31) Look at the **fig tree**
5. HOLD TO THE WORD WHILE YOU WATCH (32-33) ...**My Words will not**
6. WATCH OUT FOR SPIRITUAL TRAPS (34-35) ...anxieties of life: **drunk...**
7. **WATCHFULNESS DICTATES A LIFE OF PRAYER (36) ...pray you stand**

There is no preparation for the Last Day of the world. ...**EXCEPT** being **ready, watching** for it, **praying** that you will escape all that will happen, and that in the end, **you will stand** before the Son of Man. Hear the Word of Jesus Christ addressing you: Your **sins are forgiven**, let your hearts **rejoice!** Eat and drink Christ's Body and Blood. The **gifts** of His all-atoning death, He gives for your food and drink, **not** to weigh down your hearts, but to **take away your worries**, and lift up your hearts. You are Baptized into the death of Jesus. You **belong** to Him, and He will strenghten your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father, when He comes with all His holy ones. And He takes us all to be **with Him**. ... What a day that will be! Get ready! **Come, Lord Jesus! Quickly! Amen. SDG**

Possible Prayer of Church for Last Sunday of Church Year November 22
Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power and might be to our God forever and ever.

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. (Possible brief silence)

For the whole Church of Christ, and especially our own Synod, that amid the tumult and trouble of these times, we would be a people with uplifted heads and hearts, looking for the day of our redemption, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our nation and armed forces, and for all the nations of the world, that those entrusted with positions of public service might serve honorably and well for the benefit of others, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our parish, that in the Word of Christ that does not pass away, we would find the strength to endure whatever trials our Lord sees fit to send us, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all the schools of the Church, and for all our baptized children, that our young people may constantly be nurtured in the hope of our redemption at Christ's appearing, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who are ill or in need, the sick, the imprisoned, the lonely and the grieving, and for all whom we have been asked to remember at this altar, [*especially*]

Jeanette Ammann	(Donna's daughter) Health. Pray for healing and peace
Rex Headapohl	(Carol) Rex fell, bump on head, is recovering at home
Elma & Jim Hendricks	E&J's health and Elma's brother and sister-in-law
Linda Kryszak	Linda's ongoing health. Plus stress of selling house
Dee Kurczewski	(David) Dee's ongoing health. Dee at home. David helps
Richard Lininger	(Janice' Uncle) Passed away. Comfort for family
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Vivian Temple	(Tom) Vivian showing improvement at home. Tom helping
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Steve Wendt	(Ethel) Had a safe trip, but Steve fell, bumped and bruised

that they be given patience to endure and hope for the future, looking always for healing in the hands of Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who approach the Lord's table today, that in the Savior's true body and blood, they may experience His peace and joy and be strengthened in their hope, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Let us remember with thanksgiving the blessed Virgin Mary; St. Joseph, her husband; St. John the Baptist; St. Peter; St. Paul; and all the faithful gone before us, asking God to give us grace that we may join them in the feast that never ends, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.** ...*After the General Prayer,*

The Lord's Supper, p.24