



KEEPING A HOLY LIFE

2nd Sunday of Advent– December 4, 2022

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm 72:1-7

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

Monday, Dec 5

Isaiah 24:1-16a

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Psalm 21

Thursday, Dec 8

Ruth 1:6-18

2 Peter 3:1-10

Psalm 146:5-10

Tuesday, Dec 6

Isaiah 41:14-20

Romans 15:14-21

Psalm 21

Friday, Dec 9

Ruth 4:13-17

2 Peter 3:11-18

Psalm 146:5-10

Wednesday, Dec 7

Genesis 15:1-18

Matthew 12:33-37

Psalm 21

Saturday, Dec 10

1 Samuel 2:1-8

Luke 3:1-18

Psalm 146:5-10

Prayer of the Day – Gracious God, the Alpha and Omega, our beginning and our end, may Your Spirit kindle in us a heart so willing to follow Your Son that Your reign of righteousness and peace is made visible through our lives. We ask this through Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings for next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent – December 11, 2022

Isaiah 35:1-10

Mary's Song of Praise: The Magnificat

James 5:7-11

Matthew 11:2-15



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**Listening for the Promise
Weekly Devotional**

Second Sunday of Advent – December 4, 2022

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” -Matthew 3:11

John the baptizer enters on the scene, preaching repentance to the Judean people. Last week we looked at how God promises to come to us again. Jesus urges us to be alert, be ready! John the baptizer warns his listeners to repent. John proclaimed that repentance is the proper way to prepare for that revelation. The only thing is that repentance is something that we cannot do. Just as Martin Luther wrote, “I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my lord or come to Him ...” Repentance, like faith, is a miracle that the Holy Spirit must work in us. John the baptizer proclaims the coming of Jesus; he points his listeners to Christ. John proclaims salvation in Jesus Christ, and that’s another way we witness how God comes to us: through the proclamation and preaching of his holy Word. Before I was ordained as a Lutheran pastor, I suffered a terrible loss-- the loss of my mother. It was sudden and unexpected. I was 20 years old, a junior in college. I had another year and a half of my undergrad studies left before I would attend seminary. I knew God’s promises, and I knew that my mother was a Christian with deep faith. I can’t tell you exactly what the sermon was about at her funeral. I can’t remember exactly every word spoken or every hug given. I can’t even remember who all the people were that attended. But one thing I remember clearly, the most important message of all: my pastor reminding me of God’s promises forgiveness, life, and salvation. A funeral pall was laid upon my mother’s casket, reminding us of the gifts she received at her baptism. She was baptized into Christ’s death and his resurrection. That image and message are forever engrained on my heart and mind. We need the proclamation of God’s promises. It’s the way he comes to us in the present time. Prayer: Gracious God, send us your messengers that we might dwell in your presence through your holy Word. In Jesus’ name. Amen.....*Sola Worship Resource — Weekly Devotional © 2020, Sola Publishing (www.solapublishing.com), written by Amy Little. Scripture taken from ESV Bible® (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright ©2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*