

About the First Sunday in Advent
Theme: Christ Comes to Save
– highlighting the Scriptures for the week –

Looking far into the future, the Prophet Jeremiah is given to see the fulfillment of the LORD's gracious promise to Israel and Judah: the Righteous Branch sprouting from the dead stump of David's line. (Jeremiah) The Apostle Paul, looking from the vantage point of the promises fulfilled, anticipates a still more distant future. (1 Thessalonians) He looks to the coming of the Lord Jesus with all His holy ones and prays that those who believe will be preserved blameless and holy till His coming. The Lord Jesus entered the holy city accompanied by shouts of acclamation. (Luke) As He came then hidden in lowliness, so He comes now hidden under His gracious Word and Sacrament. As He was greeted then, so we acclaim Him now: "Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the LORD; Hosanna in the Highest!"

WEEKLY BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Use the schedule below in your personal devotion. The first three readings are the lessons read today; the last three will be read next Sunday. The Wednesday reading is the psalmody for the week. Each day you may want to pray that Psalm or the prayer printed in our service folder today, followed by the suggested reading and your personal requests and Thanksgivings to our Heavenly Father.

- Sunday** Jeremiah 33:14-16 What promise did the LORD make to Israel and Judah? From whose family was the promised Messiah ("branch of righteousness") to come? What is His name? How did Jesus live up to this name? Where and how do we receive righteousness?
- Monday** 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 What is the source of the apostle's joy? For what does he give thanks? What does he ask God for? What is his three-fold blessing? What is the source of overflowing love? When will Jesus come with all his holy ones? How may we be blameless and holy on that day? What does this mean?
- Tuesday** Luke 19:28-40 How did Jesus visibly enter Jerusalem? For what purpose did He enter there? How does Jesus enter invisibly among us? For what purpose does He come among us? How was Jesus greeted in Jerusalem? How is He greeted in the Divine Service? What does this mean?
- Wednesday** Psalm 25:1-10 What is the cause of shame? What is the antidote to shame? Why do we need to be taught? Guided? What do we need the LORD to remember? What therefore will He not remember? Why does the LORD instruct sinners in His ways and guide the humble in what is right? What does this mean?
- Thursday** Malachi 3:1-7b What is the purpose of the messenger of the LORD? When did the LORD appear (clothed in infant flesh) in His temple? How did Christ purify the offerings of His people and those who bring them? How does He do this today? What does this mean?
- Friday** Philippians 1:2-11 Why was the apostle thanking God? Who were his partners in the gospel? Who are partners in the gospel here? What confidence may we therefore have regarding the future? What was the apostle's prayer? Where does spiritual discernment come from? What is the result of spiritual

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discernment? Where does righteousness come from? What fruits does it produce? Where therefore do those fruits come from? What does this mean? Luke 3:1-14 Where did John get his message? What was the purpose of the baptism he announced? What is the purpose of our baptism? How is a proper way prepared for the LORD's coming? How is this done? What does this mean?