



# God's Word, My Voice

## A Lectionary for Children

### The First Sunday of Advent

*A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah* [33:14–16]

Soon I will make good on the promises I made to you. When I do, a branch will grow on David's family tree. This Branch will stand for justice and goodness in the land. Jerusalem will be safe from harm.

We will call this Branch: "The Lord is our righteousness."

*The Word of the Lord.*

*Psalm 25:1–9*

My soul is in the palm of my hands, God,  
and I'm lifting it up to give it to you. I trust you with it, God.  
I trust that you won't let them make fun of me, or humiliate me.  
Don't let those of us who count on you be put to shame.  
Let the plans of the wicked, sneaky people fall to pieces.

**Show me how to follow your path.  
I want to walk in love and faithfulness.**

Lead me in your truth and teach me.  
You are the God who saves me. I've trusted you ever since  
I can remember.  
Your compassion and love have no beginning and will have  
no end. They go on forever.

Don't remember the things I've done wrong.  
Instead remember that you love me because you are kind  
and good.

**Show me how to follow your path.  
I want to walk in love and faithfulness.**

God, you are gracious and the only one who can teach us the right way  
to live. You are willing to guide those who are willing to learn.  
The paths that lead in your direction are love and faithfulness.  
Those who are in relationship with you will always walk in  
your direction.

**Show me how to follow your path.  
I want to walk in love and faithfulness.**

*A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians [3:9–13]*

There's no way we can thank God enough for the joy you bring into our  
lives. We pray constantly for you, hoping we can be face to face soon to  
encourage you. I pray God can find a way to let us come see you soon.  
May God increase your love for each other, and make it overflow into  
your lives. May God make your hearts strong until the time Jesus comes  
again.

*The Word of the Lord.*

 *The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ  
According to Luke [21:25–36]*

Jesus said, "At the end, there will be signs in the moon and stars and the  
sun. The people of the earth will be confused and overpowered by the  
sea and the waves. People will be scared to death at what is happening to  
God's world. Then the Son of Man will come in a cloud with power and

glory. When you see these things take place, stand up tall and watch what happens, because that means your redemption is close.”

Then he said this: “You know when the trees sprout leaves that means summer is near. When you see the signs I just told you about, you will know that the kingdom of God is near. I’m telling you, it’s beginning to happen even as I speak. Heaven and earth will pass away, but the words I say to you will not.

“Watch out so your hearts are not weighted down with the worries of this life and that you are not caught unprepared like you’ve walked into a trap. Lots of people all over the world will be surprised by all this. But not you. I want you to be always on alert, praying that you have strength enough to escape what will happen and that you can stand up straight before the Son of Man.”

*The Gospel of the Lord.*





# God's Word, My Voice

## A Lectionary for Children

### The Second Sunday of Advent

*A Reading from the Book of Baruch* [5:1–9]

You don't need to wear your sadness like a jacket anymore, Jerusalem. Put on the beauty of God's glory instead and wear it forever. God will give you a robe of righteousness to wear. And a tiara glowing with God's goodness will be put on top of your head. God will show your beauty to everyone under the sun. And God will give you a new name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory."

Stand up tall, Jerusalem. If you look to the east you will see all your children gathered because God called them together. They will rejoice that God has remembered them. Their enemies had taken them away, but God will bring them back to you as he promised like kings carried in glory on their royal thrones.

God has ordered all the highest mountains to be lowered. And the valleys will be filled up to make the ground level. That way, Israel can walk back safely to where she belongs. The forests will provide shade for her at God's command. And God will be leading the parade back to Jerusalem with the light of his goodness that makes him glow from the inside.

*The Word of the Lord.*



*Canticle 16: The Song of Zechariah* [Luke 1:68–79]

Praise be to God; he's come to set his people free. God has sent us someone to save us, born in King David's family. The prophets from long ago promised that he would do this, that he would keep his people safe from their enemies. He said he'd be merciful and would remember the promise he made to our father Abraham, to set his people free. His people are free to worship him without fear. And they're holy and righteous in his sight now and forever. You, my little one, will be called God's prophet, because you will be making the way ready for God. You will tell the people about salvation, and the forgiveness of their sins. Our God is good and kind, and in the morning the dawn's bright light will break upon us and flood our darkness with glorious light, it will drown the shadow of death and make us walk on paths of peace.

*A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians* [1:3–11]

Every time you cross my mind, I thank God for you, and I think about you all the time! I am praying for you constantly. I know for sure that the one who started you off on this good path will get you where you belong by the time Jesus comes. I know that you hold me in your heart and you share in God's grace with me. It's helped me when I was in jail and defending myself in court. God knows how much I'd like to be with you.

Here's what I pray for you: that the love you share will overflow from your hearts, and that more and more you will know and have the wisdom to choose what is best. That way you can complete God's good work in you and be who Jesus meant for you to be to the glory of God.

*The Word of the Lord.*





*The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According  
to Luke [3:1–6]*

When Tiberius had been emperor for fifteen years, and when Herod was the governor in Galilee, the Word of God came to John who lived in the wilderness. He wandered all over the region by the Jordan River, telling people to be baptized and wash themselves of their sin. The prophet Isaiah talked about

him a long time ago: “I hear a voice crying out in the desert,  
‘Get ready for God to come. Straighten the paths. Build up the valleys and lower the mountaintops. Make the crooked places straight and the rocky roads smooth. Then everyone will see God’s salvation.’”

*The Gospel of the Lord.*





# God's Word, My Voice

## A Lectionary for Children

### The Third Sunday of Advent

*A Reading from the Book of Zephaniah* [3:14–20]

Sing as loud as you can, O daughter Zion;  
go ahead and shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

God has taken away everything and everybody that could hurt you. God  
is right beside you and you don't have anything  
to be afraid of or worry about anymore.

God has won the day.

He will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will join you in singing loud and long.

God says: I will take care of the disasters,  
and I will deal with the people who want to put you down.

I will save those who can't keep up with you  
and gather the people on the fringes of your community,  
and I will change their shame into praise and make their name famous all  
over the earth.

I will bring you home, and make you special among all the peoples of the  
earth.

*The Word of the Lord.*



*Canticle 9 The First Song of Isaiah* [Isaiah 12:2–6]

For sure, you are the one who saves me. I'm not afraid, God, when I trust  
in you.

I can count on you. I just hold on tight and you defend me.

There is always water in the well of salvation to drink.

And I'm happy to call out your name and give you thanks  
out loud.

Tell everyone what God has done, people. Don't let them forget God's  
name.

Sing whenever you can about God.

Ring all the bells in Zion and keep them ringing because the Holy One  
is right there with you.

*A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians* [4:4–7]

Celebrate God. Always. Rejoice and let people see the smiles on your  
faces and the deep joy in your hearts. Be gentle with everyone. God is  
near. Don't let your worries overwhelm you. Instead of worrying, take  
your concerns and prayer requests to God. And don't forget to thank  
him while you're at it. May God's peace, which is beyond our ability to  
understand, hold your hearts and minds close to Christ Jesus.

*The Word of the Lord.*



*The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According  
to Luke* [3:7–18]

Crowds of people came to the desert to be baptized by John the Baptist.  
Sometimes he would yell, "You are just a pile of snakes! If you want to  
turn your lives around, let me see you do it. Don't think just because  
Abraham was your ancestor you'll get away easy. God could turn these  
rocks into the children of Abraham. You're nothing special."



The crowds said, “What do you think we should do then?” John said, “If you have an extra coat, give it to someone who has no coat at all. If you have plenty of food, share it.” Tax collectors, who used to cheat people, would come to be baptized. “What should we do, John?” John would say, “Don’t collect more money from people than you should.”

Soldiers would say, “And what about us? How do we turn our lives around?” John would tell them, “Don’t squeeze money out of people just because you have power over them. Be satisfied with the money you earn.”

John had filled the hearts of people full of hope. And they wondered if he might be the One they were waiting for to save them.

John made sure they knew that he was *not* the Messiah. “I just baptize you with water. The Messiah is much more powerful and will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. He will make things right.”

That was good news to people’s ears and hearts.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*



# God's Word, My Voice

## A Lectionary for Children

### The Fourth Sunday of Advent

*A Reading from the Book of Micah [5:2–5a]*

It's you, Bethlehem! You're the tiny town from which the leader of Israel will come. He comes from a distinguished and ancient family. His people have been wandering for a while, but they will come home soon. And then they will be well fed and cared for when their strong, good leader is with them. Then, they'll live in a safe place, because their leader will be honored all over the world as a peacemaker.

*The Word of the Lord.*

*Canticle 15 The Song of Mary [Luke 1:46–55]*

My soul is so happy. I can't stop singing about God's kindness  
to me, a lowly servant.

From now on, everyone will know that I have been blessed.

**God has done great things for me and God's name is holy.**

God's heart goes out to those who walk the right way, in every  
generation, young and old.

God is strong enough to scatter proud people in every direction.

God picks up those who think they're better than anyone else, and flings  
them off their fancy chairs, but he picks up those who are sad and lifts  
up their chins so they can hold their heads high again.



## **God has done great things for me and God's name is holy.**

God feeds hungry people the best food they've ever eaten.

And when people with too much get in line, God says, "Enough already."

God remembers his promise of mercy and has come to help out the people in Israel.

God promised mercy to our ancestors, to all of Father Abraham's children forever.

## **God has done great things for me and God's name is holy.**

*A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews [10:5–10]*

When Christ came into the world, this is what he said: "God doesn't want sacrifices and offerings, instead God prepared a body for me to live in and do his will." God got rid of the sacrifices and offerings and replaced them with what Christ Jesus did. By God's will, you and I have been made okay in God's sight, through Jesus Christ's body, which he offered for our sake, once and for all.

*The Word of the Lord.*

 *The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke [1:39–45]*

Mary ran to see her cousin Elizabeth who lived in the hill country. When she cried out, "Elizabeth, it's so good to see you!" the baby in Elizabeth's belly jumped up and down.

Elizabeth all of a sudden was filled with the Holy Spirit and yelled, "You are so blessed, Mary! And the little one inside you is blessed as well. How God must love me to send the mother of my Lord to visit me. As soon as I heard your voice, this little guy inside me jumped up and

down for joy. This is just as God said it would happen, and we are both so blessed to see things work out this way. God is good to us indeed.”

*The Gospel of the Lord.*





# God's Word, My Voice

## A Lectionary for Children

### The Nativity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ: Christmas Day

*A Reading from the Book of Isaiah [9:2–7]*

The people who have been walking in the dark for so long have finally seen a great light. You have pumped them up and expanded their joy. They are as happy as people who have harvested a fabulous crop and won't go hungry this year, as happy as people are opening birthday presents, or dividing up found money. They no longer feel like they're pulling someone else's wagon. It's time to throw the boots of the soldiers and their bloody clothes in the fire.

A baby boy has been born for us. He will be someone whom we respect and look up to. And his name is Mighty God, Prince of Peace. His influence will keep growing until there is no end of peace for the family of King David and all who followed him. This baby boy will develop a nation held together with justice and goodness now and always.

*The Word of the Lord.*

*Psalm 96*

I've got a brand new song to sing to God.

Everyone, join me in singing it.

I'll sing my new song to God and tell everyone God's news  
is the best news ever.

I'll tell people I meet about God's goodness and the wonderful things he does.



There really isn't anyone or anything like God.  
Which is one reason I love God.

**I've got a brand new song to sing to God.  
Everyone, join me in singing it.**

Other people might think money or family or their job is more important, but it's God who made everything they have and everything there is.

So give your attention to God because God deserves it.

Worship God when you see how beautiful the clouds are, or a rainbow in the sky, or a perfect little snowflake.

**I've got a brand new song to sing to God.  
Everyone, join me in singing it.**

Tell everyone you know about God's goodness and power that he uses to help people.

Even the sky and the stars praise God.

The sea roars and the fields and even the trees shout for joy when they see God coming.

God is good, and God wants us to be the good the world can see.

**I've got a brand new song to sing to God.  
Everyone, join me in singing it.**

*A Reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus [2:11–14]*

For the grace of God has appeared, saving all of us from ourselves, training us to want goodness, and to live lives that are self-controlled, decent, and kind, while we wait for the hope and glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus gave himself for us so that we might be passionate for integrity and justice.

*The Word of the Lord.*





*The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According  
to Luke [2:1–20]*

In order to count how many people there were so that he could tax them, the emperor told everyone to go to their hometowns to be counted. So Joseph went with Mary, his fiancée, who was expecting a baby at any time, from Nazareth to Bethlehem. His family was descended from King David, and King David had lived in Bethlehem. While they were there, Mary delivered a baby boy, wrapped him up tight, and laid him in a feed trough in the barn where they were staying because the inns were all full.

Meanwhile, in the fields, shepherds were watching their sheep during the night. All of a sudden an angel stood right in front of them, and God’s glory was shining all around and they were scared to death. The angel told them not to be afraid because there was only good news. “This news is so good,” the angel said, “that everyone will be happy. Today in the city of David, the Savior whom everyone’s been waiting for was born. I want you to go find him. Here’s how you’ll know he’s the right baby: He’ll be lying in a feed trough all wrapped up in strips of cloth.”

When the angel said that, the skies burst into song, and angels filled up the entire sky, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to those on earth whom God loves.”

When the angels had gone back to heaven, the shepherds said to each another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and find this baby boy they were talking about.” So they ran and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the feed trough, just as the angel had told them. They told Mary and Joseph what the angel had said, about who this child was and would become. Everyone was amazed at their story. But Mary kept this entire story in her heart. The shepherds praised God for all that had happened that night, and



went back to their sheep who had been wondering where their shepherds had gone.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

