



God's Word, My Voice

A Lectionary for Children

The First Sunday of Advent

A Reading from Isaiah [2:1–5]

Here's what Isaiah sees for the future of Judah and Jerusalem:

God's house will be on the highest mountain of them all. And everyone will see it and want to come to it. Because they'll say to themselves, "Let's go see what good things God has to teach us so that we can become better people and follow the good path God has for us."

That's where you'll find some good ideas about living and loving—in God's house. God's ways to live are good ways to live.

In the future, when things go God's way, people who are different from each other will get along. Countries won't fight each other. They'll use their weapons as garden tools to grow good things to eat instead of using them to hurt each other. Let's walk on God's path together.

The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 122

It made me so happy when someone suggested we go to God's house!
Because my feet always want to take me there, to Jerusalem, where all the
people praise God.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. May good things happen to those who love God's house.

That's where decisions have been made, and kings have been crowned,
and people thank God.

I think we should all pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May they prosper
who love you.

May there be peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.
Let's do everything we can to make sure there is peace in Jerusalem, and
see that those who live there are safe and happy.

**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. May good things happen to
those who love God's house.**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans [13:11–14]

The time has come. We need to wake up! Wipe the sleep from your eyes,
because we are closer than ever to God's salvation. The rough times are
almost over, and the sun is about to come up. We should put aside our dark
thinking, and instead put on the armor made of light. We should act like
we act when people are watching us, because they are. Don't do the things
that would bring us shame: being drunk, messing around with people
we shouldn't be messing with, being jealous, and sniping at each other.
Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and don't even bother
trying to make yourselves happy with other things.

The Word of the Lord.



*The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to
Matthew [24:36–44]*

Nobody knows when the last day will come. Not the angels in heaven, or Jesus himself—only the Father knows. It will come all of a sudden. People go about their everyday lives, like at the time of the Flood, and then all of a sudden they're floating in water. The end will be sudden, just like that. Two men will be standing together, and one is taken, and the other is not. Surprise! So pay attention, because you don't know when that day will be. Just know you need to be ready for anything, because Jesus will return when you least expect it.

The Gospel of the Lord.



God's Word, My Voice

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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.