



Scripture Readings for the Advent Season

Isiah Chapter 40 v1-5; 9-11

Promise of Salvation

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God.

Speak to the heart of Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service* has ended, that her guilt is expiated, That she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins.

A voice proclaims: In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD!

Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!

Every valley shall be lifted up, every mountain and hill made low; The rugged land shall be a plain, the rough country, a broad valley.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

A voice says, "Proclaim!" I answer, "What shall I proclaim?" "All flesh is grass, and all their loyalty like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower wilts, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it." "Yes, the people is grass!

The grass withers, the flower wilts, but the word of our God stands forever." Carrying them in his bosom, leading the ewes with care.

Go up onto a high mountain, Zion, herald of good news! Cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Cry out, do not fear! Say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God!

Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; Here is his reward with him, his recompense before him.

Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, Carrying them in his bosom, leading the ewes with care.

Isiah Ch 30 v18-26 Zion's Future Deliverance

Truly, the LORD is waiting to be gracious to you, truly, he shall rise to show you mercy; For the LORD is a God of justice: happy are all who wait for him.

Yes, people of Zion, dwelling in Jerusalem, you shall no longer weep; He will be most gracious to you when you cry out; you.

The Lord will give you bread in adversity and water in affliction. No longer will your Teacher* hide himself, but with your own eyes you shall see your Teacher,

And your ears shall hear a word behind you: “This is the way; walk in it,” when you would turn to the right or the left.

You shall defile your silver-plated idols and your gold-covered images; You shall throw them away like filthy rags, you shall say, “Get out!”

He will give rain for the seed you sow in the ground, And the bread that the soil produces will be rich and abundant. On that day your cattle will graze in broad meadows;

The oxen and the donkeys that till the ground will eat silage tossed to them with shovel and pitchfork.

Upon every high mountain and lofty hill water. On the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall,

The light of the moon will be like the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be seven times greater, like the light of seven days, On the day the LORD binds up the wounds of his people and heals the bruises left by his blows.

Isiah Ch 63 v16 – 19

For you are our father. Were Abraham not to know us, nor Israel to acknowledge us, You, LORD, are our father, our redeemer you are named from of old.

Why do you make us wander, LORD, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we do not fear you? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage.

Why have the wicked invaded your holy place, why have our enemies trampled your sanctuary?

Too long have we been like those you do not rule, on whom your name is not invoked. Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you.

Isiah 64 v2-7

While you worked awesome deeds we could not hope for, Such as had not been heard of from of old. No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you wait for him.

Would that you might meet us doing right, that we might be mindful of you in our ways! Indeed, you are angry; we have sinned, we have acted wickedly.

We have all become like something unclean, all our just deeds are like polluted rags; We have all withered like leaves, and our crimes carry us away like the wind.

There are none who call upon your name, none who rouse themselves to take hold of you; For you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us up to our crimes.

Yet, LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you our potter: we are all the work of your hand.

Hebrews 6 v13-20

When God made the promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, “he swore by himself,” and said, “I will indeed bless you and multiply” you.

And so, after patient waiting, he obtained the promise.

Human beings swear by someone greater than themselves; for them an oath serves as a guarantee and puts an end to all argument.

So when God wanted to give the heirs of his promise an even clearer demonstration of the immutability of his purpose, he intervened with an oath, so that by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to hold fast to the hope that lies before us.

This we have as an anchor of the soul, sure and firm, which reaches into the interior behind the veil, where Jesus has entered on our behalf as forerunner, becoming high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

1 Corinthians 1 v3-10

The gospel about his Son, descended from David according to the flesh, but established as Son of God in power according to the spirit of holiness through resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him we have received the grace of apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith, for the sake of his name, among all the Gentiles, among whom are you also, who are called to belong to Jesus Christ; to all the beloved of God in Rome, called to be holy. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

First, I give thanks to my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is heralded throughout the world.

God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in proclaiming the gospel of his Son, that I remember you constantly, always asking in my prayers that somehow by God’s will I may at last find my way clear to come to you.

2 Peter 3: 8-14

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard “delay,” but

he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out.

Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought [you] to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

Luke 1 v 26 – 38

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary.

And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you."

But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.

He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?"

And the angel said to her in reply, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God."

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Mark 1:18

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ [the Son of God]. The Preaching of John the Baptist.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way.

A voice of one crying out in the desert:

John [the] Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey.

And this is what he proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.

I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the holy Spirit.”

Isiah Ch 9 v1-6

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Upon those who lived in a land of gloom a light has shone.

You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing; They rejoice before you as people rejoice at harvest, as they exult when dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder, The rod of their taskmaster, you have smashed, as on the day of Midian.

For very boot that tramped in battle, every cloak rolled in blood, will be burned as fuel for fire.

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.

His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, Upon David’s throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!