

# Sunday Advent 2023

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Cycle B

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Fall 2023

## The Gospel Lineup For Advent 2023

- Gospel Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> Mark 13:33—37 Jesus' parable about the Master that left his servants in charge and urged them to be awake, watchful for his return.
- Gospel Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> Mark 1:1-8 opening of Mark's Gospel that immediately introduces the precursor to Jesus' ministry, namely the work of John the Baptist
- Gospel Dec 17<sup>th</sup> John 1:6-8, 19-28 the divine verification of John the Baptist as witness to the one coming and the verification before those questioning such a role.
- Gospel Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> Luke 1:26-38 the annunciation to Mary by the angel Gabriel and her response.

# Some General Observations regarding these 4 Weeks of Gospel readings

- What on first glance appears odd
- How the arrangement gives us a glance of how early Christians came to understand Jesus as the Christ
- The advantage we have of celebrating Jesus birth with a knowledge of who he was from John's witness and early Christian witness (in the gospels) of who Jesus was as an adult.
- Yet the risk we face amidst all the celebrations, festivities, etc – that we miss the radicality – that God inserted the divine self into humanity with an almost frighteningly humility and quietness – yet the explosive significance of the incarnate one (God/human) who walked on our very earth that we walk on.

# Week One

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Isaiah 63:16-17b; 64 : 2-7 summoning of God to address the people's lack of consciousness of living a God-ward life and the need for redemption followed by a witnessing to the signs of the inbreaking of God that is yet to come.

Ps. 80: 2-3; 15-16; 18-19 **Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 thankful for their fidelity; urges them to recognize the gifts they have received while they wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ

Gospel Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> Mark 13:33—37 Jesus' parable about the Master that left his servants in charge and urged them to be awake, watchful for his return.

## Some Themes for building Homiletic Reflections for Week 1

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- The Value of Hindsight
- We have a Waiting Problem
- Advent is More Than About Christmas

## Week Two

- 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Isaiah 40 1-5; 9-11 The comfort of the God who leads people out of exile, out of affliction, and does so powerfully and gently.
- Ps. 85: 1-2; 8-13 **Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading 2 Peter 3: 8-14 addresses the discouragement of Christians regarding the delay of Christ's coming.
- Gospel Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> Mark 1:1-8 opening of Mark's Gospel that immediately introduces the precursor to Jesus' ministry, namely the work of John the Baptist

## Some Themes for Building Homiletic Reflections for Week 2

- **-The Divine Disclosure Latent Here**
- **-Prepare!!! Ready or Not!**

# Week Three

- 1<sup>st</sup> reading Isaiah 61: 1-2a; 10-11 the prophet proclaims God's word which will have healing powers and be the words Jesus proclaims at the start of his ministry.
- Ps Luke 1: 46-48; 53-54 parts of Mary's proclamation that elevate her and promise the lifting up of the lowly and filling the starving with good things.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 1 Thess. 5: 16-24 Christian rejoicing based upon trust in God and the enduring quality of a Christian life in community and in love.
- Gospel Dec 17<sup>th</sup> John 1:6-8, 19-28 the divine verification of John the Baptist as witness to the one coming and the verification before those questioning such a role.



# Some Themes for Building Homiletic Reflections for Week 3

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- **Hints of Who Is to Come**
- **The Importance of a Sojourn in the Wilderness**

## Week Four

- 1<sup>st</sup> reading 2 Sam 7: 1-5; 8b-12 14a, 16 The promise of God's fidelity to David down through the generations.
- Ps 89: 2-3, 4-5, 27, 29a R. **For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Romans 16: 25-27 a doxology that proclaims what's has been hidden is about to be revealed.
- Gospel Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> Luke 1:26-38 the annunciation to Mary by the angel Gabriel and her response

## Some Themes for Building Homiletic Reflections for Week 4

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- -A Pregnant Yes – the pathway to Incarnation
- The unprecedented nature of an annunciation to Mary as first disclosure as to who Jesus will be