

FRIDAY — ACTIVITY

Fill in the missing words from the following Scripture verses.

Offer to God a _____ sacrifice _____ of _____ thanksgiving _____, and perform your vows to the _____ Most High _____, and call upon me in the day of _____ trouble _____; I will _____ deliver _____ you, and you shall _____ glorify _____ me.” — Psalm 50:14-15

May the God of _____ endurance _____ and _____ encouragement _____ grant you to live in such _____ harmony _____ with one another, in accord with _____ Christ Jesus _____, that together you may with one voice glorify the _____ God the Father _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ.
— Romans 15:5-6

May the _____ God _____ of _____ hope _____ fill you with all _____ joy _____ and _____ peace _____ in believing, so that by the power of the _____ Holy Spirit _____ you may abound in hope. — Romans 15:13

Truly, I say to you, this _____ generation _____ will not pass away until all has taken place. _____ Heaven _____ and _____ earth _____ will pass away, but my _____ words _____ will not pass away. — Luke 21:32-33



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Lambs at Pasture™

Populus Zion — The Second Sunday in Advent

2017

INTROIT

Psalm 80:1, 3, 14, 17; antiphon: Isaiah 62:11b; 30:30, 29

Say to the daughter of Zion,

“Behold, your salvation comes.”

The LORD will cause his majestic voice to be heard,

and you shall have gladness of heart.

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

Restore us, O God;

let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Turn again, O God of hosts!

Look down from heaven, and see.

But let your hand be on the man of your right hand,

the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!

Glorify be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Say to the daughter of Zion,

“Behold, your salvation comes.”

The Lord will cause his majestic voice to be heard,

and you shall have gladness of heart.

DAILY READINGS & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

An answer key is available for download at www.stluth.org/lap

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 21:26b-27

Alleluia. The powers of the heavens will be shaken, and then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Alleluia.

HYMN OF THE WEEK: LSB #336 — Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

CATECHISM CONNECTION:

The Second Petition of the Lord’s Prayer with Explanation (pages 19–20)

COLLECT OF THE WEEK

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

DID YOU KNOW?

The word “advent” is derived from the Latin words, *advenire* (to come to) and *adventus* (an arrival). That we might be prepared to celebrate the blessed Feast of the Nativity of Christ our Lord, the Church has set aside the season of Advent as a time to reflect and meditate upon the coming of our Lord Jesus in the Flesh, through His Word and Sacraments, and on the Last Day. Advent is also a time of preparation for Christ’s coming through repentance and faith.

The Second Sunday in Advent is also known as *Populus Zion*, which, in Latin, means: “people of Zion” (The ESV translates as “daughter of Zion”). This is the opening phrase of the Introit — Say to the daughter (people) of Zion, “Behold, your salvation comes.” (Isaiah 62:11b).

MONDAY — THE PSALM

Read Psalm 50:1–15

Describe how God’s people were worshiping Him. (verses 7–13)

Ex opere operato — Latin phrase literally meaning: “from the work worked”, more fluidly meaning: “by the mere outward performance of the act”.

They were offering sacrifices apart from faith; they were just going through the motions. The sacrificial system was never intended to be the sum and substance of their faith, but as a signpost, an act done in faith of the promise that God would provide His own offering to cover their sins. They had forgotten this, and turned inward, comforting themselves not in the promise of God, but by their own observance of the sacrificial system. Any sacrifice that is given to the glory (the building or puffing up) of oneself is not acceptable to God.

What do verses 14–15 mean?

Sacrifices may be given out of gratitude (thanksgiving) and praise. We are to call upon God in any trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks. Only God will deliver (save) us.

Review *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation*, question 34 (page 67), question 203 (page 179), and question 234 (pages 200–201)

TUESDAY — THE OLD TESTAMENT

Read Malachi 4:1–6

What is Malachi warning us of? (verse 1)

We are to repent, the day of judgment is nearing. The evildoers (ungodly or unbelievers) will stumble and be set ablaze (go to hell), they will be destroyed despite everything appearing to be going well for them.

What will happen to the righteous? (verses 2–3)

The believers will find rescue and security under the shadow of Christ’s wings.

WEDNESDAY — THE GOSPEL

Read Luke 21:25–36

How is the fig tree a parable for the signs of the Advent (coming) of our Lord?

The Words of the Prophets, the Words that St. Paul calls: “whatever was written in earlier times — for our instruction” (Romans 15:4a NASB), were like buds on the tree in early spring — each tightly packed and bursting forth with the Promise of the Savior; each bud erupting with prophesy concerning the coming of the Lord.

And those buds matured as the heavenly messenger Gabriel appeared to Zechariah as he served in the Temple, proclaiming the birth of the Elijah who was to come. (Luke 1:17a; Matthew 11:14). John the Forerunner, himself a sure sign that the Advent of the Lord was nigh. So too was the angel’s Divinely-sent sermon to Mary; his Divinely appointed utterance into her ear (Luke 1:35), a sure sign of the imminent Advent of the Lord in the Flesh, the coming of the Lord by her flesh. Then did that Tree bring forth fruit. In the fullness of time (Galatians 4:4), the Root of Jesse budded forth (Romans 15:12b; cf. Isaiah, 11:1, 10 NKJV), the Promised Fruit of the Virgin’s Womb. Immanuel came. Like the fig tree in spring, the signs were there.

What are some of the signs of the Lord’s Second and final Advent? (verses 25–28)

There will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; on earth — distress of nations; perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men’s hearts failing them from fear and expectation; even the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

Review *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation*, question 149 (pages 142–145)

THURSDAY — THE EPISTLE

Read Romans 15:4–13

Where might we find what was written for our instruction? (verse 4)

Holy Scripture (The Bible)

What is hope?

Hope is relying on God’s promise and truthfulness without hesitation.

Review *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation*, question 159 (page 151)

CATECHISM CONNECTION

What is the connection of the Second Petition of the Lord’s Prayer with Explanation and *Populus Zion*?

“God’s Kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us the Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.” (SC. III:3)