

## Additional Resources

Below are additional resources one can use in conjunction with the Handel study, or on their own if you wish. There is one thing I would say, however. If this is your first time celebrating Advent, all this is going to complicate your celebration. Simple is better when starting out. I would suggest waiting on using any of these resources until you have a couple of Advent seasons under your belt.

If you are already someone who either belongs to a liturgical church or has a liturgical background and has some basic Advent piety already developed, these resources are for you. Included are the feast days, suggested psalms for each week, all the readings for each Sunday, and suggested hymns. All hymn numbers are from the Lutheran Service Book.

Currently, there is a fuller version of the historic lectionary being tested. This version includes readings for Wednesday and Fridays during the week. Because it is being tested, many of the readings have not been released publicly. Once the lectionary is out of testing, they will be added.

Nov 30th: St. Andrew's Day. This date actually determines the First Sunday of Advent. The Sunday closest to this day is the First Sunday in Advent. This year (2023), it is December 3rd. Andrew is given this distinction since he was the first of Jesus' disciples.

Readings: Ezekiel 3:16-21; Romans 10:8b-18; John 1:35-42.

Hymn: Preach You the Word and Plant it Home (LSB 586)

Dec 3: First Sunday in Advent. This Sunday is also known as *Ad Te Levani*, which is the first Three words from the *Introit* for this Sunday in Latin. The words are from Psalm 25:1 (To You I lift up). The *Introit* is an entrance hymn sung as the pastor would process towards the altar. It would normally be selected verses from the Psalms. The other Sundays in Advent, Lent, and the Easter are named in the same fashion. This Sunday is also called "Stir up" Sunday from the assigned prayer for this Sunday. The theme for the day is **The Lord Jesus Comes in Humility to Heal us.**

Readings: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 21:1-9

Additional Psalms: 25, 85, 145, 93, 24, 122, 110, 6

Hymn: Savior of the Nations Come (LSB 332) or Prepare the Royal Highway (LSB 343)

Dec 6: St. Nicolas of Myra. While Santa Claus is how many of us come to know this man, he is a much more interesting character in the legends of the Church than the legend of Santa Claus. A bishop in the town of Myra (which is now in Turkey), he was known for his charity and kindness. This day, in many European countries, is the day gifts are exchanged. A neat tradition is to put chocolate coins in your kid's shoes on this day.

Readings: Psalm 132; Hebrews 13:7-17a; Luke 14:26-33.

Dec 10: Second Sunday in Advent. This Sunday is also known as *Populus Zion* (People of Zion, Daughter of Zion in most modern translations, Isaiah 62:11b). The first two Sundays of Advent traditionally concentrate on the Second Coming of Christ (aka the Second Advent). It is especially prevalent on this Sunday, with the theme of **The Lord Comes on the Last Day.**

Readings: Malachi 4:1-6; Romans 15:4-13; Luke 21:25-36.

Additional Psalms: 80, 50, 85, 175, 96, 126, 38

Hymn: Lo He Comes with Clouds Descending (LSB 336)

Dec 13: St. Lucia's Day. This day commemorates Lucia, a martyr from Sicily who was executed in the Diocletian persecution in 304 AD. Known for her charity, she gave away her dowry and did not marry until her execution by the sword. Her name means "light." This day is very popular in Scandinavia. Traditionally, she is depicted with a wreath of lit candles on her head while wearing a baptismal gown. Readings: Psalm 45; 2 Corinthians 10:17-11:2; Matthew 13:44-52.



Dec 17: Third Sunday in Advent. This Sunday is also known as *Gaudete* (Rejoice in the Lord always, Phillipians 4:4). This Sunday and the next Sunday concentrate on the first coming of Christ. The theme for this Sunday is **John the Baptist Prepares the Way of the Lord.**

Readings: Isaiah 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Matthew 11:2-11.

Additional Psalms: 85, 90, 111, 81, 4, 106, 9, 102

Hymn: Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Calling!

Dec 20: Ember Wednesday. Ember days are special days of fasting, almsgiving, and prayer. The Lutheran tradition of midweek services comes from the Ember Days. The Ember Days take on the themes of the season they are in. The theme for this Wednesday is **The Annunciation.**

Readings: Psalm 19, Isaiah 2:2-5, Isaiah 7:10-15, Luke 1:26-38

Hymn: The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came (LSB 356)

Dec 20: Katherine von Bora Luther, wife of Martin Luther, died this day in 1552.

Dec 21: St. Thomas Day. This day commemorates the Apostle Thomas. This is the man known as "doubting Thomas." While he may have doubted, he went east after Pentecost, spreading the Gospel all the way to India before being speared to death.

Readings: Psalm 139; Judges 6:36-40; Ephesians 2:19-22; John 20:24-29.

Hymn: We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight (LSB 720)

Dec 22: Ember Friday. The theme for this Friday is **The Visitation.**

Readings: Psalm 119: 1-8, Isaiah 11:1-5, Luke 1:39-56

Hymn: The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns (LSB 348)

Dec 23: Ember Saturday. Ember Saturday traditionally had a service that has similarities to our Easter Vigil service. There are seven total readings associated with this service. The five Old Testament and Apocrypha readings are optional, and were traditionally only read when there was an ordination occurring. The theme is similar to the previous Sunday, **John the Baptist Prepares the Way of the Lord.**

Readings (optional): Isaiah 19:20-22, Isaiah 35:1-7, Isaiah 40:9-11, Isaiah 45:1-8, Song of the Three Children 26-28, Hymn *Benedictus es, Domine.*

Readings: Psalm 80, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8, Luke 3:1-6

Dec 24: Fourth Sunday in Advent. This Sunday is known as *Rorate Coeli* (Drop down heavens, Isaiah 45:8). The first Advent is the concentration of this Sunday. The theme for this Sunday is **John the Baptist Points Everyone to the Messiah.**

Readings: Deuteronomy 18:15-19; Phillipians 4:4-7; John 1:19-28.

Additional Psalms: 19, 145, 9, 27, 8, 5, 21, 143

Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (LSB 357)

Dec 24: Christmas Eve. This begins the formal celebration of Christmas, which lasts until January 5<sup>th</sup> (The Twelfth Day of Christmas or Twelfthnight). There are four sets of reading read over Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. There are readings for Christmas Eve, Christmas Midnight, Christmas Dawn, and Christmas Day. Easter has a similar set of readings. Christmas celebrates the coming of Christ to the Jews.

Readings: Christmas Eve: Psalm 24; Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-6; Matthew 1:18-25

Hymn: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (LSB 359)

Christmas Midnight: Psalm 2; Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

Hymn: From Heaven Above to Earth I Come (LSB 358)

Dec 25: Christmas Day.

Readings: Christmas Dawn: Psalm 93; Micah 5:2-5a; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20

Hymn: Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising (375)

Christmas Day: Psalm 98; Exodus 40:17-21, 34-38; Titus 3:4-7; John 1:1-18

Hymn: We Praise You, Jesus, At Your Birth (LSB 382)

Additional Psalms (Both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day): 8, 19, 45, 72, 85, 96, 132, 145, 95, 80

Dec 26: St. Stephen, First Martyr. Stephen is remembered as the first martyr of the Church. His martyrdom is recorded in Acts 6 and 7. The Apostle Paul (then known as Saul) witnessed his stoning.

Readings: 2 Chronicles 24:17-22; Acts 6:8-15, 7:1-28, 51-53, 54-60; Matthew 23:34-39.

Additional Psalms: 119:17-24, 119:65-72, 119:1-8, 12, 26, 52, 56, 59, 116

Hymn: The Son of God Goes Forth in War (LSB 661)

Dec 27: St. John. John, the Apostle of Jesus, was the only Apostle not martyred. The son of Zebedee and brother of James the Elder, he was among the first disciples called by Jesus. Even though he died of natural causes in Ephesus around 100 AD, he suffered banishment at the hand of Emperor Domitian.

Readings: Revelation 1:1-6; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 21:19b-25

Additional Psalms: 92, 11, 119:89-96, 125, 145, 91, 56

Hymn: O Word of God Incarnate (LSB 523)

Dec 28: Martyrdom of the Holy Innocents. After being tricked by the Wise Men, King Herod ordered the slaughter of every child in Bethlehem two and under. Joseph and Mary fled to Egypt with Jesus before this happened.

Readings: Jeremiah 31:15-17; Revelation 14:1-5; Matthew 2:13-18.

Additional Psalms: 9, 124, 113, 37, 72, 79, 94, 123

Hymn: Sweet Flow'rets of the Martyr Band or When Aimless Violence Takes Those we Love (LSB 764)

Dec 29: St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr. Thomas Becket was ordained Archbishop of Canterbury in 1162, and came into conflict with King Henry II over the privileges of the Church vs. privileges of the monarch. After an action which infuriated the king in 1170, some of King Henry's men interpreted something he said as he wanted Becket assassinated. This took place on December 29, 1170. Becket was canonized by Pope Alexander III in 1173.

Readings: Psalm 33, Hebrews 5:1-6, John 10:11-16

Hymn: Chief of Sinner Though I Be (LSB 611).

Dec 30: There is no saint or octave of a saint on this day, so the propers for Christmas Dawn are traditionally used on this day.

Readings: Psalm 93; Micah 5:2-5a; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20

Hymn: Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising (375)

Dec 31: First Sunday of Christmas. The readings this day center on Jesus being brought to the Temple for the purification of Mary. His parents hear Simeon pronounce what is now known as the *Nunc Dimittis*.. The prophetess Anna also blesses the child. The theme for this day is **The Seed of David Comes to His Temple.**

Readings: Isaiah 11:1-5; Galatians 4:1-7; Luke 2:22-40

Additional Psalms: 93, 45, 91, 26, 110, 11, 84

Hymn: Let All Together Praise our God (LSB 389)

Dec 31: Sylvester of Rome, Bishop, Confessor. Sylvester was a Fourth Century Bishop of Rome. Little is know about him.

Readings: Psalm 30, 1 Peter 5:1-4, 10-11, Matthew 16:13-19

Hymn: Sing with all Saints in Glory (671)

Jan 1: The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus (Octave of Christmas). While the rest of the world celebrates the New Year, the Church remember Mary and Joseph bringing Jesus to be named and circumcised. Through this, he begins fulfilling the Law of God. His first blood is also shed to atone for our sins this day.

Readings: Numbers 6:22-27; Romans 11:33-36; Luke 2:21.

Additional Psalms: 98, 8, 40, 92, 85, 117, 67

Hymn: Jesus! Name of Wonderous Love (LSB 900) or Now Great the Swiftly Changing Year (LSB 896)

Jan 2: Octave of St. Stephen.

Readings: Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-60; Matthew 23:34-39

Additional Psalms: 119:17-24, 119:65-72, 119:1-8, 12, 26, 52, 56, 59, 116

Hymn: The Church's One Foundation (LSB 644)

Jan 3: Octave of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist.

Readings: Sirach 15:1-2a, 3-6; John 21:19b-25

Additional Psalms: 92, 11, 119:89-96, 125, 145, 91, 56

Hymn: Thy Strong Word did Cleave the Darkness (LSB 578)

Jan 4: Octave of the Holy Innocents.

Readings: Revalation 14:1-5, Matthew 2:13-18

Additional Psalms: 9, 124, 113, 37, 72, 79, 94, 123

Hymn: Children of the Heavenly Father (725)

Jan 5: Vigil of the Epiphany of our Lord. Christmas Eve can be called the Vigil of Christmas. Since Epiphany is such a major feast in the Church, it also has its vigil.

Readings: Psalm 93, Isaiah 11:1-5, Galatians 4:1-7, Matthew 2:19-23

Hymn: Let All Together Praise our God (LSB 389)

Jan 6: Epiphany. While Christmas celebrates his coming to the Jews, Epiphany celebrates his coming to the Gentiles as God. It was once considered the more important celebration rather than Christmas. In parts of the Eastern Church, this day is more important than Christmas. The story of the Three Wise Men is celebrated on this day.

Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12.

Additional Psalms: 72, 19, 45, 47, 48, 67, 87, 96, 100

Hymn: O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright (LSB 395)