



# Good Shepherd

LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

*Manchester, Missouri*



# **SUNDAY READINGS & MEMORY VERSES**

**December 3 - February 11**

# WHY MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE?

Memorization is a lost art in our over-saturated, instantaneous information age. Yet, when it comes to the beautiful gift of the Bible, God's Word given to us, we do well to **meditate** on these words. When you commit bible verses not just to your *minds*, but let them also be written on your *heart*, you will find they are no longer mere words in a book.

*They are God's voice speaking to you.*

Psalms 119:15 says, *I will **meditate** on your precepts, and fix my eyes on your ways.*

Paul writes in Colossians 3:16, *Let the word of Christ **dwelt** in you richly.*

In Deuteronomy 6:7-9 the Lord says,

*"**Keep** these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. **Recite** them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. **Bind** them as a sign on your hand, **fix** them as an emblem on your forehead, and **write** them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."*

We encourage you to use this guide to pray and reflect on the Sunday readings each week. Whether you worship at Good Shepherd, online, or are away, these words from the Lord keep us connected to one another by the Holy Spirit.

Read the memory verse each day.

Pray through it.

Rest in it.

See what Jesus has to speak to you through it each week.

Commit it to your heart so that wherever you are and whatever you might be going through, God will speak to you through these beautiful, holy words.

## ADVENT 1

# DECEMBER 3

### Memory Verse

*Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.*

*- Isaiah 64:8*

### First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

<sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
<sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
<sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
<sup>4</sup>From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
<sup>5</sup>You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
6We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
7There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
8**Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.**  
9Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

## Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

1Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.  
2In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.  
3Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.  
4O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?  
5You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.  
6You have made us the derision of our neighbors,

and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>17</sup>Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong for yourself.

<sup>18</sup>And so will we never turn away from you;

give us life, that we may call upon your name.

<sup>19</sup>Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

## Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—<sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

[Jesus said:] <sup>24</sup>“In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
25and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

26Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’  
with great power and glory. 27Then he will send out the  
angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from  
the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its  
branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you  
know that summer is near. 29So also, when you see  
these things taking place, you know that he is near, at  
the very gates. 30Truly I tell you, this generation will not  
pass away until all these things have taken place.

31Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will  
not pass away.

32“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the  
angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

33Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the  
time will come. 34It is like a man going on a journey,  
when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge,  
each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to  
be on the watch. 35Therefore, keep awake—for you do  
not know when the master of the house will come, in the  
evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, 36or  
else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.

37And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

## ADVENT 2

# DECEMBER 10

### Memory Verse

*Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.*

*- Isaiah 40:4*

### First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her

that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>**Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,**



**and the rough places a plain.**

<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,  
“Here is your God!”

<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord God comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

## Psalm: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

<sup>1</sup>You have been gracious to your land, O Lord;  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.  
<sup>2</sup>You have forgiven the iniquity of your people  
and blotted out all their sins.  
<sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the Lord God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to  
those who turn their hearts to you.  
<sup>9</sup>Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear  
you,  
that your glory may dwell in our land.  
<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.  
<sup>11</sup>Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.  
<sup>12</sup>The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,  
and our land will yield its increase.  
<sup>13</sup>Righteousness shall go before the Lord  
and shall prepare for God a pathway.

## Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

<sup>8</sup>Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord  
one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years  
are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his  
promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with  
you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to  
repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a  
thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud

noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

## Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’ ”

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside

and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

## ADVENT 3

# DECEMBER 17

### Memory Verse

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

*- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

### First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;

2to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
3to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.  
4They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

8For I the Lord love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
9Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.  
10I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
11For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise

to spring up before all the nations.

## Psalm: Psalm 126

<sup>1</sup>When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup>Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our  
tongue with shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has  
done great things for them."

<sup>3</sup>The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.

<sup>4</sup>Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses of the Negeb.

<sup>5</sup>Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.

<sup>6</sup>Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

## Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

**<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil.**

**<sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound**

and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
24The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

## Luke 1:46b-55

46bMy soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
47my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
48for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly  
servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
49you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.

50You have mercy on those who fear you,  
from generation to generation.

51You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

52casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.

53You have filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.

54You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,  
to remember the promise of mercy,

55the promise made to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his children forever.

## ADVENT 4

# DECEMBER 24

### Memory Verse

*For nothing will be impossible with God.*

*- Luke 1:38*

### First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you



wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

## Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55

<sup>46b</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup>for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
<sup>49</sup>you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.

<sup>50</sup>You have mercy on those who fear you,  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,  
<sup>52</sup>casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.

<sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,  
to remember the promise of mercy,  
<sup>55</sup>the promise made to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his children forever.

## Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

<sup>25</sup>Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

## Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called

the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, “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 holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>**For nothing will be impossible with God.**” <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

## CHRISTMAS 1

# DECEMBER 31

### Memory Verse

*Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.*

- Luke 2:29-32

## First Reading: Isaiah 61:10--62:3

10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

62:1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.  
2 The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the Lord will give.  
3 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

## Psalm: Psalm 148

1 Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights.  
2 Praise the Lord, all you angels;  
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

3Praise the Lord, sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you shining stars.  
4Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.  
5Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
who commanded, and they were created,  
6who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass away.  
7Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;  
8fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;  
9mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;  
10wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds;  
11sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;  
12young men and maidens,  
old and young together.  
13Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over  
earth and heaven.  
14The Lord has raised up strength for the people and  
praise for all faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord.  
Hallelujah!

## Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

## Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

**29“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,**

**according to your word;**

**30for my eyes have seen your salvation,**

**31which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,**

**32a light for revelation to the Gentiles**

**and for glory to your people Israel.”**

33And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 34Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed 35so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

36There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. 38At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

39When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

## BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

# JANUARY 7

### Memory Verse

*And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."*

*- Mark 1:11*

### First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

### Psalm: Psalm 29

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the Lord, you gods,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.  
<sup>2</sup>Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name;  
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.  
<sup>3</sup>The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of  
glory thunders;



the Lord is upon the mighty waters.  
4The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.  
5The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;  
6the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.  
7The voice of the Lord  
bursts forth in lightning flashes.  
8The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.  
9The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and  
strips the forests bare.  
And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"  
10The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.  
11O Lord, give strength to your people;  
give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

## Second Reading: Acts 19:1-7

1While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. 2He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." 3Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." 4Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." 5On hearing this, they were baptized

in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—<sup>7</sup>altogether there were about twelve of them.

## Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>**And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."**

## EPIPHANY 2

# JANUARY 14

### Memory Verse

*Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."*

*- 1 Samuel 3:10*

### 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

<sup>1</sup>Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

<sup>2</sup>At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; <sup>3</sup>the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup>Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" <sup>5</sup>and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down.

<sup>6</sup>The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." <sup>7</sup>Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup>The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli

perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup>Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

<sup>10</sup>**Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."** [<sup>11</sup>Then the Lord said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. <sup>12</sup>On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. <sup>13</sup>For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. <sup>14</sup>Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

<sup>15</sup>Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. <sup>16</sup>But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." <sup>17</sup>Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." <sup>18</sup>So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him."

<sup>19</sup>As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. <sup>20</sup>And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.]

## Psalm: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

<sup>1</sup>Lord, you have searched me out;

O Lord, you have known me.

<sup>2</sup>You know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.

<sup>3</sup>You trace my journeys and my resting-places  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup>Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,  
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

<sup>5</sup>You encompass me, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup>Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

**<sup>13</sup>For you yourself created my inmost parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.**

**<sup>14</sup>I will thank you because I am marvelously made;**  
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

<sup>15</sup>My body was not hidden from you,  
while I was being made in secret and woven in the  
depths of the earth.

<sup>16</sup>Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the  
womb; all of them were written in your book;  
my days were fashioned before they came to be.

<sup>17</sup>How deep I find your thoughts, O God!  
How great is the sum of them!

<sup>18</sup>If I were to count them, they would be more in  
number than the sand;  
to count them all, my life span would need to be like  
yours.

## Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

<sup>12</sup>“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. <sup>13</sup>“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. <sup>14</sup>And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. <sup>15</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” <sup>17</sup>But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. <sup>18</sup>Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. <sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? <sup>20</sup>For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

## Gospel: John 1:43-51

<sup>43</sup>The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” <sup>44</sup>Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup>Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the

prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.”

<sup>46</sup>Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

<sup>47</sup>When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” <sup>48</sup>Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” <sup>49</sup>Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” <sup>50</sup>Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” <sup>51</sup>And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

## EPIPHANY 3

# JANUARY 21

### Memory Verse

*And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.”*

*- Mark 1:17*

## First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

<sup>1</sup>The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” <sup>3</sup>So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” <sup>5</sup>And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

This is the Lord for whom we have waited;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

## Psalm: Psalm 62:5-12

<sup>5</sup>For God alone I wait in silence;  
truly, my hope is in God.

<sup>6</sup>God alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.

<sup>7</sup>In God is my deliverance and my honor;  
God is my strong rock and my refuge.

<sup>8</sup>Put your trust in God always, O people,  
pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.



<sup>9</sup>Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate cannot be trusted.

Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

<sup>10</sup>Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride;

though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.

<sup>11</sup>God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,  
that power belongs to God.

<sup>12</sup>Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord,  
for you repay all according to their deeds.

## Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

<sup>29</sup>Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, <sup>30</sup>and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, <sup>31</sup>and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

## Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

<sup>16</sup>As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>**And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.”**  
<sup>18</sup>And immediately they left their nets and followed him.  
<sup>19</sup>As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

## EPIPHANY 4

# JANUARY 28

### Memory Verse

*Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.*

*- 1 Corinthians 8:1:b*

### First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

[Moses said:] <sup>15</sup>The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup>This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the Lord

my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” <sup>17</sup>Then the Lord replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. <sup>19</sup>Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup>But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

## Psalm: Psalm 111

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,

in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

<sup>2</sup>Great are your works, O Lord,  
pondered by all who delight in them.

<sup>3</sup>Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,  
and your righteousness endures forever.

<sup>4</sup>You cause your wonders to be remembered;  
you are gracious and full of compassion.

<sup>5</sup>You give food to those who fear you,  
remembering forever your covenant.

<sup>6</sup>You have shown your people the power of your works  
in giving them the lands of the nations.

<sup>7</sup>The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;  
all of your precepts are sure.

<sup>8</sup>They stand fast forever and ever,  
because they are done in truth and equity.

<sup>9</sup>You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;

holy and awesome is your name.

<sup>10</sup>The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;

all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.

## Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." **Knowledge puffs up,**

**but love builds up.** <sup>2</sup>Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge;

<sup>3</sup>but anyone who loves God is known by him.

<sup>4</sup>Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." <sup>5</sup>Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—<sup>6</sup>yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

<sup>7</sup>It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.

<sup>8</sup>"Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple

of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup>So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. <sup>12</sup>But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

## Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

<sup>21</sup>[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.<sup>22</sup>They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup>and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup>They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” <sup>28</sup>At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

EPIPHANY 5

# FEBRUARY 4

## Memory Verse

*but those who wait for the Lord shall renew  
their strength, they shall mount up with wings  
like eagles, they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.*

*- Isaiah 40:31*

## First Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31

<sup>21</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
Has it not been told you from the beginning?  
Have you not understood from the foundations of the  
earth?

<sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,  
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;  
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,  
and spreads them like a tent to live in;

<sup>23</sup>who brings princes to naught,  
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

<sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,  
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,  
when he blows upon them, and they wither,  
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

25 To whom then will you compare me,  
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

26 Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,  
calling them all by name;  
because he is great in strength,  
mighty in power,  
not one is missing.

27 Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,  
“My way is hidden from the Lord,  
and my right is disregarded by my God”?

28 Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.

29 He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.

30 Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;

31 **but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their  
strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.**

Psalm: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

1Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!  
How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!  
2The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem,  
and gathers the exiles of Israel.  
3The Lord heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.  
4The Lord counts the number of the stars  
and calls them all by their names.  
5Great is our Lord and mighty in power;  
there is no limit to God's wisdom.  
6The Lord lifts up the lowly,  
but casts the wicked to the ground.  
7Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;  
make music upon the harp to our God,  
8who covers the heavens with clouds  
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow  
upon the mountains.  
9God provides food for the cattle  
and for the young ravens when they cry.  
10God is not impressed by the might of a horse,  
and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,  
11but finds pleasure in those who fear the Lord,  
in those who await God's steadfast love. 20c  
Hallelujah!

## Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

16If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for  
boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me  
if I do not proclaim the gospel! 17For if I do this of my



own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. <sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

<sup>19</sup>For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them.

<sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I

became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I

became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

## Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

<sup>29</sup>As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup>That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And he cured

many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

**35In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.** **36**And Simon and his companions hunted for him. **37**When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” **38**He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” **39**And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

## TRANSFIGURATION

# FEBRUARY 11

### Memory Verse

*You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.*

*- Matthew 5:14*

## First Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12

**1**Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. **2**Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for

the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. <sup>3</sup>The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”

<sup>4</sup>Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. <sup>5</sup>The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

<sup>6</sup>Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. <sup>7</sup>Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup>Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

<sup>9</sup>When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.”

Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” <sup>10</sup>He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” <sup>11</sup>As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah

ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup>Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

## Psalm: Psalm 50:1-6

<sup>1</sup>The mighty one, God the Lord, has spoken;  
calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.  
<sup>2</sup>Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,  
God shines forth in glory.  
<sup>3</sup>Our God will come and will not keep silence;  
with a consuming flame before, and round about a  
raging storm.  
<sup>4</sup>God calls the heavens and the earth from above  
to witness the judgment of the people.  
<sup>5</sup>“Gather before me my loyal followers,  
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed  
it with sacrifice.”  
<sup>6</sup>The heavens declare the rightness of God’s cause,  
for it is God who is judge.

## Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

<sup>3</sup>Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves;

we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

## Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

<sup>2</sup>Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup>and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>6</sup>He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" <sup>8</sup>Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

<sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.