

ADVENT

{1st Week – Sunday December 3, 2017 A.D.}

Themes: (Purple – *prophecy of/fulfillment of the covenantal promises of God, The King of kings*)

- **HOPE:** Liberation from distress/rescue (shame, grief and despair), inclusion (especially to the Jew **and** Gentile/Rich **and** Poor/. . .)
- **LONGING:** Dissatisfaction with the present world/age (yet full of gratitude for what one has), strong desire for the better estate/what God holds out to us
- **EAGER ANTICIPATION:** Expectant of great change, joy of imminent receipt, sensing the fullness of time, possessing **Good News**, seeing the harvest
- **LOOKING TOWARD THAT DAY:** Belief in the power of God to keep His promises, God the Almighty Creator making all things new, seeing the LORD glorious
- **VIGILANT WAITING:** Living as one expectant, watchful, prayerful, obedient/faithful, belief, standing/overcoming

{Isaiah 9:1-7, Isaiah 42:1-9 & Isaiah 61:1-7}

Isaiah 42:1-9

¹ "Behold, **My Servant**, whom **I uphold** ; My chosen one **in whom My soul delights**.

Matthew 3:16-17

¹⁶ After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw **the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him**, ¹⁷ and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, **"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."**

I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations.

² "He will not cry out or raise *His voice*, Nor make His voice heard in the street. ³ "**A bruised reed He will not break** And **a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish**;

Matthew 9:35-36

³⁵ Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. ³⁶ **Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.**

Psalms 51:17

¹⁷ **The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.**

Matthew 5:3-5

³ "**Blessed are the poor in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ "**Blessed are those who mourn**, for they shall be comforted. ⁵ "**Blessed are the gentle**, for they shall inherit the earth.

He will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴ "**He will not be disheartened or crushed** Until He has established justice in the earth; And the coastlands will wait expectantly for His law."

⁵ Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it And spirit to those who walk in it,

⁶ "**I am the LORD, I have called You in righteousness**,

I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You,

And **I will appoint You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the nations,** ⁷ To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the dungeon And those who dwell in darkness from the prison.

⁸ **"I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images.**

⁹ **"Behold, the former things have come to pass, Now I declare new things; Before they spring forth I proclaim *them* to you."**

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

(1563)

Q. 81. Who are to come unto the table of the Lord?

A. Those who are **displeased with themselves for their sins**, yet **trust that** these are forgiven them, and that their remaining infirmity is **covered by the passion and death of Christ**; who also desire more and more to strengthen their faith and amend their life.

But **the impenitent and hypocrites eat and drink judgment to themselves.**

Q. 82. Are they then also to be admitted to this Supper, who show themselves to be, by their confession and life, unbelieving and ungodly?

A. No: for by this the covenant of **God is profaned**, and **His wrath provoked against the whole congregation**; wherefore the Christian Church is bound, according to the order of Christ and His Apostles, by the office of the keys to exclude such persons, until they amend their life.

ALL SCRIPTURE REFERENCES ARE NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE, 1995 UPDATE, UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.

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