

ADVENT

{2nd Week – Sunday, December 9, 2018 A.D.}

Genesis 1:26-31

²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness: . . .

²⁷ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

²⁸ God blessed them: . . . ³¹ God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. . . .

Revelation 4:6-11

. . . ⁸ And the four living creatures, . . . day and night they do not cease to say, "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME." ⁹ And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever,

¹⁰ the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ¹¹ "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."

Ephesians 2:1-10

¹ And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, . . . and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Isaiah 43:25

²⁵ "I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, And I will not remember your sins.

Ezekiel 36:22-38

²² . . . "Thus says the Lord GOD, "It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went. ²³ "I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD," declares the Lord GOD, "when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight." ²⁴ "For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean;

I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. ²⁶ "Moreover,

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and

I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

²⁷ "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

²⁸ "You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God." ²⁹ "Moreover,

I will save you from all your uncleanness; and I will call for the grain and multiply it, and I will not bring a famine on you.

. . . ³² "I am not doing this for your sake," declares the Lord GOD, I, the LORD, have spoken and will do it." . . .

Lamentations 3:21-38

²¹ This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope. ²² The LORD'S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease,

For His compassions never fail. ²³ They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. . . .

³⁷ Who is there who speaks and it comes to pass, Unless the Lord has commanded it?

³⁸ Is it not from the mouth of the Most High That both good and ill go forth?

Romans 8:28-39

²⁸ And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

²⁹ For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; ³⁰ and these whom He predestined, He also called; and

these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all,

how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? ³³ Who will bring a charge against God's elect?

God is the one who justifies; ³⁴ who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is

at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or

distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? . . .

³⁷ But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come,

nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God,

which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:6-10

⁶ For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. . . .

⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.
¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

1 John 4:9-11

⁹ By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.
¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace⁸ which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight⁹ He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him¹⁰ with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him¹¹ also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,¹² to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.¹³ In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,¹⁴ who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

John 1:12-13

¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 20:31

³¹ but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

Romans 10:8-13

. . . ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ¹⁰ for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.¹¹ For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same *Lord* is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him;¹³ for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

John 11:25-27

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"²⁷ She *said to Him, "Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world."

1 Corinthians 15:1-10

¹ Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand,² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,⁵ and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.⁶ After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; ⁷ then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; ⁸ and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

¹² Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised;¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.¹⁵ Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised.¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised;¹⁷ and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.¹⁹ If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.²⁰ But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.