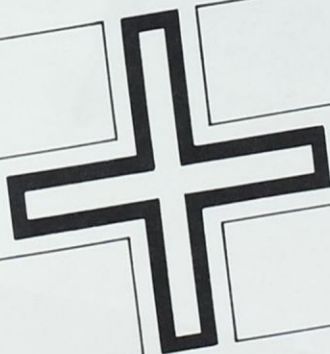


SERMONS ON
EPISTLE TEXTS FROM
THE NEW LECTIONARY
AND CALENDAR

AUGSBURG sermons



EPISTLES

SERIES C

AUGSBURG PUBLISHING HOUSE
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Library Of The
LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
2199 E. Main St.
Columbus, Ohio 43209

BX
8066
.A1.241
A89
Ser. C
C. 2

AUGSBURG SERMONS — EPISTLES — SERIES C

Copyright © 1976 Augsburg Publishing House

Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 76-3868

International Standard Book No. 0-8066-1523-0

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews. For information address Augsburg Publishing House, 426 South Fifth Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415.

Scripture quotations unless otherwise noted are from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright 1946, 1952, and 1971 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches.

Contents

Introduction

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Jer. 33:14-16 Luke 21:25-36

Coming—With All His Saints —

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Reginald H. Holle 1

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Mal. 3:1-4 Luke 3:1-6

Our Partnership in the Gospel —

Philippians 1:3-11

Robert W. Stackel 1

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Zeph. 3:14-18a Luke 3:7-18

What Then Shall We Do? —

Philippians 4:4-7

Charles S. Mueller 2

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Micah 5:2-4 Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

He Will Not Let You Give Up —

Hebrews 10:5-10

John V. Halvorson 2

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD — Christmas Day

Isa. 9:2-7 Luke 2:1-20

Why God Thought of Christmas —

Titus 2:11-14

Wilton E. Bergstrand 2

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Jer. 31:10-13 Luke 2:25-38

Not Ashamed to Call Them Brothers and Sisters —

Hebrews 2:10-18

Joseph W. Ellwanger 3

THE NAME OF JESUS

Num. 6:22-27 Luke 2:21

The Gospel of God —

Romans 1:1-7

Mark Thomsen 3

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Isa. 61:10-62:3 John 1:1-18

In Awe of God —

Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18

Lloyd L. Burke 4

RC 10-4-18

JUL 22 1977

69565 dh

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Isa. 60:1-6 Matt. 2:1-12

Crossing Boundaries — Ephesians 3:2-12 Walter G. Boss 48

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD — First Sunday after the Epiphany

Isa. 42:1-7 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

When Servants Become Leaders —

Acts 10:34-38

Clifford J. Swanson 52

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Isa. 62:1-5 John 2:1-11

The Unity of Spiritual Gifts —

1 Corinthians 12:3-11

J. Stephen Bremer 58

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Isa. 61:1-6 Luke 4:14-21

We Couldn't Do Without You —

1 Corinthians 12:12-21, 26-27

Martin W. Brauer 62

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Jer. 1:4-10 Luke 4:2-30

Love Counts Others Higher Than Itself —

1 Corinthians 12:27-13:13

Richard Jensen 68

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Isa. 6:1-8 Luke 5:1-11

On Christian Balance —

1 Corinthians 14:12b-20

LaVern K. Grosc 72

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD —

Last Sunday after the Epiphany

Deut. 34:1-12 Luke 9:28-36

I See — 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Alton F. Wedel 77

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Deut. 26:5-10 Luke 4:1-13

How Close the Word? —

Romans 10:8b-13

Paul H. Christenson 82

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Jer. 26:8-15 Luke 13:31-35

Is Persecution a Thing of the Past? —

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Herbert W. Chilstrom 88

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Exod. 3:1-8b, 10-15 Luke 13:1-9

Who Needs God? —

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Paul K. Peterson 93

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Isa. 12:1-6 Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

The Cross That Shatters Our Foolishness —

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Timothy R. Strommen 98

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Isa. 43:16-21 Luke 20:9-19

The Prize and the Power! —

Philippians 3:8-14

Reynold N. Johnson 103

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION — Palm Sunday

Deut. 32:36-39 Luke 19:28-40

The Recovery of Mission —

Philippians 2:5-11

Vernon R. Schreiber 108

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Jer. 31:31-34 Luke 22:7-20

Don't Let This Prize Slip Away! —

Hebrews 10:15-39

Alvin C. Rueter 113

GOOD FRIDAY

Isa. 52:13-53:12 John 18:1-19:42

The Mediator — Hebrews 4:14-5:10 J. Benner Weaver 117

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD — Easter Day

Exod. 15:1-11 Luke 24:1-11

The Freshness of Easter —

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Paul G. Bretscher 122

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 8:26-40 John 20:19-31

Christ the Center — Revelation 1:9-19 Gustav Kopka, Jr. 128

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 5:27-42 John 21:1-14

Singing Heaven's Song Now —

Revelation 5:11-14

Harold C. Skillrud 133

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 13:15, 26-33 John 10:22-30

Why Can't It Be Today? — Revelation 7:9-17 Roy Gesch 138

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 13:44-52 John 13:31-35

And There Was No More Sea —

Revelation 21:1-5

Robert G. Borgwardt 142

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29 John 14:23-29

The City of Hope —

Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23

Robert E. Segerhammar 147

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Acts 1:1-11 Luke 24:44-53

The Working of God's Great Might —

Ephesians 1:16-23

James G. Manz 153

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 7:55-60 John 17:20-26

The Unfortunate Brush Work —

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20

Philip L. Natwick 159

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Gen. 11:1-9 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-11

Sounds of Pentecost —

Acts 2:1-21

Charles V. Bergstrom 163

THE HOLY TRINITY — First Sunday after Pentecost

Num. 6:22-27 John 16:12-15

Happiness Is Being Justified by Faith —

Romans 5:1-5

Bertwin L. Frey 168

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1 Kings 8:41-43 Luke 7:1-10

Who Speaks for God? — Galatians 1:1-10 Harold J. Uhl 172

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1 Kings 17:17-24 Luke 7:11-17

Sources of Faith — Galatians 1:11-24 David Frans Larson 178

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2 Sam. 12:1-10, 13 Luke 7:36-50

Is Christ an Agent of Sin? —

Galatians 2:11-21

Harry N. Huxhold 183

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Zech. 12:7-10 Luke 9:18-24

Broken Barriers — Galatians 3:26-29

Laurel M. Udden 188

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1 Kings 19:14-21 Luke 9:51-62

Pitfalls of Christian Freedom —

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

J. Bruce Weaver 192

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Isa. 66:10-14 Luke 10:1-9, 16

Very Gently — Galatians 6:1-10; 14-16 Elmer N. Witt 195

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Deut. 30:9-14 Luke 10:25-37

The Handling of Heresy —

Colossians 1:1-14 Orning B. Fjelstad 200

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Prov. 8:22-35 Luke 10:38-42

God's Presence in Our Present —

Colossians 1:21-28 Karen L. Bloomquist 206

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Gen. 18:20-32 Luke 11:1-13

Fully Fulfilled — Colossians 2:6-15 Herbert E. Hohenstein 210

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Eccles. 1:2; 2:18-26 Luke 12:13-21

The Cosmic Christ —

Colossians 3:1-11 Walter C. Huffman 214

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Gen. 15:1-6 Luke 12:32-40

The Witness of Faith —

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 H. Alvin Kuhn 218

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jer. 23:23-29 Luke 12:49-53

Lord, Why Did You Do That to Me? —

Hebrews 12:1-13 Edgar W. Homrighausen 221

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Isa. 66:18-23 Luke 13:22-30

You Have Come Home —

Hebrews 12:18-24 Ronald W. Tellefson 226

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Prov. 25:6-22 Luke 14:1, 7-14

All in the Family of God —

Romans 12:14-21 Wesley A. Samuelson 231

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Prov. 9:8-12 Luke 14:25-33

Have a Heart, Philemon —

Philemon 1:7-17 Lester E. Zeitler 236

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Exod. 32:7-14 Luke 15:1-10

God's Grace Can Transform Our Bitterest Regrets —

1 Timothy 1:12-17 Theodore Maakestad 241

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Amos 8:4-7 Luke 16:1-13

Prayer for (Nearly) All People —

1 Timothy 2:1-8 Merle G. Franke 247

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Amos 6:1-7 Luke 16:19-31

Keep the Faith! — 1 Timothy 6:11-16 Lloyd H. Goetz 251

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Heb. 1:2-3; 2:2-4 Luke 17:1-10

Our Faith—and Our Fathers' Faith —

2 Timothy 1:3-14 Gerald C. White 256

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Ruth 1:1-19a Luke 17:11-19

When the Gospel Becomes Personal —

2 Timothy 2:8-13 Alvar W. Gustafson 261

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Gen. 32:22-30 Luke 18:1-8a

Wounded Healers — 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 Burton Everist 266

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Deut. 10:12-22 Luke 18:9-14

I Took My Stand —

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 Norman C. Schellhase 270

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Exod. 34:5-9 Luke 19:1-10

Good Grief —

2 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 11-12 Paul G. Hansen 276

LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Christ the King

Jer. 23:2-6 Luke 23:35-43

Lord of All Creation —

Colossians 1:13-20 William E. Hordern 280

A DAY OF THANKSGIVING

Deut. 8:1-10 Luke 17:11-19

Let Your Life Be a Thanksgiving! —

Philippians 4:6-20 Erling H. Wold 283

Introduction

The Calendar and Lectionary introduced by the Inter-Lutheran Commission on Worship (ILCW) in Advent 1973 has become one of the most popular liturgical tools for contemporary worship and preaching. It is the answer to many requests in Lutheran churches for a revision of the church year and a new lectionary.

The church year calendar has been modified and modernized. The lectionary has been extensively overhauled by drawing on parallel efforts by the Protestant Episcopal, Presbyterian, and Roman Catholic churches.

The New Church Year Calendar

This new calendar is similar to all previous calendars in that Easter is still the heart of it, and the Gospel still tells the story of Jesus Christ throughout the year.

The revisions in the new calendar are these:

- The *gesima* Sundays, sometimes known as pre-Lent, are now listed as Sundays after Epiphany. The season of Epiphany is therefore lengthened, which makes possible a fuller development of Epiphany themes.
- The Sundays between Easter and Pentecost will be known as the Sundays *of* Easter, rather than *after* Easter.
- The Latin titles for the Sundays of Lent and Easter have been deleted.
- Passion Sunday has been moved from the Fifth Sunday in Lent to the Sixth Sunday (Palm Sunday).
- The Sundays in the Pentecost-Trinity season have been numbered *after Pentecost* instead of *after Trinity*.
- In color terminology, *purple* replaces *violet*, and *red* is suggested for use during Holy Week.