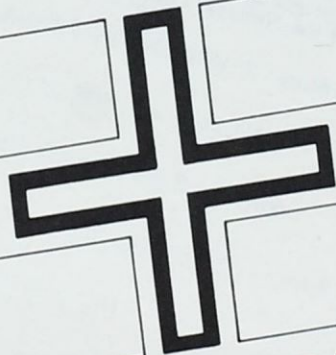


SERMONS ON THE  
OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS  
FROM THE NEW  
LECTIONARY AND CALENDAR

# AUGSBURG SERMONS



OLD TESTAMENT  
LESSONS  
SERIES C

AUGSBURG PUBLISHING HOUSE  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

HAMMA LIBRARY  
TRINITY LUTHERAN SEMINARY  
2199 EAST MAIN STREET  
COLUMBUS, OH 43209

Manufactured in the United States of America

# Contents

## Introduction

1

### FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Jeremiah 33:14-16

#### **The Lord Is Our Righteousness**

Ronald M. Hals 1

### SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Malachi 3:1-4

#### **The Unexpected Visitor**

Arndt Halvorson 2

### THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

#### **Waiting for the Presence**

Larry A. Hoffsis 2

### FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Micah 5:2-4

#### **The Little Town of Big Beginnings**

Walter Wegner 3

### THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD — Christmas Day

Isaiah 62:10-12

#### **The Astounding Gift**

Leopold W. Bernhard 3

### FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Jeremiah 31:10-13

#### **A Song and a Dance**

Walter C. Huffman 4

### THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Isaiah 60:1-6

#### **God's Light, Glory, Presence**

Gerald C. White 4

T-13, 012

## THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

First Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 42:1-7

**We Are the Servant**

August Wenzel 49

## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Isaiah 62:1-5

**Finding Hope Amid Ashes and Ruins**

A. Joseph Everson 53

## THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Isaiah 61:1-6

**Celebrate!**

Alton F. Wedel 57

## FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Jeremiah 1:4-10

**Help for the Hesitant**

Thomas R. Lee 61

## FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)

**Steps in the Calling of a Prophet**

Daniel J. Simundson 65

## THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Last Sunday after the Epiphany

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

**Seeing From Afar**

Morris J. Niedenthal 70

## FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Deuteronomy 26:5-10

**A Creed of Word and Deed**

Hagen Staack 74

## SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Jeremiah 26:8-15

**Sentence of Death; Summons to Life**

Delmar L. Jacobson 76

## THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Exodus 3:1-8b, 10-15

**Surprise, Surprise!**

Lester Meyer 81

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Isaiah 12:1-6

**Joy During Lent**

Robert H. Boyd 86

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Isaiah 43:16-21

**God's New Thing**

Mark E. Hillmer 91

## SUNDAY OF THE PASSION — Palm Sunday

Deuteronomy 32:36-39

**God's Power for His People**

Frank L. Benz 94

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

Jeremiah 31:31-34

**New Lives for Old**

Frank H. Seilhamer 99

## GOOD FRIDAY

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

**Rate It R**

Paul W. F. Harms 104

## THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

Easter Day

Exodus 15:1-11

**The Lord Is My Strength and My Song**

Frederick J. Gaiser 109

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Psalm 149

**Let the Faithful Rejoice in Triumph**

Stanley D. Schneider 113

## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Psalm 30

**An Easter Recital**

Frederick E. Hasecke 117

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Psalm 23

**Banquets in the Shadows**

O. B. Fjelstad 121

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Psalm 145:1-13

**So—Sing!**

Harold P. Krull 126



## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Psalm 67

**The Priest's Easter Song**

Ronald E. C. Grissom 131

## THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Psalm 110

**The Coronation of God's King**

Ralph W. Doermann 135

## SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Psalm 47

**An Absent Presence**

Diedrik A. Nelson 139

## THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Genesis 11:1-9

**Is Fame the Spur?**

Walter R. Wietzke 142

## THE HOLY TRINITY

First Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 8:22-31

**Where Shall We Find Wisdom?**

Carl Graesser Jr. 148

## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30, 41-43

**God Is the Greatest**

Richard D. Nelson 152

## THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1 Kings 17:17-24

**Death Defeated**

Mark A. Jerstad 157

## FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2 Samuel 11:26—12:10, 13-15

**You Would Be a Nathan**

Terence E. Fretheim 161

## FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Zechariah 12:7-10

**In the Path of the Suffering Messiah**

Paul D. Hanson 165

## SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1 Kings 19:14-21

**When God Breaks Silence**

Foster R. McCurley 170

## SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Isaiah 66:10-14

**Begin Again**

Joyce D. Sandberg 174

## EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Deuteronomy 30:9-14

**God's Gift—A New Heart**

Wendell W. Frerichs 178

## NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Genesis 18:1-10a (10b-14)

**An Old Promise Made Good**

Herbert C. Spomer 183

## TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Genesis 18:20-32

**Hidden in a Prayer**

Ronald M. Hals 188

## ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:18-26

**The Graceful Point of View**

Wesley J. Fuerst 192

## TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Genesis 15:1-6

**Is Anyone Else Up There?**

Rolf Nestingen 196

## THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jeremiah 23:23-29

**The Word to Shatter Dreams**

David B. Kaplan 202

## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Isaiah 66:18-23

**A Vision of God's Universal Glory**

Ralph W. Doermann 207

## FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proverbs 25:6-7

**An Old Sickness: "Get-Ahead-itis"**

Walter L. Michel 211

## SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proverbs 9:8-12

**Wisdom and Life**

Thomas E. Ridenhour 216

## SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Exodus 32:7-14

**How Many Golden Calves Have You Made this Week?**

James S. Aull 219

## EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Amos 8:4-7

**Quick Profit at a High Cost**

Richard D. Vangerud 223

## NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Amos 6:1-7

**Rich Man, Poor Man**

James Limburg 227

## TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Habakkuk 1:1-3; 2:1-4

**How to Live in the Midst of Trouble**

Allan H. Sager 232

## TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Ruth 1:1-19a

**The Lesson of History**

Barbara Jurgensen 238

## TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Genesis 32:22-30

**The Blessing of Struggle**

Jack C. Leininger 242

## TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Deuteronomy 10:12-22

**The Chosen**

Sheldon Tostengard 246

## TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Exodus 34:5-9

**Stories of God**

Walter R. Bouman 250

## TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1 Chronicles 29:10-13

**A Doxology**

Richard Simon Hanson 255

## CHRIST THE KING

Last Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 23:2-6

**What Kind of a King?**

John Victor Halvorson 260



## PREFACE

"Do I dare to preach a whole year's sermons on the Old Testament lessons?" That might seem an appropriate first question for a pastor making plans for an approaching church year. But there is another question which deserves priority, "Do I dare not to?" Theoretically, we confess that the Old Testament is authoritative for Christian faith and life; when it comes to choosing the text for Sunday's sermon, however, it becomes a decidedly second-class citizen all too often. Only you know how it is with your people and with your own heart, but it has often been observed that each generation must do battle against the temptation to demote the Old Testament from any functional place in the canon.

Since 1958 the current generation of Lutherans has made tremendous strides overcoming the dubious heritage of its immediate predecessors which had denied the Old Testament its appropriate place. It was in 1958 that the *Service Book and Hymnal* made the reading of an Old Testament lesson common practice for Lutheranism in America. With the coming of the new three-year lectionary in 1973 an even wider range of Old Testament material became standard diet for our congregations. And now that large numbers of pastors have rejoiced in and profited from working their way through the Gospel and Epistle pericopes, the time is ripe to commit ourselves to preaching on the Old Testament lessons of Series C. (In order that Old Testament texts might be provided for the entire year, the Psalms for the Sundays of Easter have been used as sermon texts to replace the lessons from the book of Acts prescribed for that season.)

There will be the same joy and profit to be found here. Actually, both joy and profit will likely be greater! The fact that by and large both pastor and people are less familiar with most Old Testament texts is a powerful advantage. We are all curious about the unfamiliar—and curiosity means enjoyable learning and attentive listening! And, as each of us knows well, when we ourselves genuinely rejoice at new insights which have broadened our faith, that joy as well as the insight has a stimulating effect on what we say—and even the way we say it! To make the hearts