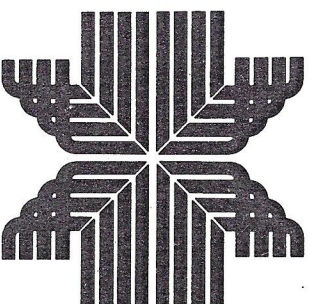


*New Sermons
on
Gospel Texts*

AUGSBURG SERMONS 2

Gospels Series A



AUGSBURG Publishing House • Minneapolis

CONTENTS

Introduction	13
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT	
Matthew 21:1-11	
An Agenda for Advent	Paul Egertson 17
SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT	
Matthew 3:1-12	
Repentance: Our Christmas Gift from God	John S. Damm 22
THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT	
Matthew 11:2-11	
The Wholly Spirit	George F. Lobien 25
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT	
Matthew 1:18-25	
A Man's Point of View	Elton P. Richards 30
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD—Christmas Day	
Luke 2:1-20	
How Far to Bethlehem?	Paul M. Werger 35
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS	
Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23	
Herod Grabs the Headlines, but Jesus Is the One to Watch	Roy Blumhorst 40
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS	
John 1:1-18	
We've Been Invaded!	Wayne Tellekson 43
THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD	
Matthew 2:1-12	
Evangelism	Edward F. Markquart 47
THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD—First Sunday after the Epiphany	
Matthew 3:13-17	
Baptism as Epiphany	Bryce W. Shoemaker 52
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY	
John 1:29-41	
Epiphany? Yes!	Paul K. Peterson 55

AUGSBURG SERMONS 2 — GOSPELS — SERIES A

Copyright © 1983 Augsburg Publishing House

Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 83-70509

International Standard Book No. 0-8066-2015-3

All rights reserved. Except for brief quotations in critical articles or reviews, no part of this book may be reproduced in any manner without prior written permission from the publisher. Write to: Permissions, Augsburg Publishing House, 426 S. Fifth St., Box 1209, Minneapolis MN 55440.

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.

Biblical references marked JB refer to The Jerusalem Bible © Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1966. TEV refers to the Good News Bible: Today's English Version, © American Bible Society, 1966, 1971, 1976.

The stanzas from the hymn "From Heaven Above" on pages 46-47 are reprinted from *Lutheran Book of Worship*. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*.

The order of service except on page 82 is reprinted from "Affirmation of Baptism" in *Lutheran Book of Worship*, © 1978.

MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

124 87

A. R. WENTZ LIBRARY

LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

GETTYSBURG PENNSYLVANIA

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
Matthew 4:12-23
A Depressing Word? Dean Moe 61

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
Matthew 5:1-12
Blessed Are the Transformers H. Frederick Reisz Jr. 66

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
Matthew 5:13-20
Your Light Shall Rise in the Darkness Albert L. Hock 70

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
Matthew 5:20-37
Whose Are You? Robert G. Hughes 76

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
Matthew 5:38-48
Membership Requirements Karen G. Bockelman 82

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
Matthew 6:24-34
The Prince and the Dragon Barry Bence 85

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD—Last Sunday after the Epiphany
Matthew 17:1-9
The Nimbus of Life Dean A. Kilgust 90

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
Matthew 4:1-11
The Word Alone! John H. Rasmussen 93

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
John 4:5-26 (27-30, 39-42)
Living Water for Thirsty People Robert L. Hock 98

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
John 9:1-41
The Miracle Goes On! John T. Rotto 102

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
Matthew 20:17-28
Secrets: A Matter of Death and Life Ana Beck 104

8

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
John 11:1-53
Lazarus' Eulogy—by Lazarus Albert R. Schmidt 108

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION—Palm Sunday
Matthew 27:11-54
Why Didn't He Say Something? Daryl S. Everett 111

MAUNDY THURSDAY
John 13:1-17, 34
A New Commandment Richard J. Gotsch 114

GOOD FRIDAY
John 19:17-30
Cross Talk Harris W. Lee 117

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD—Easter Day
Matthew 28:1-10
"As He Said" Philip L. Natwick 120

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
John 20:19-31
Proofs of Easter Ronald L. Swenson 125

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
Luke 24:13-35
You Should Have Been Here Yesterday F. Dean Lueking 128

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
John 10:1-10
Shepherds and Robbers—Sheepfolds and Doors Orville Grorud 133

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
John 14:1-12
The Way, the Truth, the Life Egil Grislis 137

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
John 14:15-21
Love to Jesus James Hanson 141

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD
Luke 24:44-53
Parting Blessing, Present Power Arnold H. Heumann 146

9

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER John 17:1-11 Where All Things Meet	G. Frederick Schott	150	TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Matthew 13:44-52 Seeking, Expecting, Responding	Richard G. Frazier	196
THE DAY OF PENTECOST John 20:19-23 Breathing Life	E. Harold Jansen	155	ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Matthew 14:13-21 Don't Go Away	Richard O. Hoyer	201
THE HOLY TRINITY—First Sunday after Pentecost Matthew 28:16-20 Any God Will Do?	Dale D. Hansen	159	TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Matthew 14:22-33 God's Little Surprises	Susan K. Wendorf	205
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Matthew 7: (15-20) 21-29 On Building Your Dream House	Leslie Conrad Jr.	162	THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Matthew 15:21-28 Waiting for God	Wilton D. Ernst	209
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Matthew 9:9-13 Mercy	Russell E. Saltzman	167	FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Matthew 16:13-20 That's Good, Peter!	Donald H. Niehaus	214
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Matthew 9:35—10:8 Compassion	R. L. Christensen	171	FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Matthew 16:21-26 Collisions and Christ	Charles S. Mueller	218
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Matthew 10:24-33 More Special Than Many Sparrows	William S. Corkish	175	SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Matthew 18:15-20 Handling Your People Problems	Marbury E. Anderson	223
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Matthew 10:34-42 Not Peace, but a Sword	Constance Hicok Grogan	180	SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Matthew 18:21-35 Forgive, and Be Forgiven	Paul Roem	227
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Matthew 11:25-30 Suspenders or Belts?	Arthur E. Rode	184	EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Matthew 20:1-16 More Than Fair	Vernon R. Schreiber	230
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Matthew 13:1-9 (18-23) Hearers and Sowers	Paul P. Kuenning	188	NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Matthew 21:28-32 Willpower	John Kassen	234
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Matthew 13:24-30 How Do You Handle Evil?	Roger Gordon	192	TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Matthew 21:33-43 The Wicked Tenants	Eldred P. Johnson	240
10					11

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Matthew 22:1-10 (11-14) The Happiest Place—You're Invited!	Earl T. Knauss III 244
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Matthew 22:15-21 Between a Rock and a Hard Place	Jon Diefenthaler 249
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Matthew 22:34-40 (41-46) Tradition, Tradition!	Louis V. Rogers 253
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Matthew 25:1-13 Waiting	Nancy J. Larson 257
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Matthew 25:14-30 On Playing It Safe	V. R. Schoonover 261
TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Matthew 23:1-12 Doing the Faith	Ronald F. Christian 266
TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Matthew 24:1-14 When Love Grows Cold	T. R. Morehouse 270
CHRIST THE KING—Last Sunday after Pentecost MATTHEW 25:31-46 A Look at the Last Reel	David Wold 274

Introduction

The first volume in the original *Augsburg Sermons* was published in 1973 to help pastors become familiar with the new Lectionary and Calendar prepared by the Inter-Lutheran Commission on Worship (ILCW). Ten volumes in all comprised the first *Augsburg Sermons* series—three volumes on the Gospels, three volumes on the Epistles, three volumes on the Old Testament Lessons, and one volume on texts for the Lesser Festivals. The widespread acceptance of the volumes is an indication both of the quality of the sermons and of the favorable reception of the Lectionary and Calendar.

One outstanding feature of the Lectionary is its use of a Gospel of the Year. Each year, one of the synoptic Gospels is featured, providing continuity to the reading and telling of the gospel story throughout the entire church year. This approach makes the uniqueness of each gospel stand out in all its clarity and richness. It also enables pastors to study the Gospel of the Year with greater thoroughness and to share their insights with their congregations in preaching.

Augsburg Sermons 2 builds on the momentum of the original series. This volume provides a fresh look at the Gospel of Matthew, the basis for Series A. And it is offered with the confidence that the message of Matthew will speak as clearly and powerfully to Christians in the 1980s as it has to all previous generations.