

# Show that Sins are Freely Forgiven Because of Jesus



## A Step-by-step Guide to Gospel Preaching

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Presented to pastors-in-training of the  
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## You Are Like an Angel

### **Luke 2:8-11**

*Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. {9} And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. {10} Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. {11} "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*



The basic meaning of the word "angel" in the Bible is "messenger." Though you are a man of flesh and blood, you are God's messenger when you declare the Word of God to your congregation. Like the angel who spoke to the shepherds, you have good news to share! Your people have sin and need a Savior. Jesus IS that Savior!

## You Have the Truth

### **John 17:17**

*"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."*



It is the power of the Word of God that makes people holy. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit works grief in the heart because of sin, then joy in the heart because of the gift of forgiveness through the death and resurrection of Jesus. God's Word is the **truth**. It has great power to bring people to God. That is why we can speak with confidence when preaching.

## You Have a Goal

### **2 Tim. 2:15**

*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*



**“STUDY”** - it is important to let the Holy Spirit teach you, so that you can then teach your people. That means regular reading and study of all of God’s Word. Then, when preparing a sermon, carefully study the Word of God that you will preach. A step-by-step method is provided below.

**“RIGHTLY DIVIDING”** - The Bible as a whole, and all of its parts, has two main ideas that God uses to bring a sinner to repentance and faith in Jesus:

### **THE LAW – Galatians 3:10**

*For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.”*

1. **LAW** - First, the Word of God KILLS. Every person has sin and pride. Part of every person thinks “I’m good enough to get to heaven without Jesus.” Part of every person is a rebel against God. The Bible calls this the “Old Adam,” and your job is to KILL him with the LAW. God’s Law tells us what He requires us to do. It shows us our sin and the wrath of God. We cannot be saved by keeping the Law, no matter how hard we try to keep it. It demands that we be perfectly holy, but we fail every day. The Law gives us no strength for leading the kind of life that pleases God.

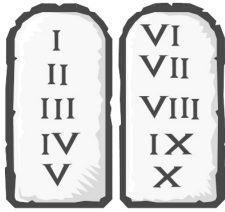
### **THE GOSPEL – Eph. 2:4-6**

*But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, {5} even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), {6} and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,*

2. **GOSPEL** - Second, the Word of God MAKES ALIVE. It is this **GOSPEL** (the Good News about Jesus) that tells us what God has done to save us. It shows us our Savior and the grace of God. It freely gives the holiness that we cannot earn. Because of Jesus, God declares that we are perfect because of what Jesus did. It is this Good News that gives us strength to live a more godly life, day by day.



This table should help make it clear:



THE LAW

Says what we must do  
done

Says we are sinner

Demands

Identifies sin

Punishes

Anger, wrath and outrage!

Uncovers hell beneath

Says you are guilty

Cannot save

Brings death



THE GOSPEL

Says what Christ has

Declares us righteous

Promises

Proclaims grace

Forgives

Kindness, pity and love

Opens heaven above

Says you are not guilty

Saves completely

Gives life

Every sermon you preach should both “kill” and “make alive.” You must show people the wickedness of their sin, and then show them the great love of God that sent His innocent Son to a shameful death so that we might be forgiven and go to heaven. Here is another way to look at your task:

- *Frighten* the heart that is *comfortable* with sin.
- *Comfort* the heart that is *frightened* by sin.

Most of all, be sure that every sermon does this well:  
*“Show that Sins are Freely Forgiven Because of Jesus!”*

**EXERCISE:** Identify each passage as LAW or GOSPEL

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| ___ 1. Mark 16:16a   | ___ 6. Romans 3:24   |
| ___ 2. Mark 16:16b   | ___ 7. John 3:16     |
| ___ 3. Exodus 20:7   | ___ 8. Matthew 11:28 |
| ___ 4. Matthew 22:37 | ___ 9. Acts 16:31    |
| ___ 5. Romans 3:23   | ___ 10. Romans 6:23a |



## One Step at a Time

**Step 1: PRAY** – Dr. Martin Luther said “well prayed is half studied.” It is God Himself, working through the Holy Spirit, who will enlighten you about the meaning of His Word and how to get His message across to your people. You will need Godly wisdom and boldness to speak about the Savior, so “*ask and you will receive.*” Here is a good prayer from the Psalms:



### **Psalm 19:14**

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.*

**Step 2: Select a text** – Your sermon should be prepared from a portion of the Bible. The best way to do this is to follow a list of texts called a pericope. This is a list of Scriptures for each Sunday of the church year, including Old Testament, Gospel, and Epistle selections. There is a pericope list at the end of this paper for the balance of this year and next year. It is recommended that beginning preachers use the Gospel texts for their sermons, at least for a year. Then you can make selections from the Old Testament and Epistle selections as well. Here are some good reasons to use a pericope:

- There will be a good balance of Bible topics during the year.
- The preacher will learn by studying something new and then presenting it to the people.
- The preacher will not be going back to his own favorite topics again and again.

**Step 3: Study the text** – begin with an overview of the book of the Bible in which the text is found. Read the entire book. Ask and answer these questions:



- Who was the original writer?
- Who were the original readers?
- What was the Holy Spirit’s purpose in giving us this book?
- What is the purpose of the particular chapter where the text is found?

Then, proceed to a close study of the sermon text itself. If you have the ability to study in Hebrew or Greek, then write out the text in the original, and look up the meaning of unfamiliar words.

If you do not have Greek and Hebrew ability, then follow these steps:

- Write out the Scripture, one verse at a time, in your own language. You will get a great benefit by slowly and thoughtfully taking time with **each word**.
- Compare another translation if you have one. If you have Internet access, note that you can find the Bible in many different languages at [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com). Another very helpful site for Bible study is [www.biblehub.com](http://www.biblehub.com).
- Find and write down verses from other parts of the Bible that speak about the same thing.
- As you go, write down questions about the meaning of the text. If you do not know the answer to a question, speak with another pastor or Bible student about it.
- Make notes for yourself about how this particular Word of God applies to the people of your church.

After you have completed your study, then:

#### Step 4: Ask and answer the following questions:

- What does this Scripture say about the LAW?  
(The Law is what God demands OF us according to the 10 commandments, and the consequences for breaking them.)  
*If someone is comfortable in their sin, how does this Scripture make them afraid?*
- What does this Scripture say about the GOSPEL?  
(The Gospel is what God did and does FOR us, by grace, through the gift of His Son Jesus.)  
*If someone is afraid in their sin, how does this Scripture bring them comfort?*
- What is the ONE major idea that God wants His people to know from this Scripture?  
[This will be the **THEME** of your sermon.]
- Now that Jesus has fully and freely paid the debt of sin, what does this Scripture say about how the Christian should live his life now?



#### **Titus 2:13-14 (good works follow faith)**

*...looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, {14} who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.*

**Step 5: Write the sermon** – It is helpful for most preachers to write down, from start to finish, the sermon you will deliver. This is recommended. There are some who have the ability to make themselves some notes or an outline, and speak to the people using only that. Some have a special



gift to speak entirely from memory. Use the gifts that God has given you, but do not take “shortcuts” when it comes to the study and preaching of God’s Word!

Consider the following for an example of good structure for a sermon:

### **A. The Introduction to the Sermon**

- Take the “ONE major idea” from step 4 (above) and tell a story from the Bible, or from everyday life, that is an example of the same idea.
- Tell the people what your sermon is going to be about.
- Announce the THEME (main idea).

### **B. The Body of the Sermon**

- Explain what the original writer was saying to the people of his day and why.
- Tell your listeners what it means for them today. Use examples.
- Remember that you must kill the Old Adam (sinful part in each person) by telling them of God’s commands and judgment for sin.
- Remember that you must comfort the people by telling them how Jesus kept every commandment, and took our punishment upon Himself so that we are fully forgiven.

### **C. The Conclusion of the Sermon**

- Remind your people of the “ONE major idea” (the Theme).
- Urge them to rejoice in God’s great grace, and to live, more and more, as God’s people.

When the sermon is done, apply this test: Does this sermon

*“Show that sins are freely forgiven because of Jesus”?*

**If it doesn’t – START OVER!**



**Remember both LAW**

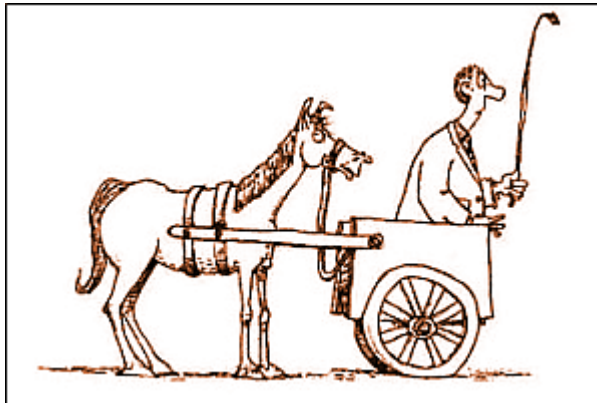


**And especially GOSPEL!**



## Problems to Avoid

### Problem #1: Lack of the GOSPEL!



**What is wrong with this picture?**

It is plain that this cart is not going anywhere – the horse is supposed to be in front of the cart, not behind it! A preacher makes the same mistake if all he talks about is what the *Christian* should do, instead of talking about what JESUS did to forgive our sins. The Good News about Jesus is the real power (the horse) that makes people want to live for God (the cart). Before you tell Christians what God wants them to do, tell them all about what Jesus did for them!

Consider this very bad outline of a sermon on Galatians 2:20:

#### **Galatians 2:20**

*I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

Theme: **“LIVE for GOD!”**

1. The world is very evil  
(give examples of wickedness)
2. The Christian must be holy  
(give examples of holy living)

Everything that is said in such a sermon may be true, and yet it would still be all wrong. There is no GOSPEL. After hearing this sermon, the listener will say one of two things:

- “I’m *doing* that, so I must be *good!*” [This would be pride]



- “I *don’t* do that, so I must be *lost!*” [**This would be despair**]

Now consider the same Scripture with a different outline:

Theme: **“Christ is my LIFE!”**

1. When He died, all my sins died too
2. The life I live is all because of Him

This sermon will have the proper order, which is:

- 1) My terrible sins caused the death of Jesus [the LAW],
- 2) Jesus’ death and resurrection took away all my sin and gave me eternal life [the GOSPEL], and
- 3) Now I want to live my life for HIM! [Good WORKS]

Notice how the *horse* (the Gospel) pulls the *cart* (good works).

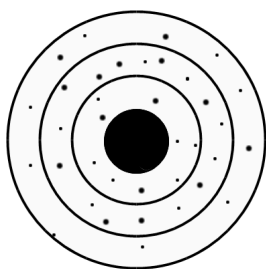
Don’t forget that the primary purpose of the sermon is to  
***“Show that sins are freely forgiven because of Jesus!”***

### **Problem #2: Too many ideas**

Remember this question from page 6:

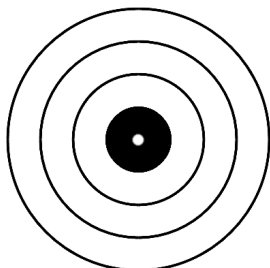
- What is the ONE major idea that God wants His people to know from this Scripture?  
[This will be the **THEME** of your sermon.]

A common problem with inexperienced preachers is that they present many different ideas in a sermon, without focusing on the main idea. Here is an illustration:



#### **The “shotgun style” sermon:**

You talk about very many good ideas, but none of them sink in very deep to a person’s heart. He leaves church thinking *“that was a nice talk, but I can’t really tell you what it was about!”*



#### **The “rifle style” sermon:**

You talk about the ONE main idea that is in the text, presenting both Law and Gospel. This ONE idea will strike a person’s heart. He will leave church thinking *“I can remember that! What a great Savior I have!”*

Sometimes the inexperienced preacher will read the first verse of the text, say a few things about it, read the second

## **NOTES**

verse, say a few things about it, etc. That is not a sermon!  
Instead, use many ways to get across the ONE main idea!

## Sample Sermon: "Put Your Trust in DOCTOR JESUS CHRIST!" - Luke 17:11-19

*"Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. {12} Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. {13} And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" {14} So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. {15} And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, {16} and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. {17} So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? {18} "Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" {19} And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."*

In the name of Jesus Christ, Who "forgives all our iniquities and heals all our diseases," Dear Fellow Redeemed,

**[INTRODUCTION]** What is the worst thing you could hear from a doctor? Perhaps it would be this: "I'm sorry to have to tell you this -- but your case is hopeless!" This is the worst fear for nearly anyone who has ever been to a hospital with an illness. Diseases like cancer strike fear into our hearts. No one knows when they might happen, or who might get them. They are all the more fearful when we can't afford the cure, or when there is no cure! In these cases the only thing a doctor can do is to say "I'm sorry, there's nothing we can do."

There was a disease like that in Bible times - a disease called leprosy. It was a horrible condition of the skin. It caused ugliness, loss of body parts, and eventually death. There was no cure. Rich and poor alike were struck down by leprosy, and no doctor could cure it.

-- Except for one doctor, that is. There was one doctor in those days who had excellent success curing all kinds of "incurable" diseases, including leprosy. Our text for today tells us about one of His most famous cases. On that day He cured not one patient, but ten, all at the same time! We should be very interested in this case, because this doctor is still available for us, today. Let's you and I bring all our afflictions to

**[THEME – MAIN IDEA]** Put Your Trust in DOCTOR JESUS CHRIST!

1. He treats even the worst diseases
2. He gives guaranteed results
3. He asks the lowest fees

**[BODY, PART 1]** I've often thought it would be a hard job to be a doctor. The doctor sees long lines of people who are sick and in pain. Yes, he has the joy of helping to heal many people. But for every doctor there will be diseases that he simply cannot cure. How sad it would be to have to deal with those hopeless cases!

Jesus Christ is one Doctor who never meets a hopeless case. He treats even the worst diseases. We read, *"As he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off"* It must have been a sad sight: ten hopeless cases standing there, helpless, calling out to Jesus!

But they knew what they wanted, and they had come to the right person to get it, because they came to Doctor Jesus Christ. They were begging the only doctor who was able to treat their sickness successfully. *"And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"* Notice that they didn't say, *"Heal our leprosy."* They didn't even ask Jesus to come closer. They stood humbly at a distance, and simply begged for His mercy. The Master would know what to do!

Think about yourself, today. Even if your body is perfectly healthy, you have a desperate need for this doctor, too. You have a disease of the heart that is called SIN. This a disease that infects us all, and it's much more deadly than any cancer. We have all broken God's commandments many times by what we do, by what we say, and in the thoughts of our hearts. Scripture says that *"the wages of sin is death."* The result of this disease is something much worse than a time of illness followed by the death of the body. SIN brings eternal death, everlasting torment in hell!

Now, you can look around and try to find your own way to deal with sin. Some people may say that you're not so bad, and all you have to do is try a little harder - save up a few more good works - to escape hell. But Jesus is the one Doctor you can seek out with confidence. He won't lie to you. He makes a quick and certain diagnosis: the problem is SIN, and the solution is trust in Christ. That is the reason Jesus came here to earth. He Himself said, *"Those who are well do not need a physician, but those who are sick: I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."* Mk 2:17.

**[BODY, PART 2]** Yes, Doctor Jesus Christ can give us the right diagnosis of the disease, but He does much more! He also tells us the treatment for it. And we can have absolute faith in His treatment, because this is one doctor who gives guaranteed results.

Our text tells us that *"When Jesus saw them, He said unto them, Go show yourselves to the priests."* Here we see Jesus putting the faith of these ten men to the test. He doesn't give them any fancy prayers to say, no good works to perform. He doesn't even say a thing about healing them! He simply says, *"Go to the priests."* They must have been surprised, but they trusted Him. They went. *"And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed."*

It must have been an amazing sight! Ten very sick men were limping down the dusty road. Then, suddenly, they notice - the scabs and the scars were disappearing! Missing body parts were restored, and patchy, diseased flesh was replaced by fresh, healthy skin! Imagine the shouts of joy! Doctor Jesus Christ had given them a miracle of healing – He had cured all ten, simply by the power of His Word!

I like that prayer that the lepers used: *"Jesus, Master, have mercy on us."* It is a prayer that covers everything, and a prayer that always gets results. When you're sick, when you're lonely, when you're confused -- or when you're just plain tired of it all, your Great Physician says, *"Come unto me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."* Mt 11:28.

By far the greatest miracle from Doctor Jesus Christ is His cure for the disease of sin. Those ten men must have had their doubts about whether Jesus could really cure leprosy with just a few simple words. And we often have nagging doubts, too: Can Jesus can really cure my sin? Can His forgiveness really apply to me? But today Christ tells us to put aside our doubts. Just as those hopeless lepers were completely cured, so we hopeless sinners are completely cured by the sacrifice Jesus made for us. There's no doubt about it! The treatment for sin is simple: apply the blood of Jesus Christ every day, and your sins will be removed, just as quickly and thoroughly as the leprosy disappeared from those ten men. You can trust your Great Physician Jesus Christ, for He is the only doctor who ever gave His own life so that His patients - you and me! - could live. When Jesus gave His life on the cross that dark Good Friday afternoon, your sin was cured once and for all. We can now come confidently to the throne of grace. Now we can pray with the Psalmist, *"Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your loving kindness; according unto the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin."* Ps 51:1-2. And the result is guaranteed!

**[BODY, PART 3]** Our text continues, *"And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?"* What a surprise! The one Doctor who can treat even our worst diseases, and who gives us guaranteed results -- also asks the lowest fees! Think about it - Jesus shed His blood to cure you of your sin and make a place for you in heaven, and what does He ask in return? Nothing at all! His gift of forgiveness and eternal life is provided free of charge!

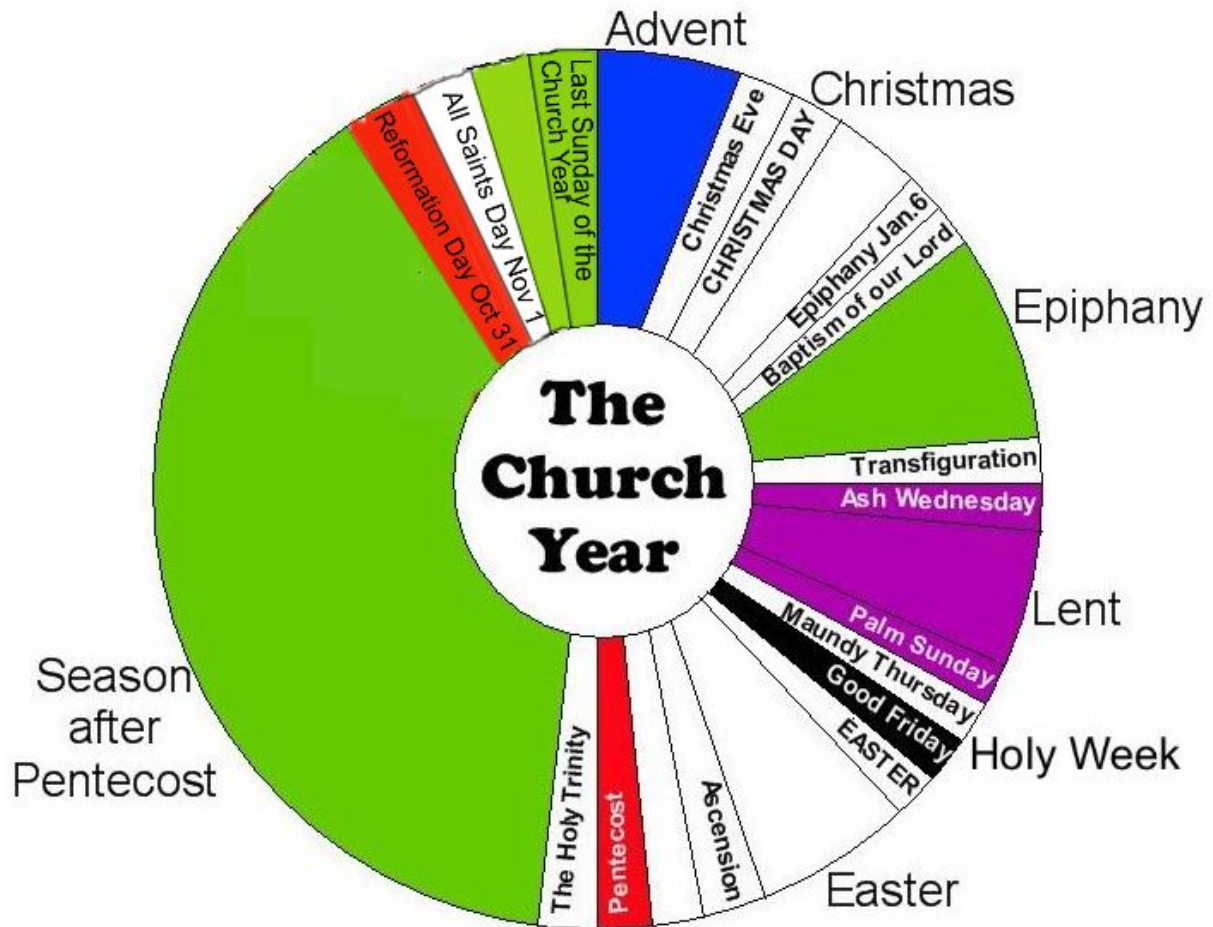
Should we not give thanks for this free grace from our Lord God? Let us remember to return and give glory to God, like that man cured of leprosy -- the one out of ten that remembered to come back and say thank you. Does that seem like too much to do? It was too much for those other nine men - they forgot. But it shouldn't be too much for us.

**[CONCLUSION]** Imagine if you went to the hospital and received expensive treatment from skilled doctor; and when you asked for the bill he said, *"Your thanks will be enough!"* -That's all Jesus asks of us. It doesn't cost much, but it's a payment we should be careful never to overlook. Don't neglect to count your blessings before you go to sleep at bedtime, and thank your Lord for the many blessings of the day. It's a very low fee to pay for everything God has done for us; but giving thanks is something we can do, and it's a God-pleasing thing.

Think about the last thing you'd ever want to hear from a doctor -- *"I'm sorry to have to tell you this -- but your case is hopeless."* Let us all give thanks that there is one Physician from who will never tell us such a thing! He treats even the worst diseases, He gives guaranteed results, and He asks the lowest fees. Thanks and praise be to our Great Physician -- Jesus Christ! In His saving name, AMEN.

-- Adapted from a sermon by Pastor Paul Naumann

## Appendix: The Church Year



Lutheran worship centers on the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Every Sunday is a celebration of Easter! While the celebration of Jesus' resurrection is central to our worship experience, Lutherans follow a calendar that represents the life of Jesus in a yearly cycle. Each season tells a story regarding God's love for his people. The seasons are:

- Advent
- Christmas
- Epiphany
- Lent
- Easter
- Pentecost

### Advent

Advent is from the Latin meaning "to come." This season begins four weeks before Christmas. The season prepares us for the birth of the Messiah and also for the second coming of Christ.

## Christmas

Christmas is an old English word meaning, "Mass of Christ." We celebrate the fulfillment of God's promises to send His Son, born of virgin mother, to redeem the world. The color for Christmas is white suggesting gladness, light and joy.

## Epiphany

Epiphany is a Greek word which means "to reveal" or "appearance." The day of Epiphany is January 6. We celebrate God revealing Jesus as the Christ to the wise men. The wise men give gifts of gold (the gift for kings), frankincense (incense used in worship symbolizing prayers rising to God) and myrrh (oil for anointing and used to prepare a body for burial). The color for Epiphany is white.

The season of Epiphany is that time which includes January 6 through the last Sunday prior to the beginning of Lent. There are between four and nine Sundays during this season depending on the date of Easter each year. This season includes two festivals, The Baptism of Our Lord (which falls on the Sunday following the day of Epiphany) and the Transfiguration of Our Lord (the last Sunday prior to the beginning of Lent). The Sunday Gospel readings focus on stories which reveal the true divine nature of Jesus. The color for the season after Epiphany is green, which represents spiritual growth.

## Lent

Lent is a word which means "spring." There are forty days of Lent not including Sundays (Sundays are always a celebration of the resurrection of Christ). The forty-day period is a reflection of Jesus' 40 days of fasting in the wilderness immediately following his baptism. Christians are called to use this time for meditation on the things that Jesus gave up for us, and how He suffered in our place. It is a time to reflect on the substitutionary death of our Savior. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, a day of repentance. The final week of Lent is known as Holy Week, which includes: Palm Sunday or the Passion of Our Lord, Maundy ("new commandment") Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. The color for Lent is purple, which suggests solemn reflection on Jesus' suffering and death (his enemies dressed him in a purple robe to mock him, yet he truly IS a king).

## Easter

Easter is the joyful celebration of the resurrection of Our Lord. The day of Easter is determined as the Sunday after the first full moon of spring. The color for Easter is white. Easter is made up of fifty days of celebration. Forty days after the resurrection the church celebrates the Ascension of Our Lord as it is written in the Gospel of Luke. On the fiftieth day the Church celebrates the day of Pentecost, when the promised Holy Spirit moved the apostles to begin their ministry as the New Testament Church. The color for Pentecost is red, representing the fire of the Holy Spirit. The Sunday after Pentecost is Trinity Sunday.

## The Season after Pentecost

Please notice that from Advent through the Day of Pentecost the church follows the life of Christ, from his birth through his resurrection and ascension. The Sundays *after* Pentecost are a time to explore other teachings of Scripture that bring meaning to our Christian lives. This marks the longest part of the Church Year, and is a time for spiritual growth. This season is bracketed by the festivals of the Holy Trinity and Christ the King. The color for this season is green. October 31 is the commemoration of the Lutheran Reformation, which is sometimes celebrated on the Sunday closest to the 31<sup>st</sup>.

**2016-2017 Church Year Calendar—Series A**  
**July 30, 2016—Nov. 26, 2017**

Season	Date	Festival	First Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
<b>PENTECOST</b>	July 30 (Proper 12)	Eighth S. a. Pentecost	Deut.7:6–9	Psalm 125	Rom. 8:28–39	Matt. 13:44–52
	Aug. 6 (Proper 13)	Ninth S. a. Pentecost	Is. 55:1–5	Psalm 136:1–9 (23–26)	Rom. 9:1–5 (6–13)	Matt. 14:13–21
	Aug. 13 (Proper 14)	Tenth S. a. Pentecost	Job 38:4–18	Psalm 18:1–9 (7–16)	Rom. 10:5–17	Matt. 14:22–33
	Aug. 20 (Proper 15)	Eleventh S. a. Pentecost	Is. 56:1, 6–8	Psalm 67	Rom. 11:1–2a, 13–15, 28–32	Matt. 15:21–28
	Aug. 27 (Proper 16)	Twelfth S. a. Pentecost	Is. 51:1–6	Psalm 138	Rom. 11:33– 12:8	Matt. 16:13–20
	Sept. 3 (Proper 17)	Thirteenth S. a. Pentecost	Jer. 15:15–21	Psalm 26	Rom. 12:9–21	Matt. 16:21–28
	Sept. 10 (Proper 18)	Fourteenth S. a. Pentecost	Ezek. 33:7–9	Psalm 32:1–7	Rom. 13:1–10	Matt. 18:1–20
	Sept. 17 (Proper 19)	Fifteenth S. a. Pentecost	Gen. 50:15–21	Psalm 103:1–12	Rom. 14:1–12	Matt. 18:21–35
	Sept. 24 (Proper 20)	Sixteenth S. a. Pentecost	Isa. 55:6–9	Psalm 27:1–9	Phil. 1:12–14, 19–30	Matt. 20:1–16
	Oct. 1 (Proper 21)	Seventeenth S. a. Pentecost	Ezek. 18:1–4, 25–32	Psalm 25:1–10	Phil. 2:1–4 (5–13) 14–18	Matt. 21:23–27 (28–32)
	Oct. 8 (Proper 22)	Eighteenth S. a. Pentecost	Is. 5:1–7	Psalm 80:7–19	Phil. 3:4b–14	Matt. 21:33–46
	Oct. 15 (Proper 23)	Nineteenth S. a. Pentecost	Is. 25:6–9	Psalm 23	Phil. 4:4–13	Matt. 22:1–14
	Oct. 22 (Proper 24)	Twentieth S. a. Pentecost	Is. 45:1–7	Psalm 96:1–9 (10–13)	1 Thess. 1:1–10	Matt. 22:15–22
	Oct. 29 (observed)	Reformation Day (Oct. 31)	Rev. 14:6–7	Psalm 46	Rom. 3:19–28	John 8:31–36 <i>or</i> Matt. 11:12–19
	Nov. 5 (observed)	All Saints' Day (Nov. 1)	Rev. 7:(2–8) 9–17	Psalm 149	1 John 3:1–3	Matt. 5:1–12
	Nov. 12 (Proper 27)	Twenty-third S. a. Pentecost	Amos 5:18–24	Psalm 70	1 Thess. 4:13–18	Matt. 25:1–13
	Nov. 19 (Proper 28)	Twenty-fourth S. a. Pentecost	Zeph. 1:7–16	Psalm 90:1–12	1 Thess. 5:1–11	Matt. 25:14–30
	Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Day	Deut. 8:1–10	Psalm 67	Phil. 4:6–20 <i>or</i> 1 Tim. 2:1–4	Luke 17:11–19
	Nov. 26 (Proper 29)	Last S. of the Church Year	Ezek. 34:11–16, 20–24	Psalm 95:1–7a	1 Cor. 15:20–28	Matt. 25:31–46
<b>Series B starts here: Advent 2017 (next page)</b>						

**NOTE: You can find Scripture texts for future church years at this Internet address:**

[www.lcms.org/resources/worship/lectionary](http://www.lcms.org/resources/worship/lectionary)



**2017–2018 Church Year Calendar, Series B**  
**Dec. 3, 2017—Nov. 30, 2018**

<u>SEASON</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>FESTIVAL</u>	<u>1<sup>ST</sup> Reading</u>	<u>PSALM</u>	<u>EPISTLE</u>	<u>GOSPEL</u>
<b>ADVENT</b>	Dec. 3, 2017	First S. in Advent	Is. 64:1–9	Ps. 80: 1–7	1 Cor. 1:3–9	Mark 11:1–10 or Mark 13:24–37
	Dec. 10	Second S. in Advent	Is. 40:1–11	Ps. 85	2 Peter 3:8–14	Mark 1:1–8
	Dec. 17	Third S. in Advent	Is. 61:1–4, 8–11	Ps. 126	1 Thess. 5: 16–24	John 1:6–8, 19–28
	Dec. 24	Fourth S. in Advent	2 Sam. 7:1–11, 16	Ps. 89:1–5 (19–29)	Rom. 16:25–27	Luke 1:26–38
<b>CHRISTMAS</b>	Dec. 24 <i>Eve</i>	The Nativity of Our Lord	Is. 7:10–14	Ps. 110: 1–4	1 John 4:7–16	Matt. 1:18–25
	Dec. 24 <i>Midnight</i>	The Nativity of Our Lord	Is. 9:2–7	Ps. 96	Titus 2:11–14	Luke 2:1–14 (15–20)
	Dec. 25 <i>Dawn</i>	The Nativity of Our Lord	Is. 62:10–12	Ps. 98	Titus 3:4–7	Luke 2:(1–14) 15–20
	Dec. 25 <i>Day</i>	The Nativity of Our Lord	Is. 52:7–10	Ps. 2	Heb. 1:1–6 (7–12)	John 1:1–14 (15–18)
	Dec. 31	First S. after Christmas	Is. 61:10—62:3	Ps. 111	Gal. 4:4–7	Luke 2:22–40
	Dec. 31	Eve of the Circ. and Name of Jesus ( <i>New Year's Eve</i> )	Is. 30:(8–14) 15–17	Ps. 90: 1–12	Rom. 8:31b–39	Luke 12:35–40
	Jan. 1 2018	Circumcision and Name of Jesus	Num. 6:22–27	Ps. 8	Gal. 3:23–29	Luke 2:21
<b>EPIPHANY</b>	Jan. 6	Epiphany	Is. 60:1–6	Ps. 72:1–11 (12–15)	Eph. 3:1–12	Matt. 2:1–12
	Jan. 7	The Baptism of Our Lord	Gen. 1:1–5	Ps. 29	Rom. 6:1–11	Mark 1:4–11
	Jan. 14	Second S. after the Epiphany	1 Sam. 3:1–10 (11–20)	Ps. 139:1–10	1 Cor. 6:12–20	John 1:43–51
	Jan. 21	Third S. after the Epiphany	Jonah 3:1–5, 10	Ps. 62	1 Cor. 7:29–31 (32–35)	Mark 1:14–20

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	Jan. 28	Fourth S. after the Epiphany	Deut. 18:15–20	Ps. 111	1 Cor. 8:1–13	Mark 1:21–28
	Feb. 4	Fifth S. after the Epiphany	Is. 40:21–31	Ps. 147:1–11	1 Cor. 9:16–27	Mark 1:29–39
	Feb. 11	The Transfiguration of Our Lord	2 Kings 2:1–12 or Ex. 34:29–35	Ps. 50:1–6	2 Cor. 3:12–13 (14–18); 4:1–6	Mark 9:2–9
<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	Feb. 14	Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:12–19	Ps. 51:1–13 (14–19)	2 Cor. 5:20b–6:10	Matt. 6:1–6, 16–21
<b>LENT</b>	Feb. 18	First S. in Lent	Gen. 22:1–18	Ps. 25:1–10	James 1:12–18	Mark 1:9–15
	Feb. 25	Second S. in Lent	Gen. 17:1–7, 15–16	Ps. 22:23–31	Rom. 5:1–11	Mark 8:27–38
	Mar. 4	Third S. in Lent	Ex. 20:1–17	Ps. 19	1 Cor. 1:18–31	John 2:13–22 (23–25)
	Mar. 11	Fourth S. in Lent	Num. 21:4–9	Ps. 107:1–9	Eph. 2:1–10	John 3:14–21
	Mar. 18	Fifth S. in Lent	Jer. 31:31–34	Ps. 119:9–16	Heb. 5:1–10	Mark 10:(32–34) 35–45
<b>HOLY WEEK</b>	Mar. 25	Palm Sunday /Sunday of the Passion	Zech. 9:9–12	Ps. 118:19–29 or Ps. 31:9–16	Phil. 2:5–11	Mark 14:1–15:47 or Mark 15:1–47 or John 12:20–43
	Mar. 29	Holy (Maundy) Thursday	Ex. 24:3–11	Ps. 116:12–19	1 Cor. 10:16–17	Mark 14:12–26
	Mar. 30	Good Friday	Is. 52:13–53:12	Ps. 22 or Ps. 31	Heb. 4:14–16; 5:7–9	John 18:1–19:42 or John 19:17–30
<b>EASTER</b>	Apr. 1	The Resurrection of Our Lord <i>Easter Sunrise</i>	Ex. 15:1–11	Ps. 118:15–29	1 Cor. 5:6b–8	John 20:1–18
	Apr. 1	The Resurrection of Our Lord <i>Easter Day</i>	Is. 25:6–9	Ps. 16	1 Cor. 15:1–11	Mark 16:1–8
	Apr. 8	Second S. of Easter	Acts 4:32–35	Ps. 148	1 John 1:1–2:2	John 20:19–31
	Apr. 15	Third S. of Easter	Acts 3:11–21	Ps. 4	1 John 3:1–7	Luke 24:36–49
	Apr. 22	Fourth S. of Easter	Acts 4:1–12	Ps. 23	1 John 3:16–24	John 10:11–18

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	Apr. 29	Fifth S. of Easter	Acts 8:26–40	Ps. 150	1 John 4:1–11 (12–21)	John 15:1–8
	May 6	Sixth S. of Easter	Acts 10:34–48	Ps. 98	1 John 5:1–8	John 15:9–17
	May 10	The Ascension of Our Lord	Acts 1:1–11	Ps. 47	Eph. 1:15–23	Luke 24:44–53
	May 13	Seventh S. of Easter	Acts 1:12–26	Ps. 1	1 John 5:9–15	John 17:11b–19
<b>PENTECOST</b>	May 20	The Day of Pentecost	Ezek. 37:1–14	Ps. 139:1–12 (13–16)	Acts 2:1–21	John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15
	May 27	The Holy Trinity	Is. 6:1–8	Ps. 29	Acts 2:14a, 22–36	John 3:1–17
	June 3 (Prop. 4)	Second S. after Pentecost	Deut. 5:12–15	Ps. 81:1–10	2 Cor. 4:5–12	Mark 2:23–28 (3:1–6)
	June 10 (Prop. 5)	Third S. after Pentecost	Gen. 3:8–15	Ps. 130	2 Cor. 4:13–5:1	Mark 3:20–35
	June 17 (Prop. 6)	Fourth S. after Pentecost	Ezek. 17:22–24	Ps. 1	2 Cor. 5:1–10 (11–17)	Mark 4:26–34
	June 24	The Nativity of St. John the Baptist	Is. 40:1–5	Ps. 85:(1–6) 7–13	Acts 13:13–26	Luke 1:57–80
	June 24 (Prop. 7)	Fifth S. after Pentecost	Job 38:1–11	Ps. 124	2 Cor. 6:1–13	Mark 4:35–41
	July 1 (Prop. 8)	Sixth S. after Pentecost	Lam. 3:22–33	Ps. 30	2 Cor. 8:1–9, 13–15	Mark 5:21–43
	July 8 (Prop. 9)	Seventh S. after Pentecost	Ezek. 2:1–5	Ps. 123	2 Cor. 12:1–10	Mark 6:1–13
	July 15 (Prop. 10)	Eighth S. after Pentecost	Amos 7:7–15	Ps. 85: (1–7) 8–13	Eph. 1:3–14	Mark 6:14–29
	July 22 (Prop. 11)	Ninth S. after Pentecost	Jer. 23:1–6	Ps. 23	Eph. 2:11–22	Mark 6:30–44
	July 29 (Prop. 12)	Tenth S. after Pentecost	Gen. 9:8–17	Ps. 136: 1–9	Eph. 3:14–21	Mark 6:45–56
	Aug. 5 (Prop. 13)	Eleventh S. after Pentecost	Ex. 16:2–15	Ps. 145: 10–21	Eph. 4:1–16	John 6:22–35
	Aug. 12 (Prop. 14)	Twelfth S. after Pentecost	1 Kings 19:1–8	Ps. 34: 1–8	Eph. 4:17–5:2	John 6:35–51
	Aug. 19 (Prop. 15)	Thirteenth S. after Pentecost	Prov. 9:1–10 or Josh. 24:1–2a, 14–18	Ps. 34:12–22	Eph. 5:6–21	John 6:51–69
	Aug. 26 (Prop. 16)	Fourteenth S. after Pentecost	Is. 29:11–19	Ps. 14	Eph. 5:22–33	Mark 7:1–13
	Sept. 2 (Prop. 17)	Fifteenth S. after Pentecost	Deut. 4:1–2, 6–9	Ps. 119: 129–136	Eph. 6:10–20	Mark 7:14–23
	Sept. 9 (Prop. 18)	Sixteenth S. after Pentecost	Is. 35:4–7a	Ps. 146	James 2:1–10, 14–18	Mark 7:(24–30) 31–37
	Sept. 16 (Prop. 19)	Seventeenth S. after Pentecost	Is. 50:4–10	Ps. 116: 1–9	James 3:1–12	Mark 9:14–29

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	Sept. 23 (Prop. 20)	Eighteenth S. after Pentecost	Jer. 11:18–20	Ps. 54	James 3:13—4:10	Mark 9:30–37
	Sept. 30 (Prop. 21)	Nineteenth S. after Pentecost	Num. 11:4–6, 10–16, 24–29	Ps. 104: 27–35	James 5:(1–12) 13–20	Mark 9:38–50
	Oct. 7 (Prop. 22)	Twentieth S. after Pentecost	Gen. 2:18–25	Ps. 128	Heb. 2:1–13 (14–18)	Mark 10:2–16
	Oct. 14 (Prop. 23)	Twenty-first S. after Pentecost	Amos 5:6–7, 10–15	Ps. 90: 12–17	Heb. 3:12–19	Mark 10:17–22
	Oct. 21 (Prop. 24)	Twenty-second S. after Pentecost	Eccl. 5:10–20	Ps. 119: 9–16	Heb. 4:1–13 (14–16)	Mark 10:23–31
	Oct. 28*	Reformation Day (Oct. 31)	Rev. 14:6–7	Ps. 46	Rom. 3:19–28	John 8:31–36 or Matt. 11:12–19
	Nov. 4*	All Saints' Day	Rev. 7:(2–8) 9–17	Ps. 149	1 John 3:1–3	Matt. 5:1–12
	Nov. 11 (Prop. 27)	Twenty-fifth S. after Pentecost	1 Kings 17:8–16	Ps. 146	Heb. 9:24–28	Mark 12:38–44
	Nov. 18 (Prop. 28)	Twenty-sixth S. after Pentecost	Dan. 12:1–3	Ps. 16	Heb. 10:11–25	Mark 13:1–13
	Nov. 22	Thanksgiving Day	Deut. 8:1–10	Ps. 67	Phil. 4:6–20 or 1 Tim. 2:1–4	Luke 17:11–19
	Nov. 25 (Prop. 29)	Last S. of the Church Year	Is. 51:4–6 or Dan. 7:9–10, 13–14	Ps. 93	Jude 20–25 or Rev. 1:4b–8	Mark 13:24–37 or John 18:33–37
<b>New Church Year Starts Here (Series C)</b>						
<b>ADVENT</b>	Dec. 2	First S. in Advent	Jer. 33:14–16	Ps. 25: 1–10	1 Thess. 3:9–13	Luke 19:28–40 or Luke 21:25–36

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# SERMON STUDY WORKSHEET

FOR DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**1) PRAY!** *Psalm 19:14 - Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.*

**2) SELECT THE TEXT:** \_\_\_\_\_

### 3) STUDY THE TEXT

#### BACKGROUND:

- Who was the original writer?
- Who were the original readers?
- What was the Holy Spirit's purpose in giving us this book?
- What is the purpose of the particular chapter where the text is found?

#### WRITE EACH VERSE AND MAKE NOTES

On a separate piece of paper, write out the verses and your notes in three columns, like these:

VERSE	CROSS REFERENCES (other scriptures)	QUESTIONS and IDEAS

#### 4) ASK AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

**What does this Scripture say about the LAW?** (The Law is what God demands OF us according to the 10 commandments, and the consequences for breaking them.) If someone is comfortable in their sin, how does this Scripture make them afraid?

**What does this Scripture say about the GOSPEL?** (The Gospel is what God did and does FOR us, by grace, through the gift of His Son Jesus.) If someone is afraid in their sin, how does this Scripture bring them comfort?

**What is the ONE major idea that God wants His people to know from this Scripture?**  
(This will be the THEME of your sermon.)

**Now that Jesus has fully and freely paid the debt of sin, what does this Scripture say about how the Christian should live his life now?**

#### 5) WRITE THE SERMON

When the sermon is done, apply this test: Does this sermon

***“Show that sins are freely forgiven because of Jesus”?***

***If it doesn't - START OVER!***

**FINALLY** – Keep these notes in a safe place. The next time you study this Scripture, you can look at them and build on your knowledge about this part of the Bible. – ***God bless your efforts to proclaim His saving message to His people!***