

Today:
December 14, 2014

Scripture Focus: Isaiah 40:1-11; Luke 3:1-18

It was now the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius, the Roman emperor. Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea; Herod Antipas was ruler^[a] over Galilee; his brother Philip was ruler^[b] over Iturea and Tracónitis; Lysanias was ruler over Abilene. ² Annas and Caiaphas were the high priests. At this time a message from God came to John son of Zechariah, who was living in the wilderness. ³ Then John went from place to place on both sides of the Jordan River, preaching that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven. ⁴ Isaiah had spoken of John when he said,

“He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,

‘Prepare the way for the LORD’s coming! Clear the road for him!

⁵ The valleys will be filled, and the mountains and hills made level.

The curves will be straightened, and the rough places made smooth.

⁶ And then all people will see the salvation sent from God.”^[c]

¹⁵ Everyone was expecting the Messiah to come soon, and they were eager to know whether John might be the Messiah. ¹⁶ John answered their questions by saying, “I baptize you with^[d] water; but someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.^[e] ¹⁷ He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire.” ¹⁸ John used many such warnings as he announced the Good News to the people.

(Luke 3:1-6, 15-18, New Living Translation)

Notes from Worship:

How did God catch your attention? To what is God calling you this week?

Questions for Discussion:

- Would you have been attracted or repelled by John the Baptist? Why?
- How do you tend to respond to people today who say “Repent! Get ready for the Lord’s coming”?
- Do you experience Jesus in the way that John described the one coming after him?

This Week:

December 15-20

Scripture Readings:

Monday 12/15	Tuesday 12/16	Wednesday 12/17	Thursday 12/18	Friday 12/19	Saturday 12/20
2 Samuel 1-4	Psalm 6, 9-10, 14, 16, 21	1 Chron. 1-2, Psalm 43-44	Psalm 49, 84-85, 87	1 Chronicles 3-5	1 Chronicles 6, Psalm 36-39, 77-78

Questions for Reflection:

These questions are meant to help get you thinking about the readings for each day. Feel free to also use this space to jot down other questions and insights gleaned from your reading.

Monday

What new things do you learn about David in these chapters?

Tuesday

What do you think of these Psalms of David in light of the story of David we have been reading about in First and Second Samuel?

Wednesday

What jumps out to you in the historical records presented in 1 Chronicles 1-2?

Thursday

These Psalms are attributed to the Sons of Korah. How are they different than Psalms of David? What catches your attention the most?

Friday

Even though we aren't familiar with many of the names in these chapters, what thoughts come to mind when you read through these family trees?

Saturday

If you were to write a Psalm, what would it sound like? Would it be more focused on lament, praise, or thanksgiving?

Taking Scripture to Heart:

As we continue in seasons of Advent, Christmas and the life of Jesus, our memory texts change to the New Testament, beginning with **Hebrews 1:1-3a**. Let these verses dwell within you, to help you focus on Jesus Christ, the center of our faith.

Next Sunday: December 21

Theme: Advent – Elizabeth and Zechariah

Scripture Focus: Luke 1:8-24, 57-66