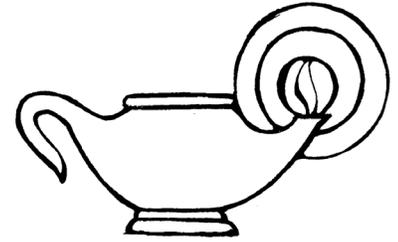


Opening Prayer: Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.* “*The Book of Common Prayer,*” Proper 28, page 236. *Alternative prayer: First Sunday after Christmas, page 161 or 213.*



Review of Last Week’s Lesson: In last week’s Scriptures, God promised a future king who would come from the descendants of David. This promise is stated in II Samuel 7. Psalm 89 reemphasized the covenant God made with David and his descendants. In Romans 16, Paul taught that through the Gospel, God reveals to everyone the mystery of his plan of salvation. Luke 1 described the Annunciation to Mary by the Angel Gabriel that she would be the mother of the Son of God. What impressed you the most when you studied these Scriptures?

Year B, Lesson 5 First Sunday after Christmas Day



Background Notes: Isaiah 61:10—62:3 ❖ In these Scriptures, the prophet expressed the joy that Zion would experience in the future.

Vocabulary:

diadem: a crown.

Zion: In the Old Testament, Zion refers to Jerusalem or to Mt. Zion, which was immediately to the north, where Solomon built the Temple.

TODAY’S SCRIPTURES:
Isaiah 61:10—62:3
Psalm 147:13-21
Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7
John 1:1-18

TODAY’S THEME:
Through faith in Jesus Christ we become children of God, heirs of God.

Questions:

1. For what did the prophet express his joy? (Is. 61:10) _____

2. To what did Isaiah compare this joy? (Is. 61:10) _____

3. What comparison is made in verse 11 to show the inevitability of Zion’s future success? _____

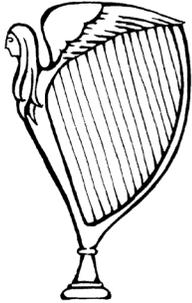
4. What did Isaiah promise to do while he waited for Jerusalem to experience vindication and salvation? (Is. 62:1) _____

5. What event in your life has made you feel this kind of determination or enthusiasm? _____

6. What will God do for Jerusalem when it experiences righteousness and salvation? (Is. 62:2) _____

MEMORY VERSE:
Galatians 4:7

7. Describe the future status of Jerusalem (Zion). (Is. 62:3-4, 11-12) _____



Background Notes: Psalm 147:12-21 ✦ The psalmist acknowledged God’s power in controlling everything in the heavens and on the earth. He praised God for the blessings he bestowed upon his nation and the people of Israel.

Questions:

1. Whom did the psalmist exhort to praise God? (Ps. 147:12) _____

2. List the benefits God provided for Israel. (Ps. 147:13-18) _____

3. What was unique about God’s treatment of Israel? (Ps. 147:19-20) _____

4. Does this differ today? Explain. _____



Background Notes: Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7 ✦ Paul explained that until Christ came, Jews were governed by the laws that God provided, as recorded in the Old Testament. Now that Christ has come, we are justified not by the law, but by our faith in Jesus Christ. We are all adopted children of God and therefore, his heirs.

Questions:

1. Before Jesus came, what force governed the believer’s behavior? (Gal. 3:23) _____

2. To what laws do you think Paul was referring? (Gal. 3:23-24) _____

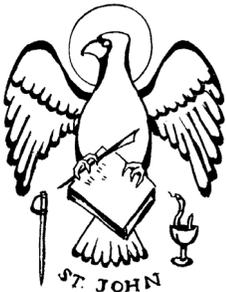
3. Now that Jesus Christ has come, how are we justified in God's eyes? (Gal. 3:24-25) _____

4. According to Galatians 4:4-5, why did God send his son? _____

5. What additional gift has God given us? (Gal. 4:6) _____

6. What does verse 7 tell us about the significance of being a child of God? _____

7. What additional personal benefits do you have as a result of being a child of God? _____



Background Notes: John 1:1-18 ❖ John described the unique relationship Jesus Christ has with God. Jesus Christ and God are one. Jesus Christ existed at the beginning. Everything in the universe was made by the Lord. The writer made it clear that John the Baptist was not the Messiah, but a witness who helped others to believe that Jesus Christ was the Messiah.

Questions:

1. What does John 1:1 tell us about the Word? _____

2. What do verses 2-3 tell you about Christ? _____

3. Explain the meaning of verses 4-5. _____

4. What does the word "light" mean? (Jn. 1:6-9) _____

5. What do verses 6-8 and 15 tell us about the role of John the Baptist? _____

6. What do verses 12-13 tell us that was also addressed today in Galatians 4:4-7? _____

7. Contrast what Moses gave us with what Jesus Christ gives us. (Jn. 1:17) _____

8. How can we know God? (Jn. 1:18) _____

9. Describe how you know the Lord. How have you developed this relationship? _____

Closing Prayer: Lord, we thank you for the many blessings you have given us. We especially thank you for sending the Word, your son Jesus Christ, through whom we can know you. We thank you for including us as your children and therefore, as your heirs. We are grateful for our “freedom from the law” and our justification through faith in Jesus Christ. Help us to let your light shine in our lives so that we can be a witness to those who do not know you. We pray that they will want to learn of you and desire to become members of your Christian family. *Amen.*

Application for next week: As Christmas approaches, pray for those who are in need and thank God for your many blessings.

