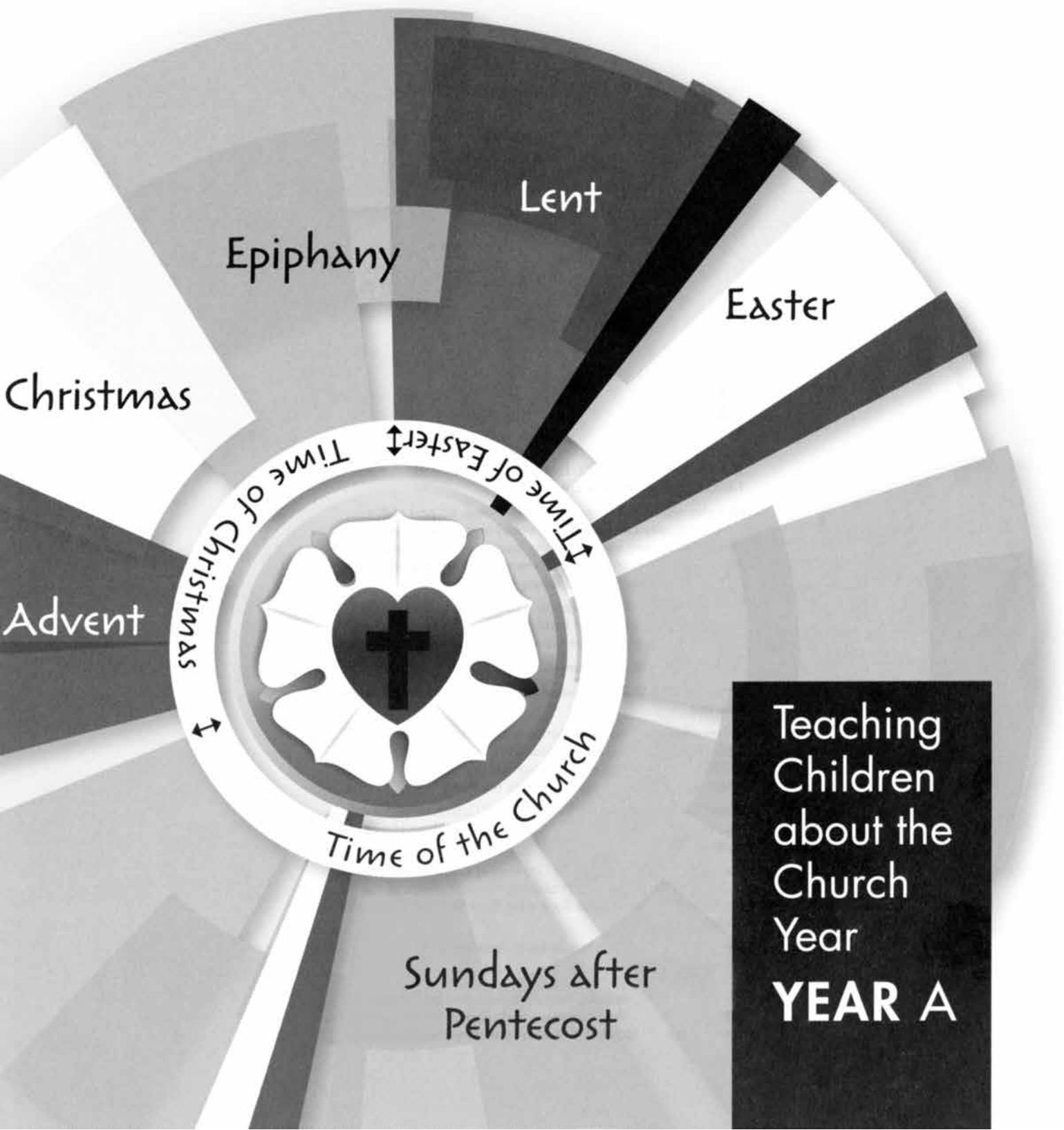


Church Year Connections



Teaching
Children
about the
Church
Year
YEAR A



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3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, MO 63118-3968
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Edited by Thomas A. Nummela

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Some resources adapted from *Growing in Christ Director Guide* © 2006–2010 Concordia Publishing House. Collects of the Day from *Lutheran Service Book Altar Book* © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

Manufactured in the United States of America

Church Year Connections, Year A, is published by Concordia Publishing House. Your comments and suggestions concerning this material are appreciated. E-mail us at sundayschool@cph.org.



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Contents of Accompanying CDs

CD 1—Time of Christmas and Time of Easter

1. A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
2. Advent Song
3. All Who Believe and Are Baptized
4. Beautiful Savior
5. Child of God
6. Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
7. Easter Song
8. God Loved the World So That He Gave
9. God's Word for Everyone
10. Good Morning, Dear Jesus!
11. Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling
12. Jesus Christ Is Risen Today
13. Jesus Did It
14. Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won
15. My Faith Looks Up to Thee
16. My Shepherd
17. My Song Is Love Unknown
18. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
19. Of the Father's Love Begotten
20. Pentecost Song
21. The Church's One Foundation
22. To Us a Child Is Born
23. When I Wake Up

CD 2—Time of the Church

1. A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
2. Because of Love
3. Child of God
4. Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
5. Crown Him with Many Crowns
6. God Loved the World So That He Gave
7. God's Word for Everyone
8. Good Morning, Dear Jesus!
9. He's Coming
10. Holy Trinity Song
11. I'm in God's Family
12. I'm Sorry, Friend
13. Jesus Loves Me
14. Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus
15. Lord Jesus, Think on Me
16. Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word
17. My Shepherd
18. Reformation Song
19. Romans 8:38–39
20. The King of Love My Shepherd Is
21. The Law of God Is Good and Wise
22. The Lord's Prayer
23. We Know That Christ Is Raised
24. What a Friend We Have in Jesus
25. When I Wake Up

Each CD contains hymns and songs (recordings, scores, lyrics, and PowerPoint resources) for specific seasons of the Church Year. WAV files will play in any CD player and most computers; MP3 files are located in the PowerPoint directory.

About Church Year Connections

Welcome to *Church Year Connections*! This resource seeks to connect children in our various Christian education agencies, as well as the church and home, to the Church Year on a weekly basis through resources that can be used in opening worship, in a congregation's church service or "children's church" experience, or in family devotions.

The Christian Church, from its earliest days, organized worship around the events in the life of our Savior—His birth, death, and resurrection—and the daily hours of prayer. They gathered for worship each Sunday, the day of the resurrection, with careful attention given to the anniversaries of events in His life. Feast days developed, not just Christmas and Easter, but also festivals and seasons to mark Jesus' expected coming (Advent), His ministry (Epiphany), His humiliation (Lent), His exaltation (Easter), and many other events.

At its heart, the Church Year tells the Gospel, the life and work of Jesus for our forgiveness, life, and salvation. In an educational setting where lessons are not tied to specific dates on the calendar, there is less opportunity to provide Church Year connections for children. This resource intends to fill that void, to provide weekly connections to the Church Year in the context of worship with children. (You can find the dates of Sundays in the current year of the lectionary by searching for "Church Year Lectionary" at lcms.org.)

The Resources

The primary resource in *Church Year Connections* is this leader guide. It contains the basic tools for leading worship with children that connects to the Church Year—an order for worship, readings, collects, songs and hymns, and object lessons—all tied to a specific Sunday. In this book, you will find such resources for all Sundays and some feasts and festivals that are often transferred to a Sunday, for Year A (using the three-year lectionary outlined in *Lutheran Service Book*).

The leader guide includes two CDs, one for the festival half of the Church Year (the Time of Christmas and the Time of Easter) and one for the Time of the Church. On the CDs, you will find recordings of the suggested hymns and songs, reproducible melody-line scores and lyrics for the children to use, PowerPoint presentations of the order for worship and music for each Sunday, and teaching points that can be used in other Christian education lessons to make further Church Year connections.

Use these resources to supplement your Sunday School, Day School, or Mid-week School lessons; your Sunday worship services; or your home devotions so your children can grow in their knowledge of the Church Year and appreciate its impact on the Church's worship.

Sundays at a Glance

Time of Christmas, CD 1				
Date/Liturgical Date	Color	Theme	Suggested Reading	Hymn and Song Suggestions
First Sunday in Advent	Blue/ Violet	Let Us Walk in the Light of the Lord!	Isaiah 2:1–5	6. Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (<i>LSB</i> 338) 2. Advent Song (<i>SCY</i> , p. 4)
Second Sunday in Advent	Blue/ Violet	No Longer Stones	Matthew 3:1–12	18. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (<i>LSB</i> 357) 2. Advent Song (<i>SCY</i> , p. 4)
Third Sunday in Advent	Blue/ Violet	Hurry Up and Be Patient!	James 5:7–11	6. Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (<i>LSB</i> 338) 2. Advent Song (<i>SCY</i> , p. 4)
Fourth Sunday in Advent	Blue/ Violet	Choose Good, Refuse Evil	Isaiah 7:10–17	18. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (<i>LSB</i> 357) 22. To Us a Child Is Born (<i>SCY</i> , p. 10)
The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Day	White	Beautiful Shoes	Isaiah 52:7–10	18. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (<i>LSB</i> 357) 13. Jesus Did It (<i>SW</i> , p. 39)
First Sunday after Christmas	White	Packing for Your Trip	Matthew 2:13–23	19. Of the Father's Love Begotten (<i>LSB</i> 384) 5. Child of God (<i>SW</i> , p. 45)
Second Sunday after Christmas	White	The Best Christmas Gift	1 Kings 3:4–15	19. Of the Father's Love Begotten (<i>LSB</i> 384) 22. To Us a Child Is Born (<i>SCY</i> , p. 10)
First Sunday after the Epiphany, The Baptism of Our Lord	White	Jesus Carries Us	Matthew 3:13–17	3. All Who Believe and Are Baptized (<i>LSB</i> 601) 5. Child of God (<i>SW</i> , p. 45)
Second Sunday after the Epiphany	Green	Called by the Gospel	John 1:29–34	15. My Faith Looks Up to Thee (<i>LSB</i> 702) 10. Good Morning, Dear Jesus! (<i>SW</i> , p. 50)
Third Sunday after the Epiphany	Green	Light in the Darkness	Matthew 4:12–17	21. The Church's One Foundation (<i>LSB</i> 644) 13. Jesus Did It (<i>SW</i> , p. 39)
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany	Green	Justice, Kindness, Humility	Micah 6:6–8	3. All Who Believe and Are Baptized (<i>LSB</i> 601) 23. When I Wake Up (<i>SW</i> , p. 26)
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany	Green	Letting Light Shine	Matthew 5:14–16	15. My Faith Looks Up to Thee (<i>LSB</i> 702) 9. God's Word for Everyone (<i>SW</i> , p. 57)
Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany	Green	Choices, Choices	Deuteronomy 30:19–20	11. Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling (<i>LSB</i> 650) 10. Good Morning, Dear Jesus! (<i>SW</i> , p. 50)
Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany	Green	What Is Love?	Matthew 5:43–48	21. The Church's One Foundation (<i>LSB</i> 644) 23. When I Wake Up (<i>SW</i> , p. 26)
Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany	Green	Cool Beans	Matthew 6:24–34	15. My Faith Looks Up to Thee (<i>LSB</i> 702) 9. God's Word for Everyone (<i>SW</i> , p. 57)
The Transfiguration of Our Lord	White	The Light of Jesus	2 Peter 1:16–21; Matthew 17:1–9	4. Beautiful Savior (<i>LSB</i> 537) 23. When I Wake Up (<i>SW</i> , p. 26)

Time of Easter, CD 1				
Date/Liturgical Date	Color	Theme	Suggested Reading	Hymn and Song Suggestions
First Sunday in Lent	Violet	All Things New	Genesis 3:1–21	1. A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (<i>LSB</i> 656) 23. When I Wake Up (<i>SW</i> , p. 26)
Second Sunday in Lent	Violet	Trust in God's Promises	Genesis 12:1–9	3. All Who Believe and Are Baptized (<i>LSB</i> 601) 5. Child of God (<i>SW</i> , p. 45)
Third Sunday in Lent	Violet	Living Water	John 4:5–26	8. God Loved the World So That He Gave (<i>LSB</i> 571) 5. Child of God (<i>SW</i> , p. 45)
Fourth Sunday in Lent	Violet	Children of Light	Ephesians 5:8–14	8. God Loved the World So That He Gave (<i>LSB</i> 571) 10. Good Morning, Dear Jesus! (<i>SW</i> , p. 50)
Fifth Sunday in Lent	Violet	Can These Bones Live?	Ezekiel 37:1–14	17. My Song Is Love Unknown (<i>LSB</i> 430) 13. Jesus Did It (<i>SW</i> , p. 39)
Palm Sunday, Sunday of the Passion	Scarlet/ Violet	A Crown for a King	John 12:12–19; Philippians 2:5–11	17. My Song Is Love Unknown (<i>LSB</i> 430) 13. Jesus Did It (<i>SW</i> , p. 39)
The Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day	White/ Gold	What's Missing	Matthew 28:1–10	12. Jesus Christ Is Risen Today (<i>LSB</i> 457) 7. Easter Song (<i>SCY</i> , p. 32)
Second Sunday of Easter	White	I Doubt It	John 20:19–31	14. Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won (<i>LSB</i> 490) 7. Easter Song (<i>SCY</i> , p. 32)v
Third Sunday of Easter	White	An Apt Teacher	Luke 24:13–35	3. All Who Believe and Are Baptized (<i>LSB</i> 601) 5. Child of God (<i>SW</i> , p. 45)
Fourth Sunday of Easter	White	The Power with Us	John 10:1–10	12. Jesus Christ Is Risen Today (<i>LSB</i> 457) 16. My Shepherd (<i>SW</i> , p. 54)
Fifth Sunday of Easter	White	Living and Loving Stones	1 Peter 2:2–10	21. The Church's One Foundation (<i>LSB</i> 644) 7. Easter Song (<i>SCY</i> , p. 32)
Sixth Sunday of Easter	White	Power to Do	John 14:15–21	14. Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won (<i>LSB</i> 490) 23. When I Wake Up (<i>SW</i> , p. 26)
Seventh Sunday of Easter	White	Take Care	John 17:1–11	11. Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling (<i>LSB</i> 650) 9. God's Word for Everyone (<i>SW</i> , p. 57)
The Day of Pentecost	Red	Fire	Acts 2:1–4	11. Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling (<i>LSB</i> 650) 20. Pentecost Song (<i>SCY</i> , p. 36)

Time of the Church, CD 2				
Date/Liturgical Date	Color	Theme	Suggested Reading	Hymn and Song Suggestions
The Holy Trinity	White	Strange Math	Matthew 28:16–20	5. Crown Him with Many Crowns (<i>LSB</i> 525) 10. Holy Trinity Song (<i>SCY</i> , p. 40)
Proper 3 (May 24–28)	Green	God Can	Matthew 6:31–34	16. Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (<i>LSB</i> 655) 22. Lord's Prayer (<i>StF</i> , p. 63)
Proper 4 (May 29–June 4)	Green	The Missing Piece	Matthew 7:24–27	24. What a Friend We Have in Jesus (<i>LSB</i> 770) 13. Jesus Loves Me (<i>LSB</i> 588)
Proper 5 (June 5–11)	Green	Are You Qualified?	Matthew 9:10–13	15. Lord Jesus, Think on Me (<i>LSB</i> 610) 17. My Shepherd (<i>SW</i> , p. 54)
Proper 6 (June 12–18)	Green	Follow the Leader	Matthew 9:35–36	6. God Loved the World So That He Gave (<i>LSB</i> 571) 11. I'm in God's Family (<i>SW</i> , p. 68)
Proper 7 (June 19–25)	Green	How Many Hairs?	Matthew 10:29–31	14. Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus (<i>LSB</i> 685) 25. When I Wake Up (<i>SW</i> , p. 26)
Proper 8 (June 26–July 2)	Green	Where Is Jesus?	Matthew 10:40–42	14. Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus (<i>LSB</i> 685) 2. Because of Love (<i>SKLS2</i> , p. 6)
Proper 9 (July 3–9)	Green	Finding Rest	Matthew 11:28–30	21. The Law of God Is Good and Wise (<i>LSB</i> 579) 2. Because of Love (<i>SKLS2</i> , p. 6)
Proper 10 (July 10–16)	Green	Use Your Ears!	Matthew 13:43b	16. Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (<i>LSB</i> 655) 7. God's Word for Everyone (<i>SW</i> , p. 57)
Proper 11 (July 17–23)	Green	Why Did God Make Weeds?	Matthew 13:24–30	5. Crown Him with Many Crowns (<i>LSB</i> 525) 22. Lord's Prayer (<i>StF</i> , p. 63)
Proper 12 (July 24–30)	Green	Don't Lose What Is Valuable	Matthew 13:44–46	1. A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (<i>LSB</i> 656) 19. Romans 8:38–39 (<i>LHBS</i> , p. 72)
Proper 13 (July 31–August 6)	Green	We Need a Vacation	Matthew 14:13–16	20. The King of Love My Shepherd Is (<i>LSB</i> 709) 3. Child of God (<i>SW</i> , p. 45)
Proper 14 (August 7–13)	Green	Trust in the Lord	Matthew 14:25–33	6. God Loved the World So That He Gave (<i>LSB</i> 571) 13. Jesus Loves Me (<i>LSB</i> 588)
Proper 15 (August 14–20)	Green	Don't Give Up	Matthew 15:22–23	24. What a Friend We Have in Jesus (<i>LSB</i> 770) 22. Lord's Prayer (<i>StF</i> , p. 63)
Proper 16 (August 21–27)	Green	Passing On the Keys	Matthew 16:16–19	6. God Loved the World So That He Gave (<i>LSB</i> 571) 2. Because of Love (<i>SKLS2</i> , p. 6)
Proper 17 (August 28–September 3)	Green	You Can't Take It with You	Matthew 16:25–27	14. Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus (<i>LSB</i> 685) 25. When I Wake Up (<i>SW</i> , p. 26)

Proper 18 (September 4–10)	Green	The Greatest	Matthew 18:1–20	13. Jesus Loves Me (<i>LSB</i> 588) 12. I'm Sorry, Friend (<i>SW</i> , p. 60)
Proper 19 (September 11–17)	Green	Bad = Good	Genesis 50:20	15. Lord Jesus, Think on Me (<i>LSB</i> 610) 12. I'm Sorry, Friend (<i>SW</i> , p. 60)
Proper 20 (September 18–24)	Green	I Can't Wait	Isaiah 55:7	23. We Know That Christ Is Raised (<i>LSB</i> 603) 8. Good Morning, Dear Jesus! (<i>SW</i> , p. 50)
Proper 21 (September 25–October 1)	Green	Authorized	Matthew 21:23–27	16. Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (<i>LSB</i> 655) 3. Child of God (<i>SW</i> , p. 45)
Proper 22 (October 2–8)	Green	What's Behind Me?	Philippians 3:4b–14	6. God Loved the World So That He Gave (<i>LSB</i> 571) 2. Because of Love (<i>SKLS2</i> , p. 6)
Proper 23 (October 9–15)	Green	Party Clothes	Matthew 22:1–14	20. The King of Love My Shepherd Is (<i>LSB</i> 709) 11. I'm in God's Family! (<i>SW</i> , p. 58)
Proper 24 (October 16–22)	Green	Imitators	1 Thessalonians 1:1–10	5. Crown Him with Many Crowns (<i>LSB</i> 525) 13. Jesus Loves Me (<i>LSB</i> 588)
Proper 25 (October 23–29)	Green	A+	Matthew 22:34–46	21. The Law of God Is Good and Wise (<i>LSB</i> 579) 7. God's Word for Everyone (<i>SW</i> , p. 57)
Reformation Day (Observed)	Red	Re-Formed	Romans 3:19–28	1. A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (<i>LSB</i> 656) 18. Reformation Song (<i>SCY</i> , p. 48)
All Saints' Day (Observed)	White	God's International Children	1 John 3:1–3	20. The King of Love My Shepherd Is (<i>LSB</i> 709) 11. I'm in God's Family! (<i>SW</i> , p. 58)
Proper 26 (October 30–November 5)	Green	God Says	Matthew 23:1–12	15. Lord Jesus, Think on Me (<i>LSB</i> 610) 8. Good Morning, Dear Jesus! (<i>SW</i> , p. 50)
Proper 27 (November 6–12)	Green	The Day of the Lord	Amos 5:18–24	23. We Know That Christ Is Raised (<i>LSB</i> 603) 9. He's Coming (<i>SW</i> , p. 61)
Proper 28 (November 13–19)	Green	Be Silent	Zephaniah 1:7–16	4. Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (<i>LSB</i> 338) 9. He's Coming (<i>SW</i> , p. 61)
Proper 29 (November 20–26)	Green	Lambs of God	1 Corinthians 15:20–28	20. The King of Love My Shepherd Is (<i>LSB</i> 709) 13. Jesus Loves Me (<i>LSB</i> 588)

Recordings of the hymns and songs can be found on the accompanying CD. Accompaniment scores for the songs can be found in the following CPH resources:
LSB: Lutheran Service Book; *SCY*: Songs of the Church Year; *LHBS*: Learn by Heart Bible Songs; *SKLS2*: Songs Kids Love to Sing 2; *SIF*: Sing the Faith; *S5CK*: Super Songs for Christ's Kids; *SW*: Sing and Wonder.

Leading Sunday School Openings, Classroom Devotions, or Family Worship

This guide supplements your congregation's Sunday School materials and supports worship with children in other situations, such as Day School classrooms and the home. It covers the entire Church Year, including significant festival days.

Your Sunday School or Day School classes will study a variety of lessons. In the home, these resources may be used in family worship with daily devotions and prayer. In any of these settings, you can use the resources in this guide to connect the students with the worship life of the congregation through hymns, songs, prayers, and object lessons related to the seasons of the Church Year. The Christian life is nourished by the Church's worship, in which Word and Sacrament are offered to the people of God. Help your students make connections with the congregation's worship.

The Order for Opening Worship that follows is adapted from the Divine Service and other orders for worship found in Lutheran hymnals and followed in many congregations. Using this pattern of worship in Sunday School, Day School, and the home will help teach children that the Church's worship is their worship.

The resources in this guide are designed to be used in a common opening for all Sunday School classes or in an individual Christian classroom. Additional suggestions for individual class opening and closing devotions are provided in Concordia Publishing House's other Christian education materials.

Take time to prepare the worship aspects of your program carefully because in it, you will plant the seeds for active and meaningful worship on the part of the children for years to come. May the Lord bless your worship!

Opening Worship Checklist and Suggestions

Preparing Your Worship Space

Use interesting visual aids to help children see that something unique and important is going on as the Church marks the seasons of the Church Year. This will help connect them to the congregation's worship too.

Things You Will Need:

- A simple table to use as an altar
- White cloth to cover the table
- Green, red, white, violet, or blue cloth (Match the color on your church's altar.)
- Two candles, lighter, and candle snuffer
- Cross or crucifix
- Bible
- Chairs, pews, or carpet squares
- Hymnbooks or song sheets
- Copies of the order of worship
- Piano or other accompaniment
- Offering basket
- Advent wreath

Involving Children in Worship

Children learn by doing. Classroom or family worship is the perfect setting to teach children by allowing them to help set up, participate, lead, and serve. Here are some ideas to involve children in your worship:

- Select a child to light the candles.
- Select a child to collect the offering.
- Invite a child to read the Bible text.
- Ask an able child to play the piano.
- Invite other instrumentalists to play.
- Let a class design and make a banner.
- Ask a class to sing a hymn or song.

An Order for Opening Worship

Leader and students may make the sign of the cross, as indicated by this sign +, in remembrance of their Baptism.

L: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

L: O LORD, in the morning You hear my voice;

C: **In the morning I prepare a sacrifice for You and watch.** (Psalm 5:3)

L: My mouth is filled with Your praise,

C: **And with Your glory all the day.** (Psalm 71:8)

L: O Lord, open my lips,

C: **And my mouth will declare Your praise.** (Psalm 51:15)

L: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

C: **As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Hymn

Collect of the Day

Bible Reading

Catechism Reading

Object Lesson

The Apostles' Creed

The Lord's Prayer

General Prayers

Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen. (Luther's Small Catechism)

The Hymn, Bible Reading, and Object Lesson for each Sunday are found on pages 19–78; these hymns are recorded on the accompanying CDs. The Collects are found on pages 13–17.

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Collects of the Day

First Sunday in Advent

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Second Sunday in Advent

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Third Sunday in Advent

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Day

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Sunday after Christmas

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Second Sunday after Christmas

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Sunday after the Epiphany, The Baptism of Our Lord

Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River, You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany

O Lord, mercifully hear our prayers and having set us free from the bonds of our sins deliver us from every evil; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Last Sunday after the Epiphany,
The Transfiguration of Our Lord**

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Sunday in Lent

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Second Sunday in Lent

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Third Sunday in Lent

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Palm Sunday, Sunday of the Passion

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**The Resurrection of Our Lord,
Easter Day**

Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Second Sunday of Easter

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Third Sunday of Easter

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Seventh Sunday of Easter

O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Day of Pentecost

O God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Holy Trinity

Almighty and everlasting God, You have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Proper 3

Eternal God, You counsel us not to be anxious about earthly things. Keep alive in us a proper yearning for those heavenly treasures awaiting all who trust in Your mercy, that we may daily rejoice in Your salvation and serve You with constant devotion; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Proper 4

Lord of all power and might, author and giver of all good things, instill in our hearts the love of Your name, impress on our minds the teachings of Your Word, and increase in our lives all that is holy and just; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Proper 5

Almighty and most merciful God, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to seek and to save the lost. Graciously open our ears and our hearts to hear His call and to follow Him by faith that we may feast with Him forever in His kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Proper 6

Almighty, eternal God, in the Word of Your apostles and prophets You have proclaimed to us Your saving will. Grant us faith to believe Your promises that we may receive eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Proper 7

O God, because Your abiding presence always goes with us, keep us aware of Your daily mercies that we may live secure and content in Your eternal love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Proper 8

Almighty God, by the working of Your Holy Spirit, grant that we may gladly hear Your Word proclaimed among us and follow its directing; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Proper 9

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, Your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and at life's end grant us Your promised rest and the full joys of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Proper 10

Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Proper 11

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Proper 12

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Proper 13

Heavenly Father, though we do not deserve Your goodness, still You provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your gifts, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Proper 14

Almighty and most merciful God, preserve us from all harm and danger that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish what You want done; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Proper 15

Almighty and everlasting Father, You give Your children many blessings even though we are undeserving. In every trial and temptation grant us steadfast confidence in Your loving-kindness and mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Proper 16

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Proper 17

Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Proper 18

O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Proper 19

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Proper 20

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Proper 21

Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Proper 22

Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Proper 23

Almighty God, You invite us to trust in You for our salvation. Deal with us not in the severity of Your judgment but by the greatness of Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Proper 24

O God, the protector of all who trust in You, have mercy on us that with You as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Proper 25

O God, You have commanded us to love You above all things and our neighbors as ourselves. Grant us the Spirit to think and do what is pleasing in Your sight, that our faith in You may never waver and our love for one another may not falter; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Reformation Day (Observed)

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

All Saints' Day (Observed)

Almighty and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Proper 26

Merciful and gracious Lord, You cause Your Word to be proclaimed in every generation. Stir up our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may receive this proclamation with humility and finally be exalted at the coming of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Proper 27

Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Proper 28

Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Proper 29

Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Object Lessons for Each Sunday

First Sunday in Advent

Let Us Walk in the Light of the Lord!

Isaiah 2:1–5

Object: Flashlight or other portable light

If you are using an Advent wreath, light one candle. Welcome your students. If possible, begin the opening with the lights turned off or dimmed.

Hello, boys and girls. Turn on the light you have brought. **Did you see what happened when I turned on this light? As soon as I turned on the light, everyone turned their attention to the light.** Turn off the light. **I use a light like this when I go camping. It helps me to see where I'm going after dark. When you are camping, what other lights do you see?**

Let the students give answers, such as fireflies, campfires, the moon, and others.

It's normal to look toward the light when we are in darkness. Read today's Bible passage if it has not already been read. **In today's Bible reading from the Book of Isaiah, God talks about Someone He is going to send into the world. This Person will be a light on the highest mountain in the world. He will be so wonderful that many will come to see Him. He will teach us His ways. He will teach us what is good and what is bad.**

Set the light aside and take up the Bible. **In Isaiah chapter 2, verse 5, we read, "O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD."**

When Isaiah talks about a high mountain (v. 2) and a light, he is talking about Jesus. Isaiah is telling the people that someday, Jesus will come into the world. Set the Bible aside and take up the light again. **Can you guess why we read this part of Isaiah at this time of year?** Accept volunteered responses. **That's right! This weekend we begin Advent, when we look forward to the coming of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as a baby in Bethlehem at Christmas.**

Jesus did come to teach us, but also to do something even more important. What did Jesus come into the world to do? If the children can't guess, point to a cross in the room. **Jesus came into the world to die on the cross for our sins. Isaiah's people had trouble because of their sins. We have trouble because of our sins. Our sins are all the things we do wrong with our minds, words, and bodies. Jesus died on the cross so that we could be forgiven. On Easter morning, Jesus rose from the dead. He is alive! Because of Jesus, our sins are forgiven, and we know that we will live with Him forever in heaven.**

Turn the light on again. **Jesus is the light of the world. His love shines in this dark, sinful world. When we see lights in the darkness, like fireflies, campfires, and the moon, we can remember that Jesus came into the world to save us. All year long we can remember His love and forgiveness.**

Prayer

Dear heavenly Father, Your prophet Isaiah teaches us that Jesus is a light in the darkness. In Advent we look forward to celebrating His birth at Christmas. Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, into the world to die and rise again so that we could be forgiven and live forever with You. Amen.

Second Sunday in Advent

No Longer Stones

Matthew 3:1–12

Object: A stone—large enough to see but light enough to carry

If you are using an Advent wreath, light two candles. Welcome your students.

Welcome, boys and girls. Present the rock. **I have this stone with me today. It's just an average stone.** While you are talking, pass the stone around to a few of the kids, allowing them to get a sense of its weight and texture. When you have the rock back again, continue. **I might place this stone in my garden. Or I could lay it on some papers to keep them from blowing away. However, can I talk with this stone?** Wait for the kids to shake their heads and respond verbally. Then try talking to the stone. **Good morning, stone. How are you today?** Raise the stone up to your ear as if listening closely for a response. **Hello, stone. Are you there?**

No, of course the stone can't talk or hear. It's a stone. Believe it or not, without God, we are like this stone. Let me tell you why. During this season of the Church Year, we read about John the Baptist in the Bible. John the Baptist was just an ordinary man. However, he had the special job of announcing the coming of Jesus Christ. During Advent we look forward to Jesus' birth in Bethlehem at Christmas. John the Baptist told people what Jesus would do during His ministry on earth.

In today's reading from Matthew, we hear "the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight.'" When John spoke, he told the people that Jesus was coming into the world. He also reminded the people of their sins. Sin is when we disobey God. Many people didn't like what John had to say. They didn't want to admit that they disobeyed God. The same is true today. We don't like it when our parents or teachers tell us about the things we do wrong either. Do we? Pause for the children to respond.

Now, let's talk more about the stone. Again display the stone. **Many people are like this stone because of sin. They can't hear God, pray to Him, or love Him.** Through the words of John the Baptist in the Bible, God's Holy Spirit reminds us of our sins and teaches us about Jesus. Jesus came into the world to die on the cross and rise from the dead.

In our reading, John the Baptist says, "God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham." John means that God is able to take sinners, you and me, and make them come to life again in Jesus. With Jesus we are forgiven. We can trust in Jesus, pray to Him, and love Him.

Prayer

Dear heavenly Father, in our sins we are like stones. You sent Jesus into the world to die and rise again so that we can be forgiven and go to heaven. In Jesus You change us from stones to Your children forever! Amen.

Third Sunday in Advent

Hurry Up and Be Patient!

James 5:7-11

Object: A large clock that displays seconds

If you are using an Advent wreath, light three candles. Welcome your students.

Nice to see you, boys and girls! Display the clock. **Today I have this clock with me, and I wonder if you will help me with an experiment. Who will help me?** Raise your hand so that the kids know how to respond. **Great! I want us to watch the clock for one whole minute without speaking. Do you think you can do that?** Hold the clock so the kids can see it clearly. When the seconds hand reaches a clear point, say, **Are you ready? Go!**

Watch with the kids as the minute passes. At first, be patient. Then demonstrate increasing impatience: tap your leg; roll your eyes; yawn; say, "C'mon, c'mon!" When the minute is finally over, say, **Finally! That took forever! Sometimes I get really impatient. I have trouble waiting for the things I want. When I'm hungry, I want food now! When I am tired, I want to sleep now! When I am angry, I want to yell now! When it's almost Christmas, I want my presents now! Is anyone here like me! Raise your hands. Wow, you too, huh?**

Set the clock aside and raise the Bible to read. **In today's reading from James, it says, "Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord." We read about patience during the Church season of Advent because we are looking forward to Jesus coming at Christmas. The people of the Old Testament were impatient because they wanted a Savior. The people of the New Testament were impatient because they wanted Jesus to return. Like you and me, all people struggle to be patient. Our parents tell us to save our allowance. We are impatient. So, we spend it all. Someone hurts us. We are angry. So, we hurt that person back with our words or bodies. We are impatient to do the things that we want to do. So, we don't take time to go to church or study the Bible.**

It's all right to look forward to good things. We look forward to Christmas. However, when in impatience we disobey God, that's sin. God sent Jesus to wash our sins away. God waited for just the right time to send Jesus into the world. Jesus waited thirty years to start His ministry. He was patient when the people told lies about Him. He was patient when the soldiers laughed at Him and hit Him. He was patient when they nailed Him to the cross. Jesus was patient through His suffering and death on the cross so we could be forgiven for our impatient sins and all the others too!

Prayer

Heavenly Father, please help us to be patient with You, others, and even ourselves. Thank You for sending Jesus, who was patient on the cross for us. In Him we are forgiven. Amen.