

**NARRATIVE LECTIONARY—YEAR 1—WEEK 12
1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT**



**“WAITING AND WATCHING
FOR THE COWS TO COME HOME”**

THE PROPHET HABAKKUK

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2022

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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NARRATIVE LECTIONARY – YEAR 1

Worship in a traditional order drawing words from Year 1 of the Narrative Lectionary
from the appointed readings from the Old Testament, Acts, and Romans.

Opening Hymn

The Advent of Our King

LSB 331



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.
Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.
And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.

6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt.
Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–76

Invocation (based on Genesis 1:1-3)

P: In the beginning, God created everything:

C: *the heavens above and the earth below.*

P: At first the earth was totally empty,

C: *And the Spirit of God hovered over the waters.*

P: Then there was the voice of God. He said:

C: *Let there be light.*

P: In the beginning of our lives, God created us:

C: *awesomely and wonderfully made.*

P: At first we were without knowledge and hope in God.

C: *And the Spirit of God hovered over our baptism waters.*

P: Then there was the voice of God. He said:

C: *Let there be faith.*

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

C: *Amen.*

Confession and Absolution (Exodus 20:2, 19:1-3, Psalm 44:26, Galatians 3:13-14)

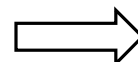
P: The Commandments which God gave to His people through Moses
begin with a promise:

**C: *I am the Lord your God,
who brought you out of the land of Egypt,
out of the house of slavery.***

P: God reminded them of His love and commitment to them and to us. He said:

“You saw how I snatched you from the bonds of slavery and carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. Now if you will hear My voice, obey what I say, and keep My covenant, then you will be My treasured people. You will be My kingdom of priests, a nation holy and set apart.”

**C: *Yes, He is the Lord our God,
who brings us out of slavery to sin.
But we have not kept His commandments.
We are not holy.
Rise up, Lord God;
come to our help!
Redeem us for the sake of your steadfast love! Amen.***



P: The Commandments which God gave to us and which we have broken begin with a promise:

C: *I am the Lord your God.*

P: Hear now this promise which redeems you, buys you back from slavery to sin: The Anointed One, *the Liberating King*, has redeemed you from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for you. *This is what God had in mind all along*: the blessing He gave to Abraham might extend to all nations through the Anointed One, Jesus; and you are the beneficiaries of this promise of the Spirit that comes *only* through faith in your Redeemer. Therefore, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *Amen. He has redeemed us for the sake of His steadfast love. Amen.*

Song of Praise (based on Psalm 44:26 & Exodus 20:2)

TBF 272

6 Rise up and re - deem us, Rise up - and re - deem us. Rise
To God be the glo - ry, to God - be the glo - ry, to

11 up - and re - deem us, for the sake of Your love. You are God, You are
God be the glo - ry for the things He has done. With His blood He has

14 Lord, God. You did save - - us from slav - 'ry. Rose
saved me; with His power He has raised me; to

up - and re - deemed us for the sake of Your love.
God - be the glo ry for the things He has done.

Church Imitating Christ

Based on Acts 2:42-47 (ESV)

P: Bethel as a congregation seeks to be a

C: Church imitating Christ.

P: In worship and teaching and devotion,

C: We devote ourselves to the Scriptures.

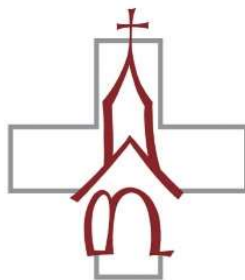
P: Jesus Christ is the Word of God in the flesh.

C: We devote ourselves to Him.

P: When we devote ourselves to the Scriptures, we are a

C: Church imitating Christ. Amen.

Church Imitating Christ



SCRIPTURE

Fellowship

Sacraments

Prayer

Mercy

Generosity

Winsomeness

Note on the Reading

(VOICE)

When Habakkuk looks around him, it seems the good suffer and the wicked prosper. The Babylonian Empire is threatening to destroy Judah, the Egyptian armies have abandoned their treaty with Jerusalem, and within Judah some of God's own people are abandoning Him for personal gain. But when he asks God why the good suffer, God explains that in the long run, they don't. God is in control of all of creation, and only He can see how current circumstances fit into His greater plan. With that knowledge, Habakkuk also praises God for answering the prophet's questions, for being in control, and for eventually vindicating His faithful followers.

This Week's Reading

Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4; 3:1-6, 17-19 (ESV)

This is the vision with which the prophet Habakkuk was burdened.

The Prophet Habakkuk:

² How long must I cry, O Eternal One, and get no answer from You?

Even when I yell to You, “*Violence is all around!*”

You do nothing to save *those in distress*.

³ Why do You force me to see these atrocities?

Why do You make me watch *such wickedness*?

Disaster and violence, conflict and controversy are raging all around me.

⁴ Your law is powerless to *stop this*; injustice prevails.

The depraved surround the innocent, and justice is perverted.

Eternal One:

⁵ Take a look at the nations and watch *what happens!*

You will be shocked and amazed.

For in your days, I am doing a work,

a work you will never believe even if someone tells you *plainly!*

⁶ Look! I am *provoking and* raising up

the bitter and thieving *Babylonian warriors* from Chaldea;

they are moving out across the earth

And seizing others' homes *and property in their path*.

⁷ That nation is terrifying *people*, is feared *by everyone*.

It makes the rules and serves only its own interests.

The Prophet Habakkuk:

¹ I will take my place at the watchtower.

I will stand at my post *and watch*.

I will watch and see what He says to me.

I need to think about how I should respond to Him

when I am reprimanded* (when He counters my argument)**.

(*NASB; **CSB)

Eternal One (to Habakkuk):

² Write down this vision.

Write it clearly on tablets, so that anyone who reads it may run.

³ For the vision points ahead to a time I have appointed;

it testifies regarding the end, and it will not lie.

Even if there is a delay, wait for it.

It is coming and will come without delay.

The Prophet Habakkuk:

⁴ So I wrote, “Look, the proud one—***

(***Robertson)

Something is not right in his soul; he is not honest and just.
 But the righteous one will live by his faithfulness.”

¹ This is the prayer that Habakkuk the prophet sang ² to the Eternal One.

The Prophet Habakkuk:

I have heard the reports about You,

 and I am in awe when I consider all You have done.

O Eternal One, revive Your work in our lifetime; reveal it among us in our times.

 As You unleash Your wrath, remember Your compassion.

³ His splendor overtakes the skies; His praise fills *every corner* of the earth.

⁴ His radiance is like a bright light, rays stream down from His hand,
 and there His power is hidden.

⁵ Pestilence marches before Him; plagues follow in His steps.

⁶ He stands *still* and surveys the earth;

 He looks their way, and the nations jump *in fear*.

Indeed, the eternal mountains crumble.

 The ancient hills *are humbled and* bow down.

 The paths He carved will last forever.

¹⁷ Even if the fig tree does not blossom and there are no grapes on the vines,

If the olive trees fail to give fruit and the fields produce no food,

If the flocks die *far* from the fold and there are no cattle in the stalls;

¹⁸ Yet I will *still* rejoice in the Eternal! I will rejoice in the God who saves me!

¹⁹ The Eternal Lord is my strength!

 He has made my feet like the feet of a deer; He allows me to walk on high places.

For the worship leader—a song accompanied by strings.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: ***Thanks be to God.***

Collect (Prayer of the Day) (Based on Habakkuk 3)

P: Let us pray. O Eternal One, God Almighty, we have heard the reports about You, and we are in awe when we consider all You have done. Revive Your work in our lifetime; reveal it among us in our times; give us eyes to see Your hand so that we may praise You in the midst of the community. As You bring about judgment for our sin and for the evil in this world, remember also Your compassion which You have prepared for us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is mercy for all who trust in Him; through this same Jesus, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Song of Praise

Emmanuel

Em-man - u - el, Em - man - u - el,
his name is called Em - man - u - el;
God with us, re - vealed in us;
his name is called Em - man - u - el.

Confession of Faith (spoken in unison)

We have come to the mountain of the LORD God,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.

Isaiah 2:3

Far be it from us
that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods,
for it is the LORD our God
who brought Israel, our forefathers in the faith,
up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery,
And it is the LORD our God
who sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to us,
who did those great signs in the sight of all the people
and now preserves us in His Way.

Joshua 24:16-17

We are confident that Jesus is the Prophet,
and that there is no God who exists in the entire world like the True God.

2 Kings 5:8,15

Since we have been *acquitted and made right* through faith,
we are able to experience *true and lasting peace* with God
through our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One, *the Liberating King*.

Jesus leads us into a place of *radical grace*
where we are able to celebrate the hope of experiencing God's glory.

We also celebrate in seasons of suffering
because we know that when we suffer we develop endurance,
and we learn what it means to hope *and anticipate God's goodness*.

And hope will never fail to satisfy our deepest need
because the Holy Spirit that was given to us
has flooded our hearts with God's love. Amen.

Romans 5:1-5

Acknowledgements

This liturgy arranged and written by the Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires. © 2022.

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Song of Praise: "To God Be the Glory" by Andraé Crouch; CCLI Song # 11218

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Cover photo: "Waiting for the Herd to Come Home", 1930s addition to turn-of-the-century barn, Bristol, WI

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Hymn of the Day

The Night Will Soon Be Ending

LSB 337 sts. 1, 3, 5



1 The night will soon be end - ing; The dawn can -
3 The earth in sure ro - ta - tion Will soon bring
5 God dwells with us in dark - ness And makes the



not be far. Let songs of praise as - cend - ing Now
morn - ing bright, So run where God's sal - va - tion Glows
night as day; Yet we re - sist the bright - ness And



greet the Morn - ing Star! All you whom dark - ness
in a sta - ble's light. As old as sin's per -
turn from God a - way. But grace does not for -



fright - ens With guilt or grief or pain, God's ra - diant
ver - sion Is mer - cy's vast de - sign: God brings a
sake us, How - ev - er far we run. God claims us



Star now bright - ens And bids you sing a - gain.
new cre - a - tion—This child its seal and sign.
still as chil - dren Through Mar - y's in - fant Son.

Text: Jochen Klepper, 1903–42; tr. Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007

Tune: Welsh

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Children's Message

Sermon

“Waiting and Watching for the Cows to Come Home”

- The Prophet Habakkuk

Offering & Prayer Requests

In addition to the prayer requests already received, Pastor will pause here to see if there are additional requests. Prayers can be thanksgivings, joy, requests for yourself, or requests for others.

Offertory (Based on Micah 6:8)

(we join in singing as the offerings are brought forward to the altar)

He has shown thee, _____ O man, _____ what is

good, and what the Lord _____ re - quires of thee; _____ He has

2. _____

But to do just - ly, _____ and to love mer - cy, _____

_____ and to walk hum - bly with _____ thy God. _____

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction (Blessing) (based on Acts 10:34-36,43; Romans 1:16-17)

P: It is clear to us that God doesn't play favorites,

that God accepts every person whatever their culture or ethnic background,
that God welcomes all who revere Him and His Way.

God sent You a message of peace

through Jesus the Anointed—who is King of all people.

Receive the forgiveness of sins through His name.

In His Good News, God's restorative justice is revealed.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

My Soul Rejoices

LSB 933



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



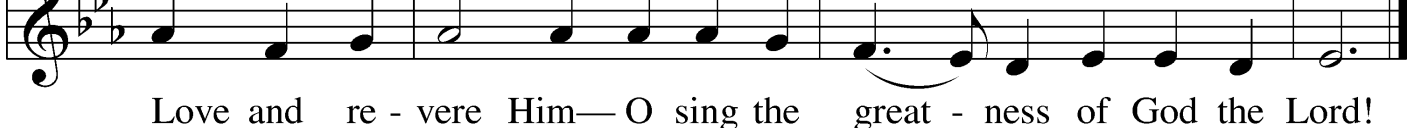
bless - ing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, c. 1556–c. 1622

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Announcements