

All I want for Christmas... An Advent Series

Rev. Michael J. Schmidt – revschmidt@yahoo.com
Peace Lutheran, Natoma & First Lutheran, Plainville

Advent 1

Theme: *All I want for Christmas is Baptism*

Readings: 2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 29; St. Matthew 3:13-17

Catechism: What benefits does Baptism give?

Sermon Hymn: #594 – *God's Own Child I Gladly Say It*

Intro – No matter what you get this Christmas, chances are good that you will not even have it next Christmas. So much of what we get is stuff we never really needed, let alone wanted.

Law – In a chaotic world, where there are wars and rumors of wars, and economic turmoil, the gift we really seek is a gift that offers security and comfort, and one that will last longer than the 12 days of Christmas.

Gospel – Baptism is the one gift we receive that will last year after year, and that brings us into the body of Christ, while also removing the stain and guilt of sin, and most importantly, grants you eternal life.

Advent 2

Theme: *All I want for Christmas is Lord's Supper*

Readings: 1 Corinthians 11:23-29; Psalm 116; St. John 6:25-40

Catechism: What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

Sermon Hymn: #625 – *Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread*

Intro – What are you looking forward to this holiday season? Gifts, family, carols, traditions? Everyone looks forward to the food.

Law – The food we eat during the holidays is temporary; stores only sell some things for a limited time, we grow tired of some of it, and the rest we just eat until it is all gone. And by January 1, we wish we had never eaten any of it, or at the very least, not as much of it.

Gospel – Lord's Supper is a meal that gives us strength for the day, and strength to face the attacks of the devil. While a small meal of bread and wine, it is a meal that gives us the assurance of forgiveness, life and salvation.

Advent 3

Theme: *All I want for Christmas is Forgiveness of Sins*

Readings: 2 Samuel 12:1-15; Psalm 32; St. John 20:19-23

Catechism: What is Confession? & What sins should we confess?

Sermon Hymn: #609 – *Jesus Sinners Doth Receive*

Intro – This is a time of year where the question is constantly asked, have you been good this past year, and the entire notion of gift-giving and presents is predicated on being good.

Law – While we may say that we have been good, and while we may in fact be good for 4 weeks, the reality is that the Law says that we are sinful and unclean, that we are by no means any good, and that we do not deserve any of the presents or treats or goodies that may come our way.

Gospel – By Christ's coming in the Bethlehem manger, and by His death and resurrection, we do not receive the death and hell that we rightly deserve, rather we receive forgiveness, life and salvation. Out of His great love for us, God the Father wipes the slate clean each time we confess our sins and receive absolution,

Advent 4

Theme: *All I want for Christmas is Prayer*

Readings: Philippians 4:4-7; Psalm 141; St. Matthew 26:36-46

Catechism: The Introduction – Our Father who art in heaven.

Sermon Hymn: #773 – *Hear Us, Father, When We Pray*

Intro – There are many people (relatives or old friends) that we only hear from once a year when we receive their Christmas card, or when they come to visit.

Law – We look around and wish there was someone we could talk to and express our feelings and concerns to, knowing that they will not judge us, knowing that they will not condemn us for speaking and thinking such things; knowing that they will always know what to say to relieve our pain.

Gospel – We can call upon our heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who Himself endured pain and agony, and who when looking for someone to whom He could pour out His heart and soul to in an hour of tribulation and distress, called upon His Father in heaven, who comforted Him in His darkest hour.

Christmas Day

Theme: All I want for Christmas is a Savior

Readings: Assigned readings (St. Matthew 1:18-25)

Catechism – Second Article Meaning

Sermon Hymn: #364 – *Away in a Manger*

Intro – Did you get what you wanted for Christmas? You got Baptism, Lord's Supper, Forgiveness and Prayer.

Law – These gifts only work, only have power to do what they say they do, if we have a Savior.

Gospel – Today we get the greatest gift, the gift of a Savior, who by His word declares that Baptism saves; who by His word declares that bread and wine are His true body and blood; who by His word declares that all sins are forgiven; who by His word declares that your prayers are heard by His Father in heaven.

Conclusion – Where do you find this gift? In the Church. Jesus is present in the water, in the bread and wine, in the Word here in His Church.

Full sermons will be posted by October 12, 2016 at

www.revschmidt.wordpress.com