



*The 2021 SAGE International  
Meditations for the  
Third Week of Advent*



*"The Son of God became a man to enable men to become the sons of God."  
C. S. Lewis*



# **The 2021 SAGE International Meditations for Advent**

## **Volume 3**

Copyright by Randy L. Wilding

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Strategic Advancement for Gospel Empowerment International

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*The Third Sunday of Advent*  
*December 12, 2021*  
*You Are My Begotten Son*

**Scripture— Psalm 2:1-12**

*“I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to Me,  
‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.  
Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance,  
and the very ends of the earth as Your possession.’” — Psalm 2:7,8*

**Devotional**

This psalm is attributed to David in Acts 4:25 and is linked with God’s promise to David that there would remain a king from David’s family who would sit on the royal throne (2 Samuel 7:12-14). In this promise, God told King David that He would treat these kings as His sons, *“I will be a father to him, and he will be a son to Me...”*. This psalm celebrates that precious relationship. It may well have been read on the coronation of these Davidic kings ascending to the throne.

However, this psalm is much more than about earthly kings. The apostles knew that this psalm spoke about King Jesus who was raised from the dead, ascended to heaven, and is now enthroned on His heavenly throne (Acts 13:30) and the Lord Jesus being *“declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead”* (Romans 1:4). Not even exalted angels, sometimes referred to as ‘sons of God’, can hold the exalted title of *“the Son of God”* (Hebrews 1:5). King Jesus is the exalted divine Son of God! Let us now bow before Him, reverence Him, adore Him and obey Him!



## Prayer

O Christ Redeemer of all people, from the Father, His only begotten,  
God alone before the beginning— Christ born without being made.

You are the Light, the Father’s splendor; You are the everlasting hope of all nations,  
Accept now our prayers from throughout the world from Your begotten.

O Author of Salvation, remember how being born of a chaste virgin,  
You took the form of our self-same body.

So today these do testify throughout the orbit of years,  
That You are the sole Advent from the Father’s throne—come for the world’s salvation.

—Ambrose of Milan (c. 339 - 397)

## An Advent Hymn

### ***“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” —Stanzas 1,2***

*Infant holy, infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall,  
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing, Noel’s ringing, tiding bringing:  
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.*

*Flocks were sleeping; Shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new;  
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow. Praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the Babe was born for you.*

A traditional Polish carol. Paraphrased by Edith Reed (1885 - 1933)



*Monday, December 13, 2021*  
*Made a Little Lower than the Angels*

**Scripture— Psalm 8:1-9**

*“What is man that You take thought of him,  
And the son of man that You care for him?  
Yet You have made him a little lower than God (or angels),  
And You crown him with glory and majesty!  
You make him to rule over the works of Your hands;  
You have put all things under his feet...”*

—Psalm 8:4-6

**Devotional**

In this psalm, David meditated on the grand idea that the God of the universe, our Creator, takes special notice and care of us, as those created in His image (Genesis 1:26-27). We are crowned with the glorious task of caring for all the creatures of this world. It is a common belief today that all animals are of equal value, therefore we should not just think of ourselves when we build a road or cook a meal. The life of animals is just as important as yours, we are told. But this has the teaching of Scripture turned around. We are to carefully care for the creatures of this world, but God gives us the privilege to use them for food, also. It is a careful, beautiful balancing task.

Yet, there is something even more grand taught in this psalm. The Apostle to the Hebrews uses this psalm (Hebrew 2:5-8) to teach us that while Jesus lived and ministered on earth for a little time, He was viewed with lesser glory than the angels. Jesus has a twofold nature: God and man. The glory of divine nature was hidden for a little while Jesus served on earth (Philippians 2:6-8). Oh, yes at times, there were glimpses of God’s glory when Jesus performed miracles or when He shined on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-8), but for most of the time, Jesus seemed to be just a man. The reality is Jesus will return again in full-blazed glory when He comes again. Then finally and completely all God’s enemies will be completely conquered under His feet.



## Prayer

O Lord, raise up we pray, Thy power and come among us,  
and with great might succor us,  
That because of our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered  
in running the race that is set before us.  
Grant Thy bountiful grace and mercy to help us steadily to deliver us  
through Jesus Christ, Thy Son and our Lord,  
Who with Thee and the Holy Spirit is due all honor and glory, now and forever.  
Amen.

Prayer by Thomas Cranmer (1489 - 1556)

## A Hymn

### ***“Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne” —Stanzas 1,2***

*Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown when Thou camest to earth for me:  
But in Bethlehem's home there was found no room for Thy holy nativity.  
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus: There is room in my heart for Thee!*

*Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang, proclaiming Thy royal degree;  
But in lowly birth didst Thou come to earth, and in great humility,  
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus: There is room in my heart for Thee!*

By Emily E. S. Elliot, 1864



*Tuesday, December 14, 2021*  
*I Have Come to Do Thy Will, O God*

**Scripture— Psalm 40:1-17**

*Sacrifice and meal offering You have not desired;  
My ears You have opened; burnt offering and sin offering You have not required.  
Then I said, “Behold, I come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me.  
I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart.” —Psalm 40:6-8*

**Devotional**

The author of this psalm is again King David. The tone, at first, is one of rejoicing over deliverance from a prior peril (vv. 1,2), from which he bursts into praise and affirmation to God because the Lord has demonstrated His goodness in the past, and promises wonderful plans for him in the future (vv. 3-5). Yet, the heart of the psalm is found in vv. 6-8 (quoted above). Because of God’s favor to him, David is ready to respond. He is aware that the ceremonial sacrifices under the Old Covenant of themselves are not adequate to deal with the offense of sin.

God has opened his ears (and his heart) to God’s Word, so David commits himself to obedience. Yet, this psalm reveals more than David’s godly desire. Despite David being a ‘*man after God’s heart*’ and a favored king of Israel, his shortcomings and sins are well known. Someone greater than David is needed. Someone is needed. with a heart for the Heavenly Father’s will and someone with an unblemished record of obedience.

It is not surprising that the Apostle to the Hebrews again draws from psalms to extol the virtues and perfection of our Lord Jesus (Hebrews 10:4-10). Animal sacrifices, even though prescribed by God in His Law, were inadequate to cleanse us from our sins. It took the person— “the body” — of our Lord Jesus Christ as the unblemished Lamb of God. Jesus came to do that which no one else could do. That is, He perfectly obeyed God’s will in every detail, every day and every minute. He delighted in God’s Law, because Jesus delighted in His Heavenly Father! Therefore, He was the perfect, blameless, unblemished, sacrificial Lamb of God. Praise God for His coming “*to do His will!*”



## Prayer

*Bless the Lord, my soul,  
And all that is within me, bless His holy name.*

*Bless the Lord, my soul,  
And do not forget any of His benefits;*

*Who pardons all your guilt,  
Who heals all your diseases;*

*Who redeems your life from the pit,  
Who crowns you with favor and compassion;*

*Who satisfies your years with good things,  
So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.*

—Psalm 103:1-5

## An Advent Hymn

### ***Good Christian Men, Rejoice*** — Stanzas 1-3

*Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul, and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born to-day;  
Ox and ass before him bow, and He is in the manger now.  
Christ is born to-day! Christ is born to-day!*

*Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul, and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath ope'd the heavenly door, and man is blessed evermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!*

*Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul, and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain His everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!*

Medieval Latin Christmas Carol. Paraphrased in English by John M. Neale, 1853



*Wednesday, December 15, 2021*  
*Your Throne, O God, Is Forever*

Scripture— Psalm 45:1-17

*Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;  
A scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom.  
You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You  
With the oil of joy above Your fellows. —Psalm 45:6-7*

**Devotional**

Psalm 45 is a poetic love-song to be sung joyfully at the king's wedding. It begins (vv. 2-5) describing the glory of the king in language reminiscent of the glory of Christ our King: the king is "*fairer than the sons of men*" (v.2a); has "*grace poured out upon your lips*" (v. 2b); is the "*Mighty One*" (v. 3a); expands His kingdom "*majestically riding on victoriously*" (v.4a); exercises His rule "*for the cause of truth and meekness-righteousness*" (v. 4b). Though these qualities extol the virtues of the king of Israel, they lead us toward their fullest expressions in the virtues of our Lord and Savior.

However, the exalted nature of the king becomes even clearer in the verses that follow as symbols of his rule are described. His throne is forever, meaning enduring throughout the generations and the scepter, reminiscent of a shepherd's staff or rod, yet now a symbol of authority, is used for righteous purposes (v. 6). This great king is anointed by God to be the Shepherd King representing God's righteous rule among His people.

With this grand portrait of a righteous, victorious, gracious king, it is no wonder that the Apostle to the Hebrews quotes this passage to affirm to us the glory of Christ, our Lord.

*But regarding the Son He says:  
"Your throne, God, is forever and ever,  
And the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of His kingdom.  
You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness;  
Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You  
With the oil of joy above Your companions."*

—Hebrews 1:8,9



## Prayer

I will lift up Your name with praise upon my lips, O my God, the King,  
I will bless Your name forever and ever.  
Every day I will bless You and I will praise Your name forever and ever.  
You are great is the Lord, and worthy of our praise; and Your greatness is unsearchable.  
O Lord, You are gracious and compassionate; slow to anger and great in mercy.  
O Lord, You are good to all, and Your mercies are over all Your works.  
O Lord, You are righteous in all Your ways, and kind in all Your works.  
O Lord, You are near to all who call on You, yes, to all who call on You in sincerity.  
You will fulfill the desire of those who reverence and honor Him;  
You will also hear their cries for help and save them.  
O Lord. You watch over all who love You, but You are opposed to all the wicked.  
I will speak with praise upon my lips to You, O Lord,  
And all Your creatures with join me to bless Your holy name forever and ever.

Prayer based on Psalm 145

## An Advent Hymn

***“All Praise to You, Eternal Lord” — Stanzas 1,4,5***

*All praise to you, eternal Lord,  
Clothed in our human flesh and blood,  
A manger choosing for your throne,  
While worlds on worlds are yours alone.*

*You came to us in darkest night  
To make us children of the light,  
To make us, in the realms divine,  
As your own angels round you shine.*

*All this for us your love has done;  
By this to you our love is won:  
For this we tune our cheerful lays,  
And shout our thanks in ceaseless praise.*

By Martin Luther, 1525; Translated in *The Sabbath Hymn Book*, 1858



*Thursday, December 16, 2021*  
*The Zeal of Thy House Has Consumed Me*

**Scripture— Psalm 69:1-12**

*Because for Your sake I have endured disgrace; Dishonor has covered my face.  
I have become estranged from my brothers, and a stranger to my mother's sons.*

*For zeal for Your house has consumed me,  
And the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.*

—Psalm 69:7-9

**Devotional**

The psalms express the full range of human emotion from exhilarated joy and happiness to a near deep pit of despair. In this psalm, David cries out to God to rescue him from the attacks of “*those who hate me*” (v. 4) and to be delivered from their reproach (v. 7). Yet in the midst of his anguished cries, a couple verses stand out as Christ-like.

Christ came to His own people, the chosen people of Israel, but His own people, for the most part, did not receive Him (John 1:11). Christ knew the experience of rejection, even from those within His own human family. Jesus’ brothers rejected Him, at least for a time, as the Messiah. Verse 9 is remembered by Jesus’ disciples when they witness our Lord’s compelling passion for His Heavenly Father’s sacred house of prayer (John 2:13-17). When Jesus saw the commercialization and fraud in the sale of sacrificial animals, He overturned the tables and drove the money-changers out, saying, “*...stop making my Father’s house a place of business.*” Upon hearing this Jesus’ disciples remembered, “*Zeal for Your House will consume Me.*”

The Pharisees had taken a sacred temple festival and turned it into a financial enterprise. But for Jesus, His driving desire was to do the will of His Father in Heaven, as He so beautifully expressed,

*“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that of everything that He has given Me I will lose nothing, but will raise it up on the last day.”*

—John 6:38-39



## Prayer

*Answer me, Lord, for Your mercy is good;  
According to the greatness of Your compassion, turn to me,  
And do not hide Your face from Your servant,  
For I am in distress; answer me quickly.  
Come near to my soul and redeem it;  
Ransom me because of my enemies!  
You know my disgrace, my shame, and my dishonor;  
All my enemies are known to You.  
Heaven and earth shall praise Him,  
The seas and everything that moves in them.  
For God will save Zion and build the cities of Judah,  
So that they may live there and possess it.  
The descendants of His servants will inherit it,  
And those who love His name will live in it.*

—Psalm 69:16-19,34-36

## An Advent Hymn

**“Once in David’s Royal City” — Stanzas 1,2,5,6**

*Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little Child  
He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall;  
With the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.  
And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love;  
For that Child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above,  
And He leads His children on to the place where He has gone.  
Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,  
We shall see Him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;  
Where like stars His children crowned all in white shall wait around.*

By Cecil F. Alexander, 1848



*Friday, December 17, 2021*  
*King David's Lord*

**Scripture— Psalm 110:1-7**

*The Lord says to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand  
Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.”*

*“The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind,  
‘You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.’”*

—Psalm 110:1,4

**Devotional**

This is one of the most quoted psalms, and perhaps the most critical psalm for understanding the Christian faith. King David, the author of the psalm, writes as the king, the lord, and master over his kingdom. Yet, David mentioned another, “*my Lord*,” whom he served as the greater Master. The Lord God, says to David’s Lord, “*Sit at My right hand, until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.*” This interchange between Lord’s (the Lord Jehovah and David’s Lord) became a key teaching point by Jesus and His apostles. The point is clear, King Jesus is David’s Lord, and as such Jesus is divine. He is given the seat of highest honor and authority at the Father’s right hand. He rules and reigns from that heavenly, divinely powerful seat until all God’s enemies are defeated. Jesus is the Conquering King!

Yet in verse four, we notice something quite surprising. The Lord God, the Heavenly Father, makes an unalterable declaration. David’s Lord, is also a Priest, “*according to the order of Melchizedek.*” This is surprising because kings were from the tribe of Judah, and priests were from the tribe of Levi, and according to Old Testament order there was ALWAYS a separation between the two. EXCEPT for this strange person known as Melchizedek. The patriarch Abraham encountered Melchizedek (the king and priest of Salem—Jerusalem). Abraham recognized his lordship with offered tithes (Gen. 14:17-20 *cf.* Hebr. 5:1-10 for a full discussion).

Therefore, Jesus is King Jesus. He is also Jesus the Great High Priest. As we have learned earlier, Jesus is The Prophet (“*The Prophet to Come*” — December 4th Meditation). He is our Prophet, Priest, and King: He is the Prophet we must listen to and hear; He is our Great High Priest who gave His life for us as the perfect sacrifice, divine Passover Lamb; and Jesus is our King that we must honor, worship and adore! He is our Savior whose coming we celebrate!



## Prayer

*Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your faithfulness:  
According to the greatness of Your compassion, wipe out my wrongdoings.  
Wash me thoroughly from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.  
For I know my wrongdoings, and my sin is constantly before me.  
Against You, You only, I have sinned and done what is evil in Your sight,  
So that You are justified when You speak and blameless when You judge.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and sustain me with a willing spirit.*

Psalm 51:1-4,10-12

## A Hymn of Praise

### ***“At the Name of Jesus” — Stanzas 1-4***

*At the name of Jesus ev'ry knee shall bow,  
Ev'ry tongue confess him King of glory now.  
'Tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,  
Who from the beginning was the mighty Word.  
At His voice creation sprang at once to sight,  
All the angel faces, all the hosts of light,  
Thrones and dominations, stars upon their way,  
All the heav'nly orders in their great array.  
Humbled for a season to receive a name  
From the lips of sinners unto whom He came,  
Faithfully He bore it spotless to the last,  
Brought it back victorious, when from death He passed.  
In your hearts enthrone Him; there let Him subdue  
All that is not holy, all that is not true;  
Crown Him as your Captain in temptation's hour:  
Let His will enfold you in its light and pow'r.*

By Caroline M. Noel, 1870



*Saturday, December 18, 2021*  
*The Stone Which the Builders Rejected*

Scripture— Psalm 118:22-23

*The stone which the builders rejected  
Has become the chief corner stone.  
This is the Lord's doing; It is marvelous in our eyes.*

—Psalm 118:22-23

**Devotional**

Psalm 118 is one of several psalms (113-118) sung to celebrate the Passover. It develops a theme of distress, yet the one who trusts in God is delivered (vv.5-9) and saved by the “*right hand of God*” (vv. 15,16). These words remind the worshipper of the great Exodus from Egypt. Yet for our meditation, we are drawn to verses 22-23, which are often quoted throughout the New Testament (Matthew 21:42; Romans 9:32-33; Ephesians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:6-8; and Acts 4:10-11).

The cornerstone is the chosen stone that builders select for the construction of a building. Some stones are acceptable—others are rejected. A *Cornerstone* is that single stone placed at the corner from which all other stones are aligned and built upon. The apostles used this passage to portray Christ as the Cornerstone of His Temple, the Church, and the Risen Lord and Savior of His People .

The Cornerstone is described as rejected by the builders, the influential leaders (the scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees) of the city. When Jesus, the King of glory, rode into Jerusalem, acclaimed by the praises of adults and children alike, the powerful religious and political power-brokers determined to reject Him have Jesus killed. His arms were stretched onto the arms of the cross, much like the Passover lamb was bound to the horns of the altar (v. 27).

The evil intent of the Cornerstone’s rejection and the sacrifice of the True Passover Lamb resulted, however, in a marvelous: acceptance by the Father and the saving sacrifice of the Lamb.

*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain...  
To receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.  
To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb...  
Be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen”*

— Revelation 5:12,13



## Prayer

*Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; — For His mercy is everlasting.*

*Let Israel say, — “His mercy is everlasting.”*

*Oh, let the house of Aaron say, — “His mercy is everlasting.”*

*Let those who fear the Lord say, — “His mercy is everlasting.”*

*Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord;*

*We have blessed You from the house of the Lord.*

*The Lord is God, and He has given us light;*

*Bind the festival sacrifice to the horns of the altar with cords.*

*You are my God, and I give thanks to You; You are my God, I exalt You.*

*Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; — For His mercy is everlasting.*

Psalm 118:1-4,26-29

## A Modern Hymn

### *“In Christ Alone” — Stanzas 1,2*

*In Christ alone my hope is found;  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This cornerstone, this solid ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My comforter, my all in all—  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.*

*In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless Babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save.  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied;  
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid—  
Here in the death of Christ I live.*

By Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend, 2002





*Children Stories  
for the  
Third Week of Advent*



*"The Son of God became a man to enable men to become the sons of God."  
C. S. Lewis*



# **The 2021 Children Stories for Advent**

## **Volume 3**

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*The Third Sunday of Advent*  
*December 12, 2021*  
*You Are My Son*

**Scripture**

*“Now I will tell you what the Lord has declared:  
He said to me, “You are my son.  
Today I have [begotten You].  
If you ask me, I will give you the nations.  
All the people on earth will be yours” — Psalm 2:7,8 [ICB edited]*

**Devotional**

A long time ago, God promised King David that there would be a king from his family on the royal throne forever. God also said to David and these future kings, *“He will be like a son to me.”* Many, many years later, Jesus came into the world and the apostles (Jesus’ close followers) knew that David, the psalm writer, was writing about King Jesus. Jesus was not just some human king that God treated like a son. He is the Divine Son, who has always existed in relationship with God the Heavenly Father and with God the Holy Spirit. God the Father will give to King Jesus a great multitude of people to Jesus. These believers from every country in the world will trust Jesus to be their Savior and follow His teaching. Does it make you wonder how our God can be Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and still be just one God?

**Prayer**

Lord Jesus, You are the Great King and Lord over all the world, receive me into Your Kingdom and receive me as one of your children, because of what You have done for me. Amen.

**An Advent Hymn**

***“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” (Stanza 1)***  
*Infant holy, infant lowly, For His bed a cattle stall,  
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing, noel’s ringing, tiding bringing:  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.*

A traditional Polish carol. Paraphrased by Edith Reed (1885 - 1933)



*Monday, December 13, 2021*  
*Made a Little Lower than the Angels*

**Scripture**

*“But why is man important to you? Why do you take care of [the son of man]?  
You made man a little lower than the angels. And you crowned him with glory and honor.  
You put him in charge of everything you made. You put all things under his control.”*

—Psalm 8:4-6 [ICB edited]

**Devotional**

God has told us through King David, the writer of psalms, that God made us to be very special. We were created with great honor and He put us in charge of everything God has made, especially the animals. It is an honor and a responsibility. God tells us that just as we take special care and attention to care for the animals, God takes special care for us also! Isn't it amazing that with all the planets, stars and animals there are, God takes special notice of us?

But this psalm tells us about Jesus as well. The apostle wrote about Jesus in Hebrews 2:5-8 saying that Jesus was for a brief time while on earth a little “lower” than the angels. During Jesus' humanity on earth, His glory was hidden for a little time while He was in this world. Jesus looked like any normal person. But Jesus was special! He is both God and man who came to do everything His Heavenly Father wanted Him to do. Then Jesus died on the cross for us sinners, so we could have a new life, with the promise that one day He will come back again.

**Prayer**

O Lord God, You are great and You are good! And we thank you for caring for us every day. Thank You, Lord Jesus, for coming into this world to be my Savior. In your name, I pray. Amen.

**An Advent Hymn**

*“Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne” (Stanza 2)*

*Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang, proclaiming Thy royal degree;  
But in lowly birth didst Thou come to earth, and in great humility,  
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus: There is room in my heart for Thee!*

By Emily E. S. Elliot, 1864



*Tuesday, December 14, 2021*  
*I Have Come to Do Thy Will, O God*

**Scripture**

*“You do not want sacrifices and offerings.  
But you have made a hole in my ear  
To show that my body and life are yours.  
You do not ask for burnt offerings and offerings to take away sins.  
Then I said, “Look, I have come. It is written about me in the book.  
My God, I want to do what You want. Your teachings are in my heart.” —Psalm 40:6-8*

**Devotional**

Have you ever felt that no matter how hard you try, it still is not good enough? There is a reason for that. We are not perfect, and sometimes other people expect us to be perfect. King David somewhat felt that way one time. He was thankful for a problem that God had helped him with, but what could he do to say thanks? Taking offerings the tabernacle just wasn't enough. He thought, “Well maybe I can commit myself to love and obey God better.”

That is where the apostle borrowed this psalm to teach us about Jesus Christ, who perfectly obeyed His Father in Heaven. Jesus honestly wanted to obey His Father all the time! Isn't it wonderful to have a Savior who obeyed perfectly, especially when our efforts are never perfect?

**Prayer**

Thank You Lord Jesus, for Your perfect, loving obedience to Your Father, since I need a perfect Savior to save and forgive me! In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.

**An Advent Hymn**

***Good Christian Men, Rejoice” — Stanzas 2***

*Good Christian men, rejoice, With heart and soul, and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath oped the heavenly door, And man is blessed evermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!*

Medieval Latin Christmas Carol. Paraphrased to English by John M. Neale, 1853



*Wednesday, December 15, 2021*  
*Your Throne, O God, Is Forever*

**Scripture**

*“God, your throne will last forever and ever.  
You will rule your kingdom with fairness. You love right and hate evil.  
So God has chosen You to rule those with you.  
Your God has given you much joy.  
—Psalm 45:6-7 (ICB)*

**Devotional**

Have you ever been to a wedding? Well, if you had you would see everyone dressed in their nicest clothes. But none would be prettier than the bride or more handsome than the groom! Psalm 45 is a wedding song, to be sung at the king’s wedding. It begins by telling us how wonderful and great the king is, then later in the psalm tells us how beautiful and fair the bride is.

But in the middle of the Psalm in the verse we just read, we are told how the king rules over God’s people in a manner that is good for all the people. Shortly after Jesus lived, another writer used these words to teach us that Jesus Christ is God. Jesus is good and He hates evil things. Also, we learn from this psalm and other places in the Bible that God the Father has chosen Jesus to be our King, the Ruler in the Church, and Savior of sinners.

**Prayer**

Lord Jesus, our King and Savior, rule in my heart so that I may love you and obey you and help me to tell others how great, good and loving you are. Please help me Lord, I pray. Amen.

**An Advent Hymn**

*“All Praise to You, Eternal Lord” — Stanza 1*

*All praise to you, eternal Lord,  
Clothed in our human flesh and blood,  
A manger choosing for your throne,  
While worlds on worlds are yours alone.*

By Martin Luther, 1525; Translated in *The Sabbath Hymn Book*, 1858



*Thursday, December 16, 2021*  
*The Zeal of Thy House Has Consumed Me*

**Scripture**

*I am like a stranger to my brothers. I am like a foreigner to my mother's sons.*

*My strong love for your [house] completely controls me.*

*When people insult you, it hurts me.e.*

—Psalm 69:8-9 [ICB edited]

**Devotional**

Have you every felt like everyone was against you. Sometimes people with hearts filled full of hatred do evil things to others. That is the way David felt when his enemies said horrible things about him. So he prayed to God and told the Lord how he felt. While he was praying he remembered how much he loved God's house. Where God's people came to offer sacrifices to God and pray.

Jesus also had the same feeling toward the house where God showed His presence on earth, the Temple in Jerusalem. One time, when Jesus came to Jerusalem to worship, He saw temple leaders cheating worshippers who came to buy animals for the sacrifice. Jesus was so angry at these leaders that He turned over their tables and drove them from the temple. He was angry with them, because Jesus' Heavenly Father was angry because of the evil things they were doing.

Is our anger like Jesus' anger? Or do we just get mad when we don't get what we want?

**Prayer**

Lord God, thank you for Jesus who understands everything I'm going through and the way I feel. Thank you for Your great love and kindness because I know I am always safe with you. Amen.

**An Advent Hymn**

***“Once in David's Royal City” — Stanzas 1,2,5,6***

*Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her Baby in a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little Child*

By Cecil F. Alexander, 1848



*Friday, December 17, 2021*  
*King David's Lord Is King Jesus*

**Scripture**

*The Lord said to my Master, "Sit by me at my right side  
until I [completely conquer] your enemies."*

—Psalm 110:1 [ICB edited]

**Devotional**

Did you grow up saying to your parents, “*Yes Sir*” and “*Yes, Ma'am*”? That is how many children, in the South particularly, we reared to reply with honor to their parents. The people God has given a right to have authority to rule over us are to be honored and respected. During the days when kings and queens ruled, the people would call them “*Lord*” out of respect.

Once when King David was writing a song, the king mentioned that God the Father was talking to David’s Lord! This was surprising since there was no one greater than David in his kingdom, that he should have to call, “*Lord.*” God used David to teach us an important lesson, David’s Lord, is King Jesus. After Jesus finished His work on earth, God’s power raised Jesus back to life and He went back to heaven to be Lord over all the world. So Jesus not only died for our sins, He is also God so that is why we should worship and obey Him. He is our Lord and He rules over the world for our good.

**Prayer**

Dear Lord, King Jesus, rule in my heart so I will honor You, worship You, and obey You. In Your holy name, I pray. Amen.

**A Hymn of Praise**

*“At the Name of Jesus” — Stanzas 1*

*At the name of Jesus ev'ry knee shall bow,  
Ev'ry tongue confess him King of glory now.  
'Tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,  
Who from the beginning was the mighty Word.*

By Caroline M. Noel, 1870



*Saturday, December 18, 2021*  
*The Stone They Did Not Want*

**Scripture**

*“The Stone that the builders did not want became the cornerstone.  
The Lord did this, and it is wonderful to us.”*  
—Psalm 118:22-23 (ICB)

**Devotional**

Have you seen a construction site where people are building a big house. It takes careful planing and work to construct the building just right. In Jesus day, builders began with a cornerstone at the edge from which all other stones were lined-up and built upon. In this way, the house would be built straight and would not fall over. Not every stone was good enough for this very important, first stone, so some stones would be thrown away.

Jesus is called a Cornerstone in the Bible. He is the key person on which we build our lives. We are to line up our lives with His. In Jesus day, many people rejected Jesus and they killed Him, but God the Father was so pleased with Jesus’ life and sacrifice. That is why He calls Jesus our Cornerstone! Do you ever wonder how to build your life on Christ?

**Prayer**

Lord Jesus, help me daily to line up my life with Yours, so that my life can be built upon the Rock. In your precious name, I pray. Amen.

**A Modern Hymn**

*“In Christ Alone” — Stanza 2*

*In Christ alone, Who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless Babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.  
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied;  
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid—  
Here in the death of Christ I live.*

By Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend, 2002

