



## Advent 2018

***"Here I am, I have come to do Your will."* Hebrews 10:9**

This year we have prepared a special "Advent Calendar" for you. There will be a short reflection and task for every day during the Advent period. It will contain 1 or 2 verses from the Gospel of the day (from New Jerusalem Bible), task for each day and a quote from BP connected to the topic of the day.

As the theme for the whole Advent has been chosen a verse from the Epistle to the Hebrews „*Here I am, I have come to do Your will.*" Through the reflections and tasks we will try to prepare ourselves to become the ones who would spread the joy and peace (through the healing and purifying). We will go through different faces of what does it mean to be prepared to accept, do and live His will.

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### I<sup>st</sup> WEEK

#### ***The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, December 2<sup>nd</sup>***

- *When he heard this he replied, 'It is not the healthy who need the doctor, but the sick.* (Matthew 9:12)
- Reflection and task:

If I want to receive healing I need to accept the fact that I was injured. Me myself need the help of others. Try to be more aware today how people around you have helped. Thank for them in the evening prayer.

- *(701) Sunday is a day of rest; loafing is not rest. (SFB)*

#### ***Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>***

- *The spirit of the Lord is on me, for he has anointed me to bring the good news to the afflicted. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives, sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free* (Luke 4:18)
- Reflection and task:

The deepest healing is coming through Christ. Allow him to act in us through a good confession - purifying our conscience.

- *(337) Remember that St. Paul said the God was "the God of Hope". Hope gives you pluck and comfort at a bad time, and your hopefulness will comfort others round you and nerve them to stick out. (The Scout April 24 1920)*

#### ***Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>***

- *And his teaching made a deep impression on them because his word carried authority.* (Luke 4:32)
- Reflection and task:

Let the power of God's Word act more in your life today - find 15 minutes more for the reading from Scripture.

- *(293) Godwill is God's will. (RTS, 16)*



### **Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**

- *When daylight came he left the house and made his way to a lonely place. The crowds went to look for him, and when they had caught up with him they wanted to prevent him leaving them*

(Luke 4:42)

- Reflection and task:

If you want to fulfill God's will, you need to recognize it. Find a moment for a quiet walk today and listen to the silent voice of God that speaks softly through your heart.

- *(886) There is a great value and great art in keeping silent. You learn in this way. Talking gives away many a man to the silent watcher. It is the silent man, the one who only speaks when he has got something really important to say, who is the one they listen to. "It is the silent man who does things". (RTS, 156)*

### **Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**

- *Simon replied, 'Master, we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.'*

(Luke 5:5)

- Reflection and task:

Try to trust more today: Give your day to God straight in the morning, and when you come to any trouble just repeat with St. Faustina - Jesus, I trust you! And He will take care of you.

- *(409) Liberty with love can work wonders. Think it out. (HQG, July 1921)*

### **Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**

- *He also told them a parable, 'No one tears a piece from a new cloak to put it on an old cloak; otherwise, not only will the new one be torn, but the piece taken from the new will not match the old.'*

(Luke 5,36)

- Reflection and task:

Avoid half-heartedness and make things better today. When you study, study and do not think about hobbies. When you relax, do not think about school. When you're with your friends, put your phone down. When you make a phone call, turn off the TV ... etc.

- *Therefore, try and think before doing a thing and ask yourself the question: "Does God want me to do this?". If the reply in your mind says: "Yes", then do it; and if it says: "No", then don't do it. It is not a difficult thing to live a straight and clean life if you only remember to think first and do after. (Girl Guiding, p.107)*

### **Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**

- *He had made up his mind to do this when suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit.'*

(Matthew 1:20)

- Reflection and task:



Acting of Joseph has a feature of a conflict, a perplexity. The words of the angel came as the solution of his doubts. Stop today in moments of uncertainty and fear. Listen to God and do not be afraid to do good even when it seems to be demanding.

- *I believe that our first business in life is to be happy. This world, with all its beauties and its sunshine of happiness, was meant for us to enjoy. [...] The shortest and most certain way to happiness is to make other people happy. (Adventuring To Manhood, p.177)*

## II<sup>nd</sup> WEEK

### **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, December 9<sup>th</sup>**

- *“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low.  
(Luke 3:4)*
- Reflection and task:

Think about your own life: your family, your school, your work and your friends. How is God trying to talk to you? Try to find the “orange peels” in your life. Pay attention to God’s presence in one person or situation.

- *The spirit is there in every boy; it has to be discovered and brought to light. (Robert Baden-Powell)*

### **Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**

- *"What are you thinking in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'?"  
(Luke 5:23)*
- Reflection and task:

Who in your life is most often left out? Why do you think that is? What can you do to include them? Try to recognize the presence of Jesus in people who are sick. Think of someone you know who is sick—and reach out to him or her today.

- *My belief is that we were put into this world of wonders and beauty with a special ability to appreciate them, in some cases to have the fun of taking a hand in developing them, and also in being able to help other people instead of overreaching them and, through it all, to enjoy life - that is, to be happy. (Robert Baden-Powell)*

### **Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**

- *It is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones be lost."  
(MT 18:14)*
- Reflection and task:

Read John 14:27-31. Meditate on and give thanks to our Heavenly Father for the peace every believer has in Jesus. .

Read aloud Luke 2:1-21 and discuss what the shepherds must have thought when meeting our savior and how this affected their lives and how should it affect your life.

- *We never fail when we try to do our duty, we always fail when we neglect to do it. (Robert Baden-Powell)*



### **Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**

- *Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word?"*  
(Luke 1:38)

- Reflection and task:

Pray with your family throughout this season that you and your entire family recognizes that Jesus is the greatest joy. Sit with your family and name the greatest thing ever! Then talk about how Jesus is so much better than that!

- *Nature study will show you how full of beautiful and wonderful things God has made the world for you to enjoy. Be contented with what you have got and make the best of it. Look on the bright side of things instead of the gloomy one. (Robert Baden-Powell)*

### **Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**

- *The Kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent are taking it by force.*  
(MT 11:13)

- Reflection and task:

Allow God to take over all of your situations and ask for peace within your heart to accept his will. Ask God for the courage to spread the amazing message that the peace and love from Jesus is for everyone.

Make cards and deliver them to a local nursing home to remind the residents of God's love which will allow them to have peace in their hearts knowing that God is always with them.

- *In assisting his 'neighbour' every day to the best of his ability, and keeping truth, honesty, and kindness perpetually before him, the Boy Scout, with as little formality as possible, is pleasing God. (Robert Baden-Powell)*

### **Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**

- "To what shall I compare this generation? It is like children who sit in marketplaces and call to one another, 'We played the flute for you, but you did not dance, we sang a dirge but you did not mourn.'  
(MT 11:16)

- Reflection and task:

Pray today for opportunities to show the love of Christ to others. Pray to stay focused on loving one another - the kind, the rude, the beautiful and the not so beautiful. Love one another.

Practice showing love to each other by doing kind things for those in your family. Think of one nice thing you can do for each person and then figure out a way to do that.

- *The best workers, like the happiest livers, look upon their work as a kind of game: the harder they play the more enjoyable it becomes. (Robert Baden-Powell)*

### **Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**

- *So also will the Son of Man suffer at their hands?" Then the disciples understood*  
(MT 17:9)

- Reflection and task:



How can I serve those in need in my community?

Choose some toys or household items—make sure they're in good condition— and give them to a family in need. GIVE

- *There are thousands of boys being wasted daily to our country through being left to become characterless, and, therefore, useless wasters, a misery to themselves and an eyesore and a danger to the nation. They could be saved if only the right surroundings or environment were given to them at the receptive time of their lives. (Robert Baden-Powell)*

### III<sup>rd</sup> WEEK

#### **The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent , December 16<sup>th</sup>**

- *Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?'*  
(Mark 8:27)
- Reflection and task:

Talk to someone today about God – if he/she believes in one, why he/she believes, who is God for him/her and what he means to him/her.

- *(903) I have always maintained that if the right spirit is there, it can knock the “im” of the word “impossible” (LVI,235)*

#### **Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**

- *When they came to Jesus they pleaded earnestly with him saying, 'He deserves this of you, because he is well disposed towards our people; he built us our synagogue himself.'*  
(Luke 7:4-5)
- Reflection and task:

A good man deserves an appreciation. Pay attention today to the good deeds of others and do not hesitate to praise them, in order to be noticed by the others.

- *(280) Do your Good Turn not only to your friends, but to strangers, and even to yours enemies. (SFB, OFP, 20th)*

#### **Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**

- *When the Lord saw her he felt sorry for her and said to her, 'Don't cry.'*  
(Luke 7:13)
- Reflection and task:

One can not see well through tears, so he/she can get lost in his/her sadness. If you will see someone sad, disappointed, unhappy ... do not hesitate to come and enjoy him. E.g.: You can say "I will pray for you" to someone who has shared a difficulty.

- *(818) The motto of the Guides on which they work is “Be Prepared”, that is the ready for any kind of duty that may be trust upon them, and what is more, to know what to do by having practised it beforehand, (GG, 63)*



### **Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**

- *'What comparison, then, can I find for the people of this generation? What are they like? "They are like children who sit in the market place and call to one another; and they say, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.'* (Luke 7:31-32)

- Reflection and task:

Nowadays we are accustomed to the noise in which important messages are lost. Get out of this noise today, put off your headphones, turn off the TV and radio. Listen more to people around you.

- (887) *"Nature gave us one tongue, but two ears, so that we may hear just twice as much as we speak:" (RTS, 159)*

### **Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**

- *For this reason I tell you that her sins, many as they are, have been forgiven her, because she has shown such great love. It is someone who is forgiven little who shows little love.'* (Luke 7:47)

- Reflection and task:

To love means to see in everyone a precious person, it means to have a deep respect for life and to the whole world. Try today to deal with others as they would be the most precious gift in your life.

- *Remember, "Now abideth Faith, and Hope, and Love – these three. But the greatest of these is Love". Carry on in that spirit and you cannot fail. (The Scouter, December 1937)*

### **Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**

- *As Jesus was walking on from there he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office, and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.* (Matthew 9:9)

- Reflection and task:

Each of us, even though he/she has completely failed in his/her life, is called to follow Christ. Try to rectify some of your failings today - ask for the forgiveness the person you have offended in the past; try to forgive the one who hurt you; complete the task that you have done sloppily in the past ... etc.

- (681) *"Be a player in God's team". (RTS, 199)*

### **Saturday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- *And some seed fell into good soil and grew and produced its crop a hundredfold.' Saying this he cried, 'Anyone who has ears for listening should listen!'* (Luke 8:8)

- Reflection and task:

A diet of amoral and immoral programs can and will corrupt your values. In order to prepare your heart to be good soil for seeds of God try to control the media you watch and listen to.

- *What is one's duty? Surely it is to develop and make best use of the wonderful body, and mind, and soul which the Creator has given - no, not given but lent - to us. (Self-examination for Rover Vigil, 1928 )*



IV<sup>th</sup> WEEK

### **The 4th Sunday, December 23<sup>th</sup>**

- *Cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.*  
(Luke 1:42)
- Reflection and task:

Ask the Lord to help you see through the eyes of Jesus, and “regard no one according to the flesh.” Extend the love of Christ to others, even in times of frustration.

As a family, visit an older member of our church or community. Bring them a homemade gift or card for their home. Share the love of Christmas with them.

- *No man is much good unless he believes in God and obeys His laws. (Robert Baden-Powell)*

### **Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

- *“In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.”*  
(Luke 1:78)
- Reflection and task:

Pray specifically about ways to spend time with Jesus, especially during the Christmas season. That may sound silly, but we tend to forget the “reason for the season” when our eyes are fixed on worldly pleasures instead of on our Savior.

Read one of your favorite Christmas children’s books. Even if your children are grown, or even if you’re single, you’ll enjoy spending a few quiet moments reflecting on the simple joys of the season.

- *Try and leave this world a little better than you found it, and when your turn comes to die, you can die happy in feeling that at any rate, you have not wasted your time but have done your best. (Robert Baden-Powell)*

### **CHRISTMAS 25<sup>TH</sup> December**

- *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.*  
(Luke 2:14)
- Reflection and task:

Dear God, Thank you for the example of pure Joy through your son, who with joy endured the cross for us. Pray that we always know we have the same power in us that makes it possible to always have joy, no matter what. Amen.

Our family loves to hike, but sometimes during the Christmas season, we get too busy to hit the trail. Even if you’re not up to a long hike, get outside and take a walk in the cool, brisk air, and think of the joy that lives in you because of Christ!

- *No one can pass through life, any more than he can pass through a bit of country, without leaving tracks behind, and those tracks may often be helpful to those coming after him in finding their way. (Robert Baden-Powell)*