

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 2015 Daily Lectionary <u>LSB</u> pp. 299-304		1 Is 7:10 -- 8:8 1 Pt 3:1-22 Ps 34:11-18	2 Is 8:9 -- 9:7 1 Pt 4:1-19 Ps 119:105-112	3 Is 9:8 -- 10:11 1 Pt 5:1-14 Ps 55:16-23	4 Is 10:12 - 27a, 33 - 34 2 Pt 1:1-21 Ps 145:1-9	5 Is 11:1 -- 12:6 2 Pt 2:1-22 Ps 49:5-12, 15
6 2 nd S. in Advent Is 14:1-23 2 Pt 3:1-18 Ps 56:1-2, 5-11, 13	7 Is 24:1-13 1 Jn 1:1 -- 2:14 Ps 25:1-7	8 Is 24:14 -- 25:12 1 Jn 2:15-29 Ps 11	9 Is 26:1-19 1 Jn 3:1-24 Ps 17:6-15	10 Is 26:20 -- 27:13 1 Jn 4:1-21 Ps 86:1-7	11 Is 28:14-29 1 Jn 5:1-21 Ps 5:1-8	12 Is 29:1-14 Jude 1-25 Ps 106:1-5
13 3 rd S. in Advent Is 29:15 -- 30:14 Rv 1:1-20 Ps 89:20-29	14 Is 30:15-26 Rv 2:1-29 Ps 27:1, 4-5, 11-14	15 Is 30:27-- 31:9 Rv 3:1-22 Ps 146:1-7	16 Is 32:1-20 Rv 4:1-11 Ps 149	17 Is 33:1-24 Rv 5:1-14 Ps 40:1-5, 16-17	18 Is 34:1-2, 8 -- 35:10 Rv 6:1-17 Ps 119:81-88	19 Is. 40:1-17 Rev. 7:1-17 Ps 103:11-18
20 4 th S. in Advent Is 40:18 -- 41:10 Rev. 8:1-13 Ps 119:25-32	21 Is 42:1-25 Rv 9:1-12 Ps 102:24-28	22 Is 43:1-24 Rv 9:13 -- 10:11 Ps 115:1-8, 11	23 Is 43:25 -- 44:20 Rv 11:1-19 Ps 39:4-8	24 Christmas Eve Is 44:21 -- 45:13, 20-25 Rv 12:1-17 Ps 98:1-6, 9	25 Christmas Is 49:1-18 Mt 1:1-17 Ps 96:1-5, 11-13	26 Is 49:22-26; 50:4 -- 51:8, 12-16 Matt. 1:18-25 Ps 34:4-10, 19
27 1 st S. a. Christmas Is 51:17-52:12 Mt 2:1-12 Ps 27:1,4,10-15, 18-19	28 Is 52:13 -- 54:10 Mt 2:13-23 Ps 9:11-14	29 Is 55:1-13 Lk 1:1-25 Ps 78:1-7	30 Is 58:1 -- 59:3, 14-21 Lk 1:26-38 Ps 89:1-4, 14-18	31 Is 60:1-22 Lk 1:39-56 Ps 111:1-6, 10	Notes from: <u>A Small Catechism on Human Life</u> By John T. Pless, 2006 LCMS Life Ministries, pp. 44-47.	

WHAT DOES REDEMPTION HAVE TO DO WITH BODILY LIFE?

There is a tendency to either idolize the body or ignore it. On the one hand, our culture glorifies the search for the perfect body—youthful, fit, attractive and healthy. On the other hand, there are ethicists who lament an “excessively physicalist approach,” ... arguing instead that emphasis should be placed on such intangible dimensions as freedom of personal expression and the quality of relationship. Neither of these extremes are consistent with the Christian faith, for the Son of God took on human flesh and blood to redeem us in body and soul. The body is created, redeemed and hallowed by God, Who destines it for the resurrection. The words that the pastor speaks at the grave actually tell us much about life: “May God the Father, who created this body, may God the Son, who by His blood redeemed this body, may God the Holy Spirit, who by Holy Baptism sanctified this body to be His temple, keep these remains to the day of the resurrection of all flesh.”

God’s Son has a body. In the womb of Mary, Jesus was conceived by the Spirit and grew as an embryo through the nine months of gestation to birth. By His incarnation, He has hallowed life in the womb. Redemption is not merely a spiritual transaction. It was accomplished by Christ Jesus in His flesh and blood. So the Catechism reminds us that Jesus Christ, true God begotten of the Father from all eternity and true man, born of the Virgin *Mary* “has redeemed me a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.”

Bought with a price, our bodies are not our own. This is the point Paul uses to clinch the case against sexual immorality: “You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body” (1 Co 6:19b-20). You do not belong to yourself, and that is good news. The Second Article of the Creed, just like the First Article, shows us that autonomy is a lie! In contrast to the beguiling temptation to be autonomous, a temptation that only drags us down to despair, entangling us in a life which is ultimately dead-ended, the Catechism promises something far more liberating and expansive. It promises life in Jesus, who is bodily risen from the grave. He has redeemed our bodies and souls “that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.” And because it is most certainly true, all empty promises of autonomy are unmasked for what they really are—lies from the father of lies.

Study question: What does the Incarnation have to do with the way we treat life in the body at all stages?