

For those who wonder about the composition of this series, it has become the tradition at the congregation where I serve to devote the lections for midweek Advent services to three church holidays that are often overlooked: The Annunciation (March 25/Luke 1:26-38), the Visitation (May 31/Luke 1:39-56), and the Nativity of St. John the Baptist (June 24/Luke 1:57-80). These texts are rich in doctrine and a fine Advent preparation for the Christmas season. You can find a few Advent sermon series on these three holidays on www.scholia.net.

During our Advent Vespers services, we will also be chanting Psalm 97 each of the three evenings; and, to approach our lections from a different angle, these sermons begin with Psalm 97 in order to extol the joy of Luke 1. This is not to say that Psalm 97 is somehow directly referencing the events of St. Luke's first chapter, but certainly the Lord's truth remains consistent in both. We thus rejoice that the mighty God of the psalms is the same as the One who lies swaddled in Bethlehem, all for our salvation and joy.

Advent greetings to you.

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