

KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING TEACHING SUPPLEMENT

3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, 2023

BIBLE LESSON:

ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11
JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

The Year of the Lord's Favor Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

Isaiah prophesies of the Servant/Messiah who will come, bringing good news and everlasting joy to all God's people. We are the broken-hearted souls he is referring to in verse 1 that Jesus, the Messiah is coming to rescue. We are trapped by our prison of sin that He has come to free us from.

Verse 2 also talks about vengeance, but as it says in John 3:17 when Jesus first came to earth, He came to save, and that day of judgement will happen later when Jesus comes again. In the meantime, Isaiah tells us that we must recognize our brokenness and confess our sins, understanding that we are trapped in a condition from which we cannot free ourselves.

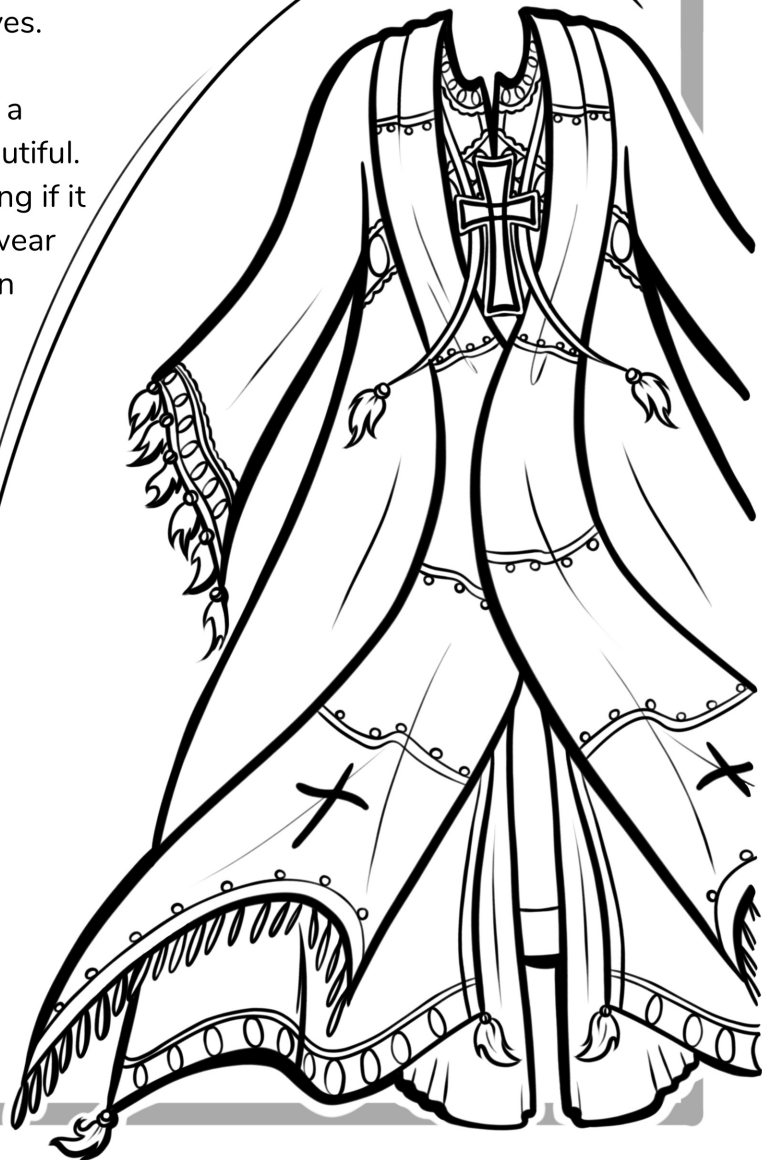
In verse 3 Isaiah explains that we will trade in a headdress made of ashes for a crown that is beautiful. The ashes represent the death we would be facing if it were not for Jesus saving us, instead we get to wear the pure, white clothing and jewels like a bride on her wedding day.

The Word Became Flesh John 1: 6-8, 19-28

The Gospel reading for today is about John the Baptist—a man who knew Jesus and who prepared the way for Him much like the prophet Isaiah. Even though John was Jesus' earthly cousin, the writer John makes it clear that John the Baptist was a “man sent from God”, chosen to tell everyone about Jesus.

In verse 22 when John is asked about who he is, he doesn't brag about his relationship to Jesus, instead he explains that he has been sent to loudly prepare people for Jesus. Just like Isaiah had

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(Continued)



LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE
OF CANADA

said in the Old Testament reading, John also instructed people to recognize their brokenness and confess their sins in preparation for Jesus' arrival.



Prayer

Let us pray together: Dear Father in Heaven, thank you for using your prophets Isaiah and John the Baptist to tell people about Jesus. Please help us also to be humble servants who are excited to tell people about you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Notes: