

# *Joining the Feast*

Year B  
Winter 2023–2024  
First Sunday of Advent—Second Sunday  
in Lent



# What you will find in *Joining the Feast!*

## The Church Year Calendar

Describes the important church festivals and special days for the coming season. It provides theological reflections on their importance for the church's life and our own lives.

## The Shape of the Season

Presents an overview of the focus scriptures for the weeks in the coming season. It discusses the biblical and theological significance of each of the passages.

## Joining Worship and Learning: Making the Connections and Time with Children

A helpful feature in this section of *Joining the Feast* is the inclusion of the stories on the focus scriptures from the multi-age course. These stories can be used in the children's time during worship. Notice that some songs are used by several age levels but not in the same session. If you are interested in including a prayer, poetry, or artwork from an age level, speak with the leader in advance. May your congregational worship be enlivened by these suggestions to join worship and learning.

## Joining Mission and Learning

Help the participants in the *Feasting on the Word Curriculum* connect with existing service opportunities in your congregation. Review this list, and offer suggestions to the leaders. Give this chart to the chair of the mission or outreach committee so that the work of the committee can be strengthened through the church school.

## Litanies and Prayers

A selection of poetic prayers and responsive readings that helps worship leaders connect the church's educational and worship experiences to find fullness and blessing in the praise and service of God.

## Children's Bulletins

A fun activity page is provided weekly to give children a sense of belonging and help them feel welcome in the worship experience. These special children's bulletins connect their worship experience to the education themes.

## Joining the Feast

We invite you to “Join the Feast”!

Our exciting *Feasting on the Word Curriculum* offers great opportunities for the local church. Pastors, educators, and participants can experience the wonder of God’s nourishing word to us. For church schools, for study groups, and in preparation for teaching and preaching, the resources here will deepen and strengthen our faith. We have an amazing “feast” set before us! We desire and can find further understanding in our faith—of who God is and what God has done!

*Joining the Feast* helps pastors, educators, and worship leaders plan for education and worship. We want to assist in reflecting on how to incorporate scriptural and seasonal emphases across different parts of the church’s life.

*Joining the Feast* can be shared in education and worship committees. It enables important biblical themes to be integrated into the church’s study and worship experiences. A chart of suggestions for ways educational emphases can be used in worship is a feature of what follows here. Church school teachers can discuss these materials with each other to enhance education for all age levels in the church. Pastors who plan their lectionary preaching will find taking an overall look at this church season to be useful for their preparations. In all this we want to join teaching and preaching. We want the church’s educational and worship experiences to find fullness and blessing in the praise and service of God!

An important goal for pastors and educators in the church is to connect or join the church’s educational experience with the church’s worship experience. People of all ages who participate in church school study can find their Christian faith enhanced when the Scriptures read and proclaimed in worship reinforce and expand what they have been considering in their educational time. Education and worship can be mutually supportive in helping God’s word in Scripture come alive in the Sunday morning experience. Consideration of the same lectionary reading in preaching can deepen the insights gained in church school.

Pastors who want to build on what has been done in education welcome this *Feasting on the Word Curriculum* as a way to prepare congregational members for directions into which the sermon can lead. Those who participate in the education time will find the insights gained there enhanced by preaching which considers the same passage and brings God’s word to bear in fresh and nourishing ways. So as we “Join the Feast,” joining the church’s educational and worship dimensions can bring to life the richness of God’s word in Scripture.

Donald K. McKim



## ***Feasting on the Word Curriculum: Teaching the Revised Common Lectionary***

*Feasting on the Word Curriculum* is an exciting, ecumenical, downloadable curriculum resource. It incorporates the uniqueness of the *Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary* series (12 volumes; Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008–11), which provides four different approaches to each of the biblical passages for each of the lectionary readings in the Revised Common Lectionary.

*Feasting on the Word Curriculum: Teaching the Revised Common Lectionary* is designed for classroom use in the church among various age levels, including children, youth, and adults. Adaptable to a variety of learning settings and teaching styles, this innovative curriculum resource integrates the *Feasting on the Word* commentary style to explore one of the lectionary passages in ways suitable for all participants. This approach connects worship and faith formation like no other lectionary curriculum ever has.

Each age level of *Feasting on the Word Curriculum* provides comprehensive, accessible, biblical background for teachers from four perspectives.

**What? (Exegetical)** Basic information about the backgrounds and meanings of Scripture is essential to understanding. This stream asks, “What?” What are the important things to know about the contexts, language, and settings of the biblical passage?

**Where? (Theological)** To understand the meanings of passages, we also need to ask, “Where?” Where is God in this passage? Where are God’s will and activities being expressed? Theological questions about where God’s word comes to us in the passage are significant.

**So What? (Pastoral)** The implications of the passage for our Christian lives make the biblical passage come alive. We ask, “So what?” What does this passage mean to me? What does it mean for my relationship with God and other people?

**Now What? (Homiletical)** Biblical passages shape our understandings and lives in the church. They connect us with needs in God’s world. So we ask, “Now what?” This prompts us to reflect on how our life and the church’s life can live out what the passage is saying.



# CHILDREN'S BULLETIN

December 3, 2023

## Paul's Kind Words

based on 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Paul went to the city of Corinth to teach about Jesus. He helped the people there start a church. After Paul moved on, he wrote letters to the Christians in the church in Corinth. This is how one of the letters begins:








*To: The people in the church in Corinth and any others who believe in Christ.*

*From: Paul, a messenger for Jesus the Christ, God's chosen Savior.*



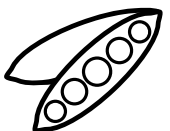
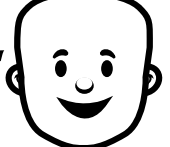
*I pray that God and Jesus the Christ will give you peace and grace. I thank God for you all the time. I give thanks that Jesus helps you to know God. The way you speak about Jesus shows that you know the truth about God's love.*

*It is clear that God has given you everything you need until Jesus comes again. God keeps promises! It is God who has called you to believe in Christ and will help you to believe in Jesus' ways forever.*

Decode the rebus to write one of the things Paul wrote to the church in Corinth.



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Color the items that would be helpful in building a church today.  
Draw an X over all of the other images.

