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### Lessons for Sundays and Holy Days.

December 24—Fourth Sunday in Advent.

Morning.—Isai. 30:1—27; Rev. 14.  
Evening.—Isai. 32 or 33:2—23; Rev. 15.

December 25—Christmas Day.

Morning.—Isai. 9:1—8; Luke 2:1—15.  
Evening.—Isai. 7:10—17; Titus 3:4—9.

December 27—St. John A. & Evan.

Morning.—Exod. 33:9; John 13:23—36.  
Evening.—Isai. 6; Rev. 1.

December 28—Innocents' Day.

Morning.—Jer. 31:1—18; Rev. 16.  
Evening.—Bar. 4:21—31; Rev. 18.

Appropriate Hymns for Fourth Sunday in Advent, Christmas Day, and Sunday after Christmas, compiled by Dr. Albert Ham, F.R.C.O., organist and director of the choir of St. James' Cathedral, Toronto. The numbers are taken from the New Hymn Book, many of which may be found in other hymnals.

### FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT.

Holy Communion: 232, 234, 237, 243.  
Processional: 59, 64, 432, 476.  
Offertory: 325, 390, 486, 564.  
Children: 66, 707, 719, 727.  
General: 108, 395, 471, 768.

### CHRISTMAS DAY.

Holy Communion: 248, 249, 386, 668.  
Processional: 72, 73, 76, 599.  
Offertory: 75, 79, 81, 742.  
Children: 77, 712, 723, 737.  
General: 74, 78, 514, 738.

### SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS.

Holy Communion: 239, 259, 261, 397.  
Processional: 76, 81, 91, 599.  
Offertory: 90, 390, 514, 570.  
Children: 697, 701, 709, 712.  
General: 78, 88, 566, 654.

## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD.

If we are to have any joy whatsoever in the prospect of our Lord's Second Coming we must have learned to rejoice by reason of the blessings brought to us by the Incarnation of the Son of God. "Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, Rejoice. . . . The Lord is at hand," wrote St. Paul to the Philippians. And St. Paul then believed that the Lord was going to return during his days. There is no doubt that our Lord promised to return; and, as we have noted in a previous meditation, He has, in many ways, fulfilled that promise. He comes to us in Baptism, Conversion, Confirmation, in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar, at death. But there will be a consummation of all these comings at the last day. Do we not rejoice in all the above-mentioned spiritual opportunities? Are we really filled with joy when we think of His return to judge where He was judged? The bells of the city of God are ringing out; once again we read over all the touchingly sweet stories of the Nativity; everywhere men and women are performing deeds which betoken good-will; there is more kindness abroad than through all the rest of the year; the spirit of this week is quite unique. Why are all these things so? Because as at this time God revealed His love to men, and we are demonstrating that we are His children through Jesus Christ. Because we are rejoicing in the great blessings of the Incarnation, and we desire more and more of our fellows to join in our joy. We shall have time this year to consider two of the great blessings bestowed upon the world through the Incarnation. (1) The Blessing of Peace.—Isaiah predicts peace as one of the chief characteristics of the Messianic age: "They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. . . . They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of God, as the waters cover the sea." To know God is to believe in His power and to obey His Word. And the peace which Jesus brings is based upon that knowledge of God. The peace does not arise from weariness of war, or because men love ease or indulgence, but because men know God. Jesus Christ is the Word. He is the Supreme Revelation of Truth. Therefore the more we believe in Him and follow Him the greater our sense of peace. (2) The Blessing of Happiness.—The prophets spiritualize the ancient ideas of happiness. Men looked for a golden age, when they would have food and drink in abundance, the land would yield its increase, and there would be perpetual rest. Hear the words of Isaiah: "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money, come ye, buy and eat. . . . Hearken diligently unto Me, and eat that which is good; and let your soul delight itself with fatness." Then hear the words of the Apocalyptic of the New Testament, who had pondered all the teaching of the Incarnate One: "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun strike upon them, nor any heat; for the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them unto fountains of waters of life; and God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes." Such are some of the blessings of the Incarnation. In the enjoyment of them we have a perpetual Christmas.

### Changes in Method Only.

In discussing Prayer Book revision the disputants are apt to lose sight of the facts that there is constant change in the modes of worship and the intention to approach the Almighty

devoutly. Keeping the latter purpose steadily in view, it is apparent that the changes should be the elimination of elaboration. It is instructive in this connection to think of the changes in making melody within the last fifty years. The old village orchestras were going out, and, in cities like Boston, congregations were to be found turning round with their faces to the choir loft when the singing began. Melodeons and organs made their way and choirs came down to the chancels, became more regular in their entrances and exits. The organs followed to the east end of the churches, until now we have the boys and men surpliced choirs in the larger centres. All these changes have been made with the intention of improving congregational singing. And yet we have in an excellent number of the "Scottish Chronicle" a paper by a very experienced choirmaster, the Rev. J. C. Cater, on modern Church music from which we take the following paragraph:—

### Congregational Singing.

"Do we want congregational singing? I imagine we all do. The Anglican Church has lost it almost altogether. The organ and trained choir are largely answerable. Dr. Barnby divided the Church services into two classes: the congregational or parochial, and the cathedral or meditative. The trouble is, so many of our parochial choirs struggle after a bad imitation of a cathedral service miles beyond the standard of the congregation. The two should be kept quite distinct. Were congregational singing more general there would be less criticism. No one can worship if he is criticizing at the same time. If congregational singing is to be brought back, then, I maintain, our music must be simpler, and the habit of using always the same music to the same words more common. This should be carried out, not only in the hymns, but psalms and canticles also, the changes less frequent, and, above all, intelligence is sorely needed. I become more and more convinced of the necessity of moving our organs and choir, or at least part of the choir, to the west end, both for congregational reasons and also for reasons of reverence."

### The Result.

People like a strong, determined fighter in a good cause. A man who takes the trouble to think, and, having thought thoroughly and conscientiously, takes his stand—if need be with his back to the wall—and fights for what he believes to be right with might and main, without fear of consequences and without favour to either friend or foe, who would tempt or force him to swerve from his settled purpose. "It is because the people believe me to be square that they back me up," said that forceful fighter, Theodore Roosevelt, in an election speech. What Mr. Roosevelt said of the people of the United States Sir James Whitney might well say of the people of Ontario. The result of the recent election gives ample evidence of their unshaken confidence in the government of their choice.

### Borrow's Letters.

A treat is in store for the lovers of George Borrow's writings. A number of his manuscript Letters to the Directors of the "Bible Society," together with Reports from his pen, were found in the archives of the Society, and at request of the Society, their secretary, the Rev. J. Gordon Watt, began to prepare them for publication. On the death of Mr. Watt his unfinished task was taken up and completed by Mr. T. H. Darlow. Under the heading, "The Book of the Week," an able contributor to the "Church Family Newspaper" makes the following reference to "The Letters" and to the fascinating book in