

## **A Weekly Banquet**

Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)  
<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts/?y=384&z=a&d=4>

### *A Banquet*

Each week, St. Peter's serves a banquet; of words; God's words. The Gospel Book is carried in procession, lifted high for all to see. Later, a portion is broken off and fed/read to us. Before that, portions of the Old Testament and the New Testament Letters are read. In between, we respond with a Psalm or two. All this is food, not only for thought, but also for the soul. Good news that God still loves us. . .and has things for us to do. A light on our path and assurance of help from the Holy Spirit. We come in famished and go out filled, nourished, and energized.

### *In Advent*

It's a conflicted season. There are the incessant liturgies of the mall and on-line shopping; the drum beat of "black Friday." Also, the liturgies of the stadium; will the Eagles make it? The liturgy of the church year is hardly mentioned; a hobby for the few. The readings from Scripture tell a different story than the ads and hype of the mall and stadium. We'll hear what God did to bring in a new earth and heaven and finally sing "The hopes and fears of all the years/Are met in thee tonight."

The messages are getting more specific about the coming one/Messiah. We ask these questions. Where will he appear? How will he appear? What will he be like?

### *Where will he appear?*

There have many clues/descriptions of the Coming One in our past weeks. But people wondered where will he appear?

We turn to Micah 5:2-5a to find out. What town is mentioned? How is it described? Does it seem like the hometown of a ruler? Do you remember who else came from there? What things will happen? There are several, so make sure you find them all. Make a list. Some of them are familiar from previous weeks in Advent.

### *How will he appear?*

The answer to this involves two women, featured in the reading from Luke 1:39-45, (46-55). As we listen to their conversation, who are they? What do they have in common? What do you learn from their conversation about what is happening in their lives? How is the Messiah involved?

### *What will he be like?*

A generation has passed since the Messiah walked this earth. People needed a fresher sermon on who he was, what he accomplished, what he was like. So we turn to the Hebrews reading to find out what people remembered. As you read Hebrews 10:5-10, what clues do you find about him? What did he say about himself? What is the result of what he did? How is it pictured your participation in the Eucharist?

—Larry Sibley