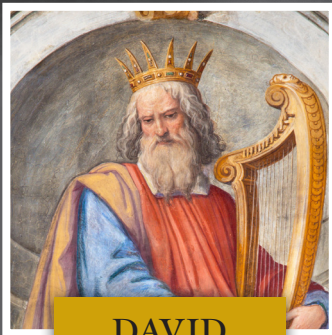


A SERIES OF SERMONS FOR ADVENT

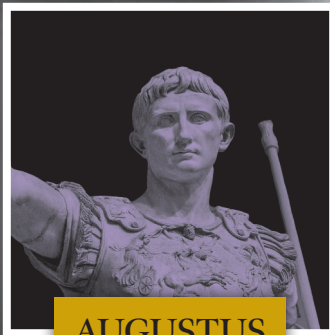
# WE THREE KINGS



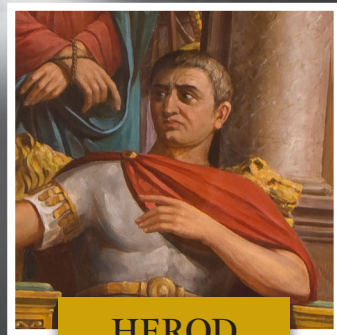
HOLY BIBLE



DAVID



AUGUSTUS



HEROD

# WE THREE KINGS

A SERIES OF SERMONS FOR ADVENT

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# WE THREE KINGS

A SERIES OF SERMONS FOR ADVENT

## WEEK 1: DAVID

### DRAMATIC SERMON

- The **Dramatic Sermon** is delivered:

Note: This sermon is scripted for two readers. The narrator's parts are in regular type and extend to the left margin. The king's lines are in boldface and indented. If a third reader is desired, those narrator lines printed in italics may be read from the balcony, the rear of the church, or a separate lectern.

+

"Hosanna to the Son of David!" they cried on Palm Sunday.

**"Hosanna to the Son of David!" the Church continues to cry, down through the centuries.**

You must be honored, David.

**Indeed I am. It was through me that the Lord God provided both a human bloodline**

**and even royal ancestry for the Son of God. Jesus Christ would be forever hailed as “the son of David.”**

Our Lord has many human ancestors, of course, generation upon generation of them—including some very famous ones, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel and Ruth. But of all of them you are the one who is most frequently named.

**That is especially true as Christmas approaches.**

Interesting. Why do you suppose that is the case?

**Perhaps because in a unique way I represent the fulfillment of promise—**

God’s promise to sinful human beings of a Savior who would redeem them from their sinfulness.

**God’s good word that goes back as far as Adam and Eve, repeated to Abraham and the patriarchs—through Moses too—long before I was born ...**

Not to mention those who would come after you—

**Isaiah and Zechariah, Micah and Malachi—God’s promise of One who would be sent into the midst of humankind as one of us ...**

The son of David.

**And the Son of God, to effect our redemption.**

You said that Christmas—the birth of our Lord—was a time when the memory of David seemed especially important in the fulfilling of God’s ancient promises.

**In announcing the Savior’s birth to the virgin Mary, the angel of the Lord invoked my name specifically and the promise God had made to me centuries before:**

*“The son whom you conceive in your womb will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.”*

**Over and over again Mary’s husband Joseph is identified as being “of the house and lineage of David”:**

*“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.”*

**Old Zechariah mentioned me in his prayer of thanksgiving at the birth of John the Baptist:**

*“The Lord God of Israel has raised up for us a mighty savior in the house of his servant David as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets of old.”*

**And, of course, the Christmas angels used my name—and my memory—to identify the birthplace:**

*“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ, the Lord.”* — Your observation is correct, David: your memory, and the proud history and promise it brings to mind, seems to fill the Christmas story at every turn.

**I would like to think, however, that I am remembered as more than just a human ancestor of our Lord—honorable as that is—but that I serve also as a kind of “role model” for the Messiah.**

What do you mean, “role model”?—the fact that you were a king, and so is he?

**Not only that. There are a number of things about my life and career that seem to foreshadow the life of Christ and help to give it meaning.**

Besides the fact that you were Israel’s greatest and most beloved king.

**Like the fact that I came from humble beginnings, born in Bethlehem, a kind of out-of-the-way location, not the sort of place you’d imagine as the birthplace of a king. When Samuel came to anoint me, no one seemed to believe I would become what he foretold of me.**

I wonder how many people, looking into the Christmas manger, could see in Jesus all that was foretold of him?

**Here’s another instance: Like the Messiah to come, I was a conquering hero.**

But—also like the Messiah—in some ways a deceptive hero.

**That’s true. Goliath didn’t think I was much of an adversary. He regarded my trust in the Lord as foolishness, my lack of armor as a sign of weakness.**

Just as the cross of Christ appeared to be a sign of weakness and foolishness, in the face of enemies as formidable as sin and death and Satan himself.

**I also bring to the ancestry of Jesus the concept of having been anointed—**

That is what the title “Christ” means, of course—“the anointed One.”

**As well as the obvious dimension of royalty, of kingship.**

And we all know how often the Lord Jesus spoke of “the kingdom of God.”

**But I like to think that my greatest contribution as a “role model” for the Savior, if you will, is in the picture of the Good Shepherd, the strong protector who is also the caring provider. How many people down through the centuries have derived comfort and strength from the example and the images which I provided—**

*The good shepherd “leaves the ninety-nine in the wilderness and goes after the one that is lost until he finds it. And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices.”*

**The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul; he leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.**

*“He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.”*

**Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.**

*“The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep ... I lay it down in order that I may take it up again.”*

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

*“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone pluck them out of my hand.”*

**Perhaps it is significant that the birth of the Good Shepherd was first proclaimed to shepherds of Bethlehem.**

People like you, weren’t they?

**With a message for people like you—the message of God’s promises fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the good shepherd ...**

Son of God and son of David.

**The greatest King of all.**

# WE THREE KINGS

A SERIES OF SERMONS FOR ADVENT

## WEEK 1: DAVID

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

- The **Children's Sermon** is delivered by the worship leader:

ℓ Hello, boys and girls. Welcome to the season of Advent. We are looking at King David in our worship for today. You probably know King David mostly from when he was a little kid like you. You see, when he was a young boy, there was a giant named Goliath who said he could not be defeated. But David put a tiny stone into a slingshot and flung it at the giant's head, knocking him down and killing him. The people were amazed, but David said it was because the Lord was on his side.

Then when David was a little older, he played the harp while herding sheep and wrote songs (which we call psalms) to God, thanking him for his goodness and love toward him and also asking for forgiveness, protection and guidance. David was a man of prayer who kept in touch with God.

David was the youngest of all his brothers, but God anointed him to be king over God's people. As king, David was mighty in battle, made Jerusalem the capital of the nation and worshiped

God until the day he died.

So what do we learn from David? We learn that God is always on our side and even little kids like you can do great things. We learn that it is important to stay close to God through prayer and song that we might learn to love him more and more. And we learn that God has a purpose and a plan for each one of us. All we need to do is trust in God and God will do the rest.

This Advent we remember that Jesus was born in the town of King David's birth, and he is descended from King David. So Jesus reminds us of what King David did and helps us to see that he will be for us a Good Shepherd and a Mighty King forevermore. Let us pray:

O Jesus Christ, connect us to the line of David through your birth among us, that we too might be blessed by the same love, care and grace our heavenly Father showed to King David. Amen.