

LEVEL THE MOUNTAINS

Please read [Luke 3:1-6](#)

ADVENT

The mountains seem to scrape the skies when one travels through the gorgeous terrain of tall regions of fall colors, with leaves that are emblazoned exclusively by the finger of God. The deep valleys only augment the vast mountainous heights. Captivated by this Divine Majesty, one might question the Advent Word of the Lord, "Every valley shall be filled in and every mountain shall be brought low." Isaiah's reference point is our Lord's Incarnation, when He will smooth out all the mountainous regions of a rugged world in desperate need of Advent rescue from this surrounding evil terrain. Advent boasts a Lord who has come and is coming again for your eternity. Advent says, "readiness is of the essence."

You are a bit mountainous, yourself. Observe how your heart's mountains stand tall, decorated with pride and arrogance. Your innate valleys are full of noxious snares of illegal pleasures. Your rough places and crooked roads are bursting with self-righteousness. To make matters worse, you are highly intrigued, preferring to let the topography remain for your lawless delight. Will I worship you, Lord Christ, in eternity, where the surrounding terrain boasts no earthly comparison? Lord have mercy!

CHRISTMAS

Behold, your Christmas King has come to you, giving you to be steeped in joyful faith in your Lord, Jesus Christ, leveling the mountains and filling in your valleys with these words from Heaven on high: "I forgive you all your sins." Equipped with these words, you take sharp aim, with God's Word, at every hill of impurity and rough place of passion that still blossom a bit within you. As the voice of Advent speaks, "Prepare Ye the way for the Lord," the voice of Christmas proclaims the joy of prophecy fulfilled in Jesus Christ to anoint you with the full power of His forgiving love. Hear the Christmas Absolution that gives you wondrous peace of mind: "Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth."

Yes, your mountains, at times, will seem to lunge toward the sky of your heart with guilt-laden anxiety. But the fact is that Christ was sent to annihilate your mountains of iniquity by carrying His cross up a sacrificial, Holy Mountain called, Calvary. He laid down on His cross to be lifted up and nailed there for you. From Advent to Christmas to Resurrection, the leveling out of your mountains and the filling in of your valleys are always accomplished by these words, "But when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law,

so that we might receive the adoption as sons” (Gal. 4:4-5). With these words and the trust in Christ they ignite, you cannot be lost. You are “Advent and Christmas ready” people, cleansed by the saving waters of God’s Baptismal grace. You have seen and will see forever the salvation of your God.

Because this surrounding terrain of evil regularly challenges your faith and life, inundate your soul daily with rich measures of your Lord’s Word, the only authority that guarantees you a dwelling in the surrounding terrains of indescribable glory.

Pastor Hamer, Emeritus

+John 5:24+

