

---

# Narrative Lectionary

Year 3 | The Year of Luke

---

## Scripture Readings

### December 6, 2020

*The Second Sunday  
of Advent*

#### **.....** **About the text**

**E**VERYTHING HANGS IN THE balance! The outcome depends on what you decide. A whole universe suspends its activities, waiting for your action.

Statements like these seem better suited to a marketing campaign, where quick and direct action benefits the seller. Pondering, analyzing, and consulting all benefit the buyer. Urgency moves goods and services.

God's urgent message through Joel might appear to fall in that category. This is what's different about God's urgency: People had been pondering, analyzing, consulting about their relationship with God for centuries. Leadership was in a state of decay.

The creation itself groaned and sighed, waiting for the new order to come...



## Joel 2:12-13, 28-29

12 Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, · with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; · <sup>13</sup> rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, · slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

28 Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; · your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.

29 Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

12 But there's also this, it's not too late—*GOD'S personal Message!*—

“Come back to me and really mean it! Come fasting and weeping, sorry for your sins!”

13 Change your life, not just your clothes. Come back to GOD, your God.

And here's why: God is kind and merciful. He takes a deep breath, puts up with a lot, · This most patient God, extravagant in love, always ready to cancel catastrophe.

28 “And that's just the beginning: After that—

“I will pour out my Spirit on every kind of people: Your sons will prophesy, also your daughters.

· Your old men will dream, your young men will see visions. · <sup>29</sup> I'll even pour out my Spirit on the servants, men and women both.

## Luke 11:13

13 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

13 As bad as you are, you wouldn't think of such a thing—you're at least decent to your own children. And don't you think the Father who conceived you in love will give the Holy Spirit when you ask him?”



The Narrative Lectionary presents the story of God's work in humanity through a single Gospel each year. This is Year 3: The Year of Luke.