

Link bonanza: Inauguration edition

By [Steve Thorngate](#)

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So I'm headed to DC this weekend, where I used to live and my fiancée still does. We're excited to be in town for the inauguration—which isn't to say that we managed to score swearing-in tickets from one of our members of Congress. (Mine have been a [bit busy lately](#), and she [doesn't have any](#), so our odds were particularly poor.) And we decided against forking over thousands of dollars to a [reseller](#). But it'll be great just to be nearby—to watch the big screens on the National Mall and to angle for a glimpse of the parade.

Faith-based

moderates and consensus-seekers see the change of power as a great opportunity for culture-war disarmament, for much more than simply asking both [Rick Warren](#) and [Gene Robinson](#) to say grace. Yesterday, Third Way—working with [Evangelicals for Social Action](#), [Faith in Public Life](#) and others—[released](#) its "governing agenda" "[Come Let Us Reason Together](#)," following on the 2007 [paper](#) of the same name. The agenda, announced via a [letter](#) to Obama and congressional leaders, includes abortion reduction, employment protections for gays and lesbians, comprehensive immigration reform and renouncing torture.

This sort of thing always brings out the fault lines among left-leaning religious commentators. (The mainstream media, which discovered four or five years ago that such people exist, isn't yet hip to the fact that these commentators don't all lean at the same angle.) [Debra Haffner](#) and [Pastordan](#) challenge Third Way's claims of progressivism. Mark Silk [finds](#) the whole thing kind of thin, and Sarah Posner [highlights](#) a few other skeptical parties. (The hardline religious-right people, predictably, [aren't pleased](#) either.)

Meanwhile, [Christian Churches Together](#)—the young, broad-based ecumenical group well positioned to thaw (or just

steer around) the ice between the National Council of Churches and the National Association of Evangelicals—is [lobbying](#) the president-elect on poverty, the group's signature issue.

The American Folklife Center, part of the Library of Congress, is [calling](#) for audio and video recordings of inauguration-week sermons for future-research purposes. Sermons delivered between today and January 25—a week from Sunday—are eligible, and the submission deadline is February 27.

On a lighter note, quasi-Christian music magazine *Paste* has a cool online program called [Obamicon.Me](#).

At last, you too can be done up in Shepard Fairey's vaguely Soviet-looking red, white and blue. (Above, see how the Obamicon tool takes already-iconic *Century* contributing editor Martin E. Marty to a whole new level.)

Finally, as a politico and a foodie, I'm naturally enthusiastic about a [blog](#) devoted to Obama and food. This week it got even better: they introduced a religion angle. Check out their series on suggested psalms for use in the swearing-in—parts [one](#), [two](#) and [three](#). And anyone road-tripping to DC this weekend might appreciate this inauguration [guide](#) from the indispensable Eat Well Guide (pdf download). Unfortunately, my own en-route dining options will be limited to pretzels that [aren't even complimentary](#) anymore.

Do

you have any thoughts about anything I've mentioned here? I bet you'd like to leave a comment, wouldn't you! Thanks for sticking with us through what's been an inexplicably lengthy period of back-and-forth with our blog host about getting the commenting form fixed. We're currently working on alternate solutions—more on that soon.