

4 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST READING

Isaiah 11.1-10

With righteousness he shall judge the poor.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

On that day:

- 1 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- 2 The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
- 3 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
- 4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- 5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- 6 The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
- 7 The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- 8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- 9 They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.



10 On that day the root of Jesse shall stand
as a signal to the peoples;
the nations shall inquire of him,
and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 72.1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (R. see 7)

R. Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.

1 Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
2 May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice. R.
7 In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
8 May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth. R.
12 For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.
13 He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy. R.
17 May his name endure forever,
his fame continue as long as the sun.
May all nations be blessed in him;
may they pronounce him happy. R.

SECOND READING

Romans 15.4-9
Christ has saved all people.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

4 Whatever was written in former days
was written for our instruction,
so that by steadfastness
and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.
5 May the God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus,
6 so that together you may with one voice
glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7 Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you,
for the glory of God.
8 For I tell you
that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised
on behalf of the truth of God
in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs,
9 and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.
As it is written,
“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name.”

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See Luke 3.4, 6

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 3.1-12

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

1 In those days John the Baptist
appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,
2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”
3 This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke
when he said,
“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”
4 Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair
with a leather belt around his waist,
and his food was locusts and wild honey.
5 Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea
were going out to him,
and all the region along the Jordan,
6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan,
confessing their sins.



7 But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism,
John said to them,
“You brood of vipers!
Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?
8 “Bear fruit worthy of repentance.
9 Do not presume to say to yourselves,
‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’;
for I tell you, God is able from these stones
to raise up children to Abraham.
10 Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees;
every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit
is cut down and thrown into the fire.
11 “I baptize you with water for repentance,
but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me;
I am not worthy to carry his sandals.
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
12 His winnowing fork is in his hand,
and he will clear his threshing floor
and will gather his wheat into the granary;
but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”
The gospel of the Lord.