

# SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Cycle A

## ENTRANCE HYMN

1. Hark! a herald voice is calling;  
Christ is nigh!" it seems to say;  
"Cast away the dreams of darkness,  
O ye children of the day."
2. Startled at the solemn warning,  
Let the earth-bound soul arise;  
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,  
Shines up on the morning skies.
3. Lo! the Lamb so long expected,  
Comes with pardon down from heav'n;  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
One and all to be forgiv'n.



## FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 11:1-10  
*He judges the wretched with integrity.*

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,  
a scion thrusts from his roots:  
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,  
a spirit of wisdom and insight,  
a spirit of counsel and power,  
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.  
(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)  
He does not judge by appearances,  
he gives no verdict on hearsay,  
but judges the wretched with integrity,  
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless;  
his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,  
faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb,  
the panther lies down with the kid,  
calf and lion cub feed together  
with a little boy to lead them.  
The cow and bear make friends,  
their young lie down together.  
The lion eats straw like the ox.  
The infant plays over the cobra's hole;  
into the viper's lair  
the young child puts his hand.  
They do no hurt, no harm,  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters swell the sea.  
That day, the root of Jesse  
shall stand as a signal to the peoples.  
It will be sought out by the nations  
and its home will be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 71:1-2.7-8.12-13.17. R)cf. v.7

## R. In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,  
to a king's son your justice,  
that he may judge your people in justice  
and your poor in right judgement. (R.)
2. In his days justice shall flourish  
and peace till the moon fails.  
He shall rule from sea to sea,  
from the Great River to earth's bounds. (R.)
3. For he shall save the poor when they cry  
and the needy who are helpless.  
He will have pity on the weak  
and save the lives of the poor. (R.)
4. May his name be blessed for ever  
and endure like the sun.  
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,  
all nations bless his name. (R.)

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans 15:4-9

*Christ is the saviour of all men.*

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 3: 4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 3:1-12  
*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.*

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:  
Prepare a way for the Lord,



make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

#### APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
(All bow)  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father  
almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the  
dead,

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.

#### OFFERTORY HYMN

Lord, accept this bread and wine;  
Take our hearts and make them Thine.  
Take our work and our anxiety  
Give us life and liberty.

Change this bread into your body  
and this wine into your blood;  
Change our lives, make us united, Lord,  
to spread the love of Christ, the Lord.



#### COMMUNION HYMN

1. This Advent we await God's reign  
When greed and hate shall cease  
And kindness dwells in human hearts  
And all of us find peace  
O God of holiness and grace, illuminate this  
hour  
With hope that we shall see Christ's face  
When he returns with power.
2. Awake, my soul, and with the sun  
Shake off your sloth and rise  
Your daily work and duty done  
Will be your sacrifice  
Redeem your mis-spent time that's past  
Improve yourself with care  
And live this day as though your last  
For Christ's return prepare
3. Rise up, rise now for Jesus Christ:  
The strife will not be long.  
This day the noise of battle's heard  
The next the Victor's song  
If sin and self we conquer now  
The crown will not be far  
So wait with courage and new hope  
For Christ's Parousia.

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1. How glad the sound! The Savior comes  
The Savior promised long.  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
And ev'ry voice a song
  2. He comes the pris'ner to release  
The captive to set free  
To preach the good news to the poor  
To make the blind to see
  3. He comes the broken heart to bind  
The bleeding soul to cure  
And with the treasure of his life  
To grace the humble poor
  4. How glad hosannas, Prince of Peace  
Your advent shall proclaim  
We long for the Parousia  
When you will come again.

#### RECESSIONAL HYMN

*I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,  
I will sing (2)  
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,  
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.*

1. With my mouth will I make known  
Thy faithfulness, Thy faithfulness  
With my mouth will I make known  
Thy faithfulness to all generations.
2. I have found David, my servant,  
And with my oil anointed Him  
My arm shall make Him strong  
My hand shall be with Him for generations.