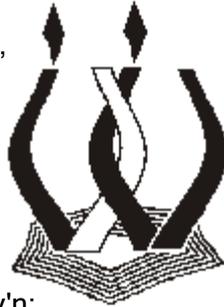


FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 2

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 Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24
I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the day of the Lord comes.

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his Temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fullers' alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

Know that I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before my day comes, that great and terrible day. He shall turn the hearts of fathers towards their children and the hearts of the children towards their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a curse.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps:24:4-5.8-9.10.14 R) Lk 21:28

**R. Stand erect, hold your heads high,
because your liberation is near at hand.**

1. Lord make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. (R.)
2. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray.
He guides the humble in the right path;
He teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

3. His way are faithfulness and love
for those who keep his covenant and will.
The Lord's friendship is for those who revere
him;
to them he reveals his covenant. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of St. Peter
3:8-14

We are waiting for the new heavens and new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised; the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 3: 4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!
King of the peoples
and corner-stone of the Church,
come and save man
whom you made from the dust of the earth.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke 1:57-66

The birth of John the Baptist.

The time came for Elizabeth to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, and when her neighbours and relations heard that the Lord had shown her so great a kindness, they shared her joy.

Now on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; they were going to call him Zechariah after his father, but his mother spoke up. 'No,' she said 'he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'But no one in your family has that name', and

