



Today's Readings

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2019

Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump
of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The 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.

³His 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;

⁴but 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.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around
his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The 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.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

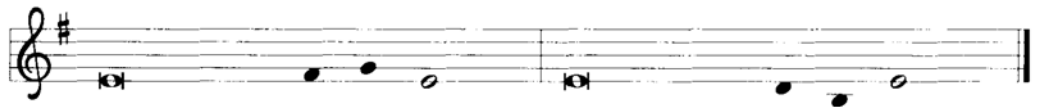
⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of
the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand
on the adder's den.

⁹They 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.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as
a signal to the peoples; the nations shall in-
quire of him, and his dwelling shall be glori-
ous.

Psalm

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; tone 8



Give the king your jus-¹tice, O God,
and your righteousness
to ¹the king's son:

²that he may rule
your ¹people righteously
and the ¹poor with justice;

³that the mountains
may bring prosperity ¹to the people,
and the ¹hills, in righteousness.

⁴Let him defend the needy
a-¹mong the people,
rescue the poor,
and crush ¹the oppressor.

⁵May he live as long
as the sun and ¹moon endure,
from one generation ¹to another.

⁶Let him come down like rain
upon ¹the mown field,
like showers that wa-¹ter the earth.

⁷In his time
may the ¹righteous flourish;
and let there be
an abundance of peace
till the moon shall ¹be no more.

continued

Psalm, continued

**¹⁸Blessed are you, LORD God,
the ¹ God of Israel;
you alone do ¹ wondrous deeds!**

¹⁹And blessed be your glorious ¹ name
forever,
and may all the earth
be filled with your glory.
A- ¹ men. Amen.

Second Reading

Romans 15:4-13

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. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For 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, ⁹and 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”;

¹⁰and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹²and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This 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.’”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, “and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to

them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do 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. ¹⁰Even now the ax 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. ¹²His 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.”

