

Year A

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

The Collects

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and the comfort of thy Holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lesson is written in the eleventh chapter of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah beginning at the first verse

Isaiah 11:1-10

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples--of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord

Psalm 72



May all kings bow down to him and all the nations do him service.

8. He shall rule from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
9. His foes shall bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust.

REFRAIN

10. The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute,
the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.
11. All kings shall bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service. *REFRAIN*

12. For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress,
and the oppressed who has no helper.
13. He shall have pity on the lowly and poor,
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
14. He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence,
and dear shall their blood be in their sight.

REFRAIN

15. Long may he live! and may there be given to him gold from Arabia;
may prayer be made for him always,
and may they bless him all the day long.
16. May there be abundance of grain on the earth,
growing thick even on the hilltops,
may its fruit flourish like Lebanon,
and its grain like grass upon the earth.
17. May his Name remain for ever
and be established as long as the sun endures;
may all the nations bless themselves in him and call him blessed.

REFRAIN

18. Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel;
who alone does wondrous deeds.
19. And blessed be his glorious Name for ever!
and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

REFRAIN

***The Lesson is written in the fifteenth chapter of the Letter of Saint Paul
the Apostle to the Romans beginning at the first verse***

Romans 15:1-13

We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ

Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

The Word of the Lord

***The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Saint Matthew***

Matthew 3:1-12

† In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."