

ADVENT 2

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save
the nations, and the Lord
will make the glory of his
voice heard in the joy of
your heart.

COLLECT

Almighty and merciful God,
may no earthly undertaking
hinder those who set out in
haste to meet your Son, but
may our learning of
heavenly wisdom gain us
admittance to his company.
Who lives and reigns with
you in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, One God, for ever
and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

On that day:

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 enquire,
and his resting-place shall be
glorious.

PSALM

*Ps 72(71):1-2. 7-8. 12-13.
17. R cf. 7*

**R In his days shall
justice flourish, and
great peace for ever.**

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

In his days justice shall
flourish, and great peace till
the moon is no more.
He shall rule from sea to
sea, from the River to the
bounds of the earth. R

For he shall rescue the needy
when they cry, the poor who
have no one to help. He will
have pity on the weak and
the needy, and save the lives
of the needy. R

May his name endure for
ever, his name continue like
the sun. Every tribe shall be
blest in him, all nations shall
call him blessed. R

SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-9

Brothers and sisters:
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.'

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia...

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

Alleluia...

GOSPEL

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 round 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 baptised 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 baptise 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 baptise 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.' **Amen**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings, and, since we have no merits to plead our cause, come, we pray, to our rescue with the protection of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, through our partaking in this mystery, you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth and hold firm to the things of heaven. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**