

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,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Is 11:1-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

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 of 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 the 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 signal to the peoples.
It will be sought out by the nations
and its home will be glorious.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 71

Response:

**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

Rm 15:4-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

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.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Mt 3:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under

Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. **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.

Sunday Message

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE WORD

Year A • 7 December 2025 • Colour: Violet • Psalter Week 2

PREPARE THE WAY

MATTHEW 3:1-12



In today's passage, we meet John the Baptist, who is presented as the one preparing the way for Jesus. John's appearance and lifestyle — wearing camel's hair and eating locusts — highlight his role as a prophet, calling the people to repentance. His message is simple but powerful: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is not just a call to feel sorry for past mistakes, but an invitation to change direction and prepare for the coming of the Lord.

John's baptism is a symbol of this repentance, a sign of turning away from sin and returning to God. However, he warns those who come for baptism not to rely on their heritage or status. "Produce fruit in keeping with repentance," he says, meaning true change must show in one's actions, not just words.

John also points to someone greater who will come after him, referring to Jesus. He speaks of Jesus baptizing with the Holy Spirit and fire — a sign of purification and judgment. John's words remind us that the time to prepare for Christ's coming is now, and we must make sure our hearts are ready to receive Him. ■

DO

Take one concrete step this week—whether it's reaching out to forgive someone, letting go of a bad habit, or committing to a daily act of kindness. This simple practice helps live out John's call to "produce fruit in keeping with repentance."



LEARN

"Interior repentance is a radical reorientation of our whole life"

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1431

SAY

Lord, help me to see where I
need to change,
Give me the courage to turn
back to You,
And the grace to live with a
renewed heart.
Amen.

REFLECT

John the Baptist appears in the wilderness, crying out: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand." His words are not gentle suggestions — they're a challenge. He is calling people to change direction, to turn back to God with sincerity.

Remarkably, the people come. They leave the safety of their towns and walk into the desert. They confess their sins and are baptised. There's a deep hunger here — a recognition that something in their lives needs to be made right.

But John doesn't speak softly to everyone. He warns the Pharisees and Sadducees not to rely on their heritage or status. Being from Abraham's family isn't enough. "Produce fruit in keeping with repentance," he says. Faith must show itself in the way we live.

This passage is read during Advent because it's a season of preparation — not just for celebrating Christmas, but for welcoming Christ into our lives again. John reminds us that preparation is not just lighting candles or singing carols. It begins with the heart.

Repentance is not about guilt — it's about grace. It's the grace of a new beginning, a fresh start. The Lord is near. He comes not to condemn, but to renew. ■