

THE WORD OF THE LORD : TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

At the Solemn Eucharist at 11 o'clock THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

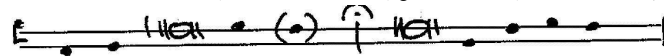
Preparation for Christmas continues with readings that kindle hope for the future reign of God in all the world, a reign of justice and righteousness. The Old Testament reading is one of the classic announcements of a future king in the line of David, one who will inaugurate a rule of peace with justice, especially for the poor. Psalm 72, a petition to God that the king rule with righteousness and justice, continues the same themes. A major motif in the Epistle lection, which cites Isaiah 11.10, is hope, based on the confirmation of the Old Testament promises by the coming of Jesus. The apocalyptic dimensions of the season are dramatized in the Gospel, the account of the appearance of John the Baptist with his announcement of the kingdom of God.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11.1-10

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. 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 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 smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the girdle of his waist, and faithfulness the girdle of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall feed; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The sucking child shall play over the hole of the asp, 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 shall stand as an ensign to the peoples; him shall the nations seek, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord
R/. Thanks be to God

PSALM: 72.1-7,20-21—Deus, iudicium; Tone VIII,2



- 1 GIVE THE king thy judgements, O **God** : and thy righteousness un-**to** the king's son.
- 2 Then shall he judge thy people according unto **right** : and thy **poor** with jus-tice.
- 3 The mountains also shall bring **peace** : and the little hills righteousness un-**to** the peo-ple.
- 4 He shall keep the simple folk by their **right** : save the children of the poor, and punish **the** wrong do-er.
- 5 He shall live as long as the **sun** : and while the moon endureth, from one generation **to** an-o-ther.
- 6 He shall come down like the rain upon the **mown** grass : even as the showers that **wa**-ter the earth.
- 7 In his time shall righteousness **flour**-ish : yea, and abundance of peace, so long as the **moon** en-dur-eth.
- 20 Blessed be the Lord, the God of **Is-ra-el** : who only **do**-eth won-drous things;
- 21 And blessed be the Name of his majesty for **ev**-er :
and let the earth be filled with his majesty. A-**men** and A-men.

SECOND READING: Romans 15.4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness 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. Welcome one another, therefore, 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 thee among the Gentiles, and sing to thy name"; and again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and further Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, he who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him shall 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.

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SEQUENCE HYMN

Hymn 66 "Creator of the starry height"

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

GOSPEL: Matthew 3.1-12

R/. Glory be to thee, O Lord

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. And now also the ax is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

The Gospel of Christ
R/. Praise be to thee, O Christ