



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Year A

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from Isaiah.

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of its 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 shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips 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 will feed 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 there will stand as a signal to the peoples the root of Jesse,
of whom the nations shall inquire,
and whose dwelling shall be glorious.

Word of God, word of life. *or* The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

A reading from Romans.

⁴Whatever 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 Jewish people
on behalf of the truth of God
in order to confirm the promises given to the ancestors
⁹and in order that the gentiles might glorify our merciful God.
As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles,
and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰and again it is said,
“Rejoice, O gentiles, with the people of God”;

¹¹and again,
“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise the Lord”;

¹²and again Isaiah says,
“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in whom 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.

Word of God, word of life. *or* The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,

²“Repent, for the dominion 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 straight the paths of the Lord.’”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair
with a leather belt around his waist,
and his food was locusts and wild honey.

⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea
and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him,
⁶and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan,
confessing their sins.

⁷But when John saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism,
he said to them,

“You brood of vipers!

Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?

⁸Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance,

⁹and do 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;
therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit
will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance,
but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I,
and I am not worthy to carry his sandals.
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

¹²With a winnowing fork in hand,
he will clear his threshing floor
and will gather his wheat into the granary,
but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The gospel of the Lord.