

Readings for Sunday, 5th December, 2010 – Advent 2A

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

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 on 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 a signal to the peoples.

It will be sought out by the nations
and its home will be glorious.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM : Ps 71:1

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 injustice
and your poor in right judgement.

Response

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.

Response

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.

Response

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.

Response

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-9

And indeed 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 to your name.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Lk 3:4.6

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

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.'

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BIDDING PRAYERS: 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A) 4/5 DECEMBER 2010

Celebrant:

Let us open our hearts and turn in prayer to God as we prepare for the coming of his Son.

Reader:

On this, Bible Sunday, we pray for the Church, that she may faithfully proclaim the Word of God entrusted to her. [Pause]

Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who use the Bible to teach, and for those who read in church. May they grow in their love and knowledge of Scripture, and their ability to inspire others. [Pause]

Lord, hear us.

We pray for ourselves, that we may be open to the ways that the Word of God can nourish and sustain us. [Pause]

Lord, hear us.

We pray for those who use the Bible to justify hatred and intolerance, and for their victims. We pray too for those whose minds are closed to the Good News. [Pause]

Lord, hear us.

Many people's lives are being disrupted by the heavy snowfalls. May all who are in difficulty or distress receive the help that they need. May all of us be ready to be good neighbours. [Pause]

Lord, hear us.

We remember all those who dread Christmas because of family conflicts, money worries or loneliness. May they, and we, find peace in the knowledge that Christ came to show the love of God for all of us. [Pause]

Lord, hear us.

We pray for the sick, and those who care for them. We pray for those who have died recently, or whose anniversaries occur about this time. We pray that the bereaved may find support and consolation. [Pause]

Lord, hear us.

We pray especially for XYZ, for whom this Mass is offered. [Pause]

Lord, hear us.

For a moment, in silence, let us pray for our individual needs and intentions. [Pause]

Mary shows us the Word made flesh in her Son. Let us ask her to help us with all our prayers as we say *Hail Mary...*

Celebrant:

Lord God, hear our prayers, and help us to repent of the ways we may have drifted away from you, that we may be ready for the coming of your Son. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ Our Lord.