

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.

- 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 peace till the moon fails.  
He shall rule from sea to sea,  
from the Great River to earth's bounds. (R.)
- 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.)

- 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

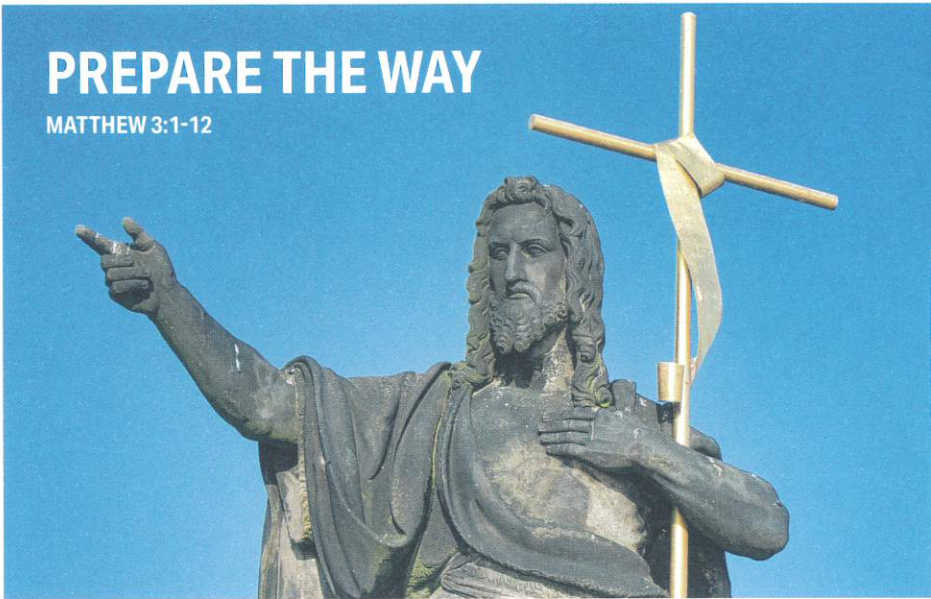
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## 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. ■

## 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. ■



## 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.