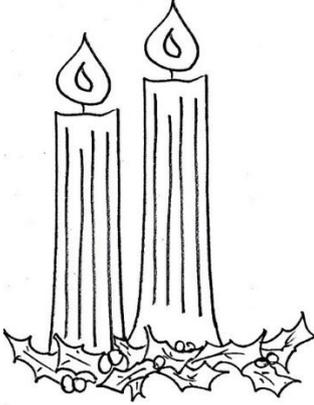


SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year A)



Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world.
Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison

You call us to walk in the light of your truth.
Christe elaison, Christe elaison, Christe elaison

You call us to stand ready for your coming to us.
Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison

May almighty God...

FIRST READING 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 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 best 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;
in the viper's lair
the young child puts his hand.

They do not 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.
The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 71:1-2,7-8,12-13,17. R. Cf. v.7)

**R. 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 A reading from the letter of St Paul
to the Romans (15:4-9)

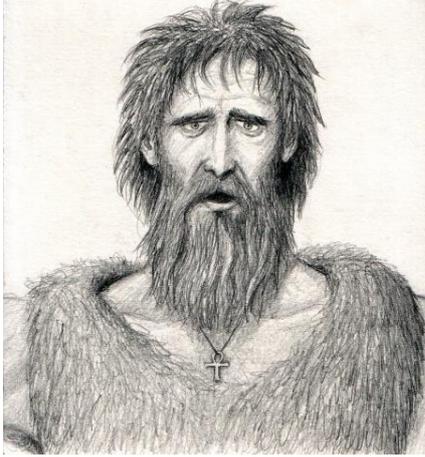
Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures
was meant to teach us something about hope from
the examples scripture gives of how people who did
not give up were helped by God. And may he who
helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be
tolerant with each other, following the example 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. **The word of the Lord.**

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year A)

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

GOSPEL A reading from the holy Gospel according to 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.' **The Gospel of the Lord.**

The Nicene Creed

**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,
*and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate (all Bow
until man)***

***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**