



Hosanna



Vol. 2

SUNDAY LITURGY

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Year A

"Prepare the Way of the Lord"

INTRODUCTION

On this Second Sunday of Advent we are preparing for the fuller coming of Christ in our communities and in the world. The Savior was announced by Isaiah and John the Baptist as a man completely filled with God's Spirit. He would baptize us with the Spirit of fire John says to us: Let this Spirit of fire change our mentality, our attitudes, our ways, so that Jesus can really live among us to make this world a place of unity and integrity, of justice and peace.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O people of Zion, 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.
(Isa 30:19,30)

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, one God, forever and ever.

FIRST READING

Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would be equipped with

the gifts of the Spirit - with wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and fear of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of 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 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 hold 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 dwellings shall be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm (71)

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

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/. In his days justice shall

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/. In his days justice shall

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/. In his days justice shall

SECOND READING

Paul tells us that scripture and Christ are the two main pillars of Christian hope. In Christ, our yearning is fulfilled.

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans 15:4-9

Brethren: 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."

ALLELUIA (Lk 3:4-6)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. All flesh shall see salvation of God.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Matthew 3:1-12

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Now John wore a garment of camel's hair, and a leather girdle around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then went out to him Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and the Sadducees coming for Baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit that befits repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to

raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather the wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: Let us pray to the Lord Jesus that we may prepare his deeper coming in the Church and the world of today. Let us say:

Response: Come, Lord Jesus, delay no longer.

Lord Jesus, help our leaders Pope Francis, Archbishop Bernard and all in positions of authority, that by their gentleness, understanding and serving love they may reflect better your face, we pray:

Response: Come, Lord Jesus, delay no longer.

2. Lord Jesus, dispose all leaders and people in power to bring your peace and your justice to a world dominated by strife and exploitation, we pray:

Response: Come, Lord Jesus, delay no longer.

3. Lord Jesus, make our Christian communities pay more attention to the sick and the elderly, the unemployed and the lonely, we pray:

Response: Come, Lord Jesus, delay no longer.

4. Lord Jesus, teach each and every one of us to free ourselves from greed and the hunger for power, that

we may be more open to the people around us, we pray:

Response: Come, Lord Jesus, delay no longer.

5. Lord Jesus, help all of us here in the Eucharist to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Christmas, that we may do away with all that stands in the way of your deeper coming in our hearts and in our community, we pray:

Response: Come, Lord Jesus, delay no longer.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, fill us with the joy of your presence. Stay with us, now and forever. **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.

PREFACE I (ADVENT)

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For he assumed at his first coming the lowliness of human flesh, and so fulfilled the design you formed long ago, and opened for us the way to eternal salvation, that, when he comes again in glory and majesty and all is at last made manifest, we who watch for that day may inherit the great promise in which now we dare to hope.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy...

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God. (*Bar 5:5; 4:36*)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Replenished by the good 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.

REFLECTION

A millionaire announced to Mark Twain, "Before I die, I plan to go to the Holy Land. I will climb Mount Sinai and read aloud the Ten Commandments." Twain observed, "I have a better idea. You could stay home and keep them." Yes, this is where we prepare the way of the Lord. Every day.

We prepare for Christmas by repenting. Repenting in the Biblical sense is more than having a change of heart or a feeling of regret. Repentance is a turning away from sin and a turning back to God.

Someone once said half-jokingly: If we are not careful, John the Baptist can take all of the fun out of Christmas. I disagree. I think that it is John's message that puts the joy into Christmas. For that to occur there must be a turning away from our styles and choices.

John the Baptist was the last in a long line of prophets who foretold the coming of the Messiah. He prepared the way for the Messiah by alerting God's people to the Messiah's impending arrival and by challenging them to change their lives by repenting for their sins. A radical abandonment of sinful living was required because God was going to communicate with his people di-

rectly through his Son, Jesus, the Messiah.

Many Christians no longer buy into the concept of personal sin. Recently, an American university professor was arrested for collecting his mother's social security (like our pension) for six years after her death. He didn't think there was anything wrong!

A Catholic professor in a private college told freshmen that in ethics there is no right or wrong, only points of view. Can you imagine what John the Baptist would have to say to him or to us who tolerate this type of thinking?

A teacher once asked his class if everything in the world was created by God. They all chorused, "Yes". "Everything?", he repeated the question. "Yes, indeed", the class resounded. "Is there evil in the world?", the teacher's next question. "Yes", the class repeated. "So, by logic, either God is evil or there is no God, right?" The students were silent. Then a young fellow got up and asked the teacher, "Can I ask you a question, sir?" "Sure, make my day", the teacher responded. "Is there "cold", sir?" "Of course, you see I wear a sweater." The teacher responded. "No, sir", the student retorted. "You can't measure cold. It is the absence of heat. You can't measure darkness. It's the absence of light. Evil, therefore, sir, I believe, is the absence of God." That boy's name was Albert Einstein.

We need to:

1. admit we were powerless over sin – that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. come to believe in a Power greater than ourselves that could restore us to sanity.
3. make a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.

- **Rev. Fr. Tony Thampi, c.s.c.**

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