

[4]

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**A**

### FIRST READING

He shall judge the poor with justice.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

11:1-4a, 5-6, 9b

**T**he LORD says this:

Like a branch that sprouts from a stump,  
someone from David's family will someday be king.

The Spirit of the LORD will take control of him  
and give him understanding and wisdom and insight.

He will be powerful,  
and he will know and honor the LORD.

His greatest joy will be to worship the LORD.

He won't judge by appearances or listen to rumors.

The poor and the helpless will be treated  
with fairness and with justice.

Honesty and fairness will be his royal robes.

Leopards and young goats, and wolves and lambs  
will lie down and rest in the same field.

Calves and lions will eat together and be cared for by a child.

Just as water fills the sea,  
the land will be filled with people who know and honor the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

72:1 and 8, 17

*R.* (7) Justice shall flourish in his time,  
and fullness of peace for ever.

Please help the king  
to be honest and fair  
just like you, our God.  
Let his kingdom reach  
from sea to sea,  
from the Euphrates River  
across all the earth.

R/. Justice shall flourish in his time,  
and fullness of peace for ever.

**May the glory of the king  
shine brightly forever  
like the sun in the sky.  
Let him make nations prosper  
and learn to praise him.**

R/. Justice shall flourish in his time,  
and fullness of peace for ever.

## SECOND READING

Christ, the hope of all people.

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans**

15:4-6

**B**rothers and sisters:

The Scriptures were written to teach and encourage us by giving us hope.

God is the one who makes us patient and cheerful.

I pray that he will help you live at peace with each other,  
as you follow Christ.

Then all of you together will praise God,  
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**The word of the Lord.**

## ALLELUIA

Luke 3:4, 6

R/. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:  
all people shall see the salvation of God.**

R/. Alleluia, alleluia.

## GOSPEL

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 3:1-9, 11

**J**ohn the Baptist started preaching in the desert of Judea.  
He said, "Turn back to God!  
The kingdom of heaven will soon be here."

John was the one the prophet Isaiah was talking about, when he said,

"In the desert someone is shouting,  
'Get the road ready for the Lord!  
Make a straight path for him.' "

John wore clothes made of camel's hair.  
He had a leather strap around his waist  
and ate grasshoppers and wild honey.

From Jerusalem and all Judea and from the Jordan River Valley  
crowds of people went to John.  
They told how sorry they were for their sins,  
and he baptized them in the river.

Many Pharisees and Sadducees also came to be baptized.  
But John said to them: "You bunch of snakes!  
Who warned you to run from the coming judgment?  
Do something to show that you have really given up your sins.  
And don't start telling yourselves  
that you belong to Abraham's family.  
I tell you that God can turn these stones  
into children for Abraham.

"I baptize you with water so that you will give up your sins.  
But someone more powerful is going to come,  
and I am not good enough even to carry his sandals.  
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

The gospel of the Lord.