

December 5, 2010
Second Sunday of Advent (A)

FIRST READING

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

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

The 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

Psalm 72:1 and 8, 17

*All: 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.*

*All: 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.*

*All: Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.*

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SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-6

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Brothers 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.

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GOSPEL
Matthew 3:1-9, 11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

John 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.