

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: 7TH DEC 2025 LAY LED LITURGY

Welcome and Outline of today's Liturgy

Entrance Hymn: Christ Be Our Light: No: 883: v 1-2

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

May Christ Our Saviour bring light into the darkness of our world. Amen

May the blessing of Christ come upon us, brighten our way, and guide us. Amen (PAUSE)

THE JESSE TREE MEDITATION

Reflection on Jesus' ancestry using the tradition of the Jesse Tree.

The Jesse Tree is a powerful symbol that helps us to tell the story of God and of God's people, and to connect the Advent Season with the Faithfulness of God and the Hopefulness of God's people across history.

GREAT MOMENTS IN THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL

CREATION STORIES THE PATRIARCHS (1800 BC) MOSES (1250BC)

TIME OF THE JUDGES KING DAVID (1000 BC) THE PROPHETS

JOHN THE BAPTIST: THE LAST OF THE PROPHETS

Taize Instrumental: Wait for the Lord

TIME FOR REFLECTION: Remembering with Gratitude our own ancestors who nourished our faith and God's faithfulness in our own lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD.

First Reading: Is. 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 on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might,

The spirit of knowledge and the 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 on 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 will feed together, and a young 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 suckling child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

They shall neither 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.

HYMN: Come Back To Me (based on Hosea) Hymnal No: 842

Second Reading: Romans: 15: 4-9

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction that by steadfastness and by encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written in the scriptures: ' Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles, and sing praises to your name.'

Alleluia, Alleliua! Prepare the way for the Lord, make his paths straight Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew: 3: 1-12

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judes 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 around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and the whole Jordan district make their way to him, and 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 flee 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 with 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 the threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out'.

LECTIO

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

ÁR N-ATHAIR

SIGN OF PEACE

REFLECTION:

The voice of John the Baptist was a lonely voice.

There are many lonely voices in our world, coming not only from the prophets,

But also from the victims of injustice and neglect.

Lord, help us to listen to these voices,

And help us to listen to your voice whispering to us in the wilderness of our hearts.

Telling us that we are loved by you, and that we are to love one another.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FINAL BLESSING:

May you know the happiness of those who walk in God's way.

May the Lord turn the darkness before you into light and rough places into level ground. Amen

FINAL HYMN: Christ Be Our Light: v 3,4,5 (Hymnal No: 883)