



LECTIONARY

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. 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. 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; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Lector: **Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.**

People: **Thanks be to God**

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19

¹ Give the King your justice, O God, *

and your righteousness to the King's Son;

² That he may rule your people righteously *

and the poor with justice;

³ That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *

and the little hills bring righteousness.

⁴ He shall defend the

needy among the people; *	there shall be abundance of
he shall rescue the poor	peace till the moon shall
and crush the oppressor.	be no more.
⁵ He shall live as long as	18 Blessed be the Lord
the sun and moon endure, *	God, the God of Israel, *
from one generation to	who alone does wondrous
another.	deeds!
6 He shall come down like	19 And blessed be his glo-
rain upon the mown field, *	rious Name for ever! *
like showers that water the	and may all the earth be
earth.	filled with his glory.
7 In his time shall the	Amen. Amen.
righteous flourish; *	

SECOND READING

ROMANS 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so 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 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 patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Lector: **Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.**

People: **Thanks be to God**

Sequence Hymn: “*On Jordan's Bank*”

#76

Priest: *The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Matthew**.*

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at 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 one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”



Priest: ***The Gospel of the Lord.***

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

Prayers of the People

After the lay leader has said the first prayer, please feel free, as the spirit moves you, to say the next prayer. If two or more start together please continue together

Please respond to each of these prayers with the
The Phrase in Bold

We pray with fellow Christians everywhere, may we all share in proclaiming the coming of the Lord. (Silence)

We pray to the Lord, **Come Lord Jesus!**

We pray with the people of our nation for God's guidance and wisdom. (Silence)

We pray to the Lord, **Come Lord Jesus!**

God of the angels- Give your church voice to sing your presence into our Nation and the World. Give the world a freedom song, and help us to speak peace throughout the earth!

(Silence)

Saying together: **God of the angels, hear us!**

We pray with our local community for all those who are alone as we wait for the coming of our Lord. (Silence)

Saying together: **Hear our prayer!**

Healing God-we remember those who are sick, poor, needy or suffering: Please say aloud, or in your hearts, the names of those for whom you wish to pray (Silence)

Saying Together: **God of mercy, hear our prayer!**

Compassionate God- we remember those who have died, especially.....and any others we may now mention.

(Pause for people to mention names) (Silence)

Saying together: **Gracious God, hear our prayer!**