

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7
Second Sunday of Advent

Prayer for the Morning

The Lord guards the way of the just: let us give thanks and praise.!

Glory to the Father.... Amen. Alleluia!

Hymn

Meter: 77 77 D

Wild and lone the prophet's voice
Echoes through the desert still,
Calling us to make a choice,
Bidding us to do God's will:
"Turn from sin and be baptized;
Cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
Quitting all the sins you prized,
Yield your life to God's control."
"Bear the fruit repentance sows:
Lives of justice, truth, and love.
Trust no other claims than those;
Set your heart on things above.
Soon the Lord will come in power,
Burning clean the threshing floor:
Then will flames the chaff devour;
Wheat alone shall fill God's store."
With such preaching stark and bold
John proclaimed salvation near,
And his timeless warnings hold
Words of hope to all who hear.
So we dare to journey on,
Led by faith through ways untrod,
Till we come at last like John,
To behold the Lamb of God.

Psalm

1

A spreading olive tree, goodly to behold,/ the Lord has named you. (Jer 11:16)

The Psalmist captures John the Baptist's advice to every age: follow the ways of right and not of wrong. The tree that bears the fruits of goodness will flourish in the promised reign of God. The tree that bears no taste of life will perish.

Happy indeed is the man
who follows not the counsel of the wicked;
nor lingers in the way of sinners
nor sits in the company of scorners,
but whose delight is the law of the Lord
and who ponders his law day and night.
He is like a tree that is planted
beside the flowing waters,
that yields its fruit in due season
and whose leaves shall never fade;
and all that he does shall prosper.

Not so are the wicked, not so!
For they like winnowed chaff
shall be driven away by the wind.
When the wicked are judged they shall not stand,
nor find room among those who are just;
for the Lord guards the way of the just
but the way of the wicked leads to doom.
Glory to the Father.

Word of God

Matthew 7:17-19

Every good tree bears good fruit, and a rotten tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a rotten tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.
Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. (Mt 3:8)

Canticle of Zechariah

His splendor shall be like the olive tree/ and his fragrance like the Lebanon cedar. (Hos 14:7)

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
Glory to the Father...

Intercessions

Our promised Savior is the tree of life, and we the branches. To him we pray:

R/Care for your people, Lord!

For the Church: – that we may bear the fruit of life for all the world. **R/**

For those who pastor the Church: – that they may water and prune in fidelity to the Gospel. **R/**

For those who have died:– that they may flourish in your everlasting garden. **R/**

Personal intentions

Our Father....

God of mercy, you send the herald's voice to make us ready for your coming. May we always hear and heed this voice. Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen

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Reading 1 **Isaiah 11:1-10**

On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse,/ and from his roots a bud shall blossom./ The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him:/ a spirit of wisdom and of understanding,/ a spirit of counsel and of strength,/ a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord,/ and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord./ Not by appearance shall he judge,/ nor by hearsay shall he decide,/ but he shall judge the poor with justice,/ and decide aright for the land's afflicted./ He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth,/ and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked./ Justice shall be the band around his waist,/ and faithfulness a belt upon his hips./ Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb,/ and the leopard shall lie down with the kid;/ the calf and the young lion shall browse together,/ with a little child to guide them./ The cow and the bear shall be neighbors,/ together their young shall rest;/ the lion shall eat hay like the ox./ The baby shall play by the cobra's den,/ and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair./ There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain;/ for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord,/ as water covers the sea./ On that day, the root of Jesse,/ set up as a signal for the nations,/ the Gentiles shall seek out,/ for his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reading 2 **Romans 15:4-9**

Brothers and sisters: Whatever was written previously was written for our instruction, that by endurance and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I say that Christ

became a -minister of the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, to confirm the promises to the patriarchs, but so that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:

Therefore, I will praise you among the Gentiles/ and sing praises to your name.

Gospel **Matthew 3:1-12**

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said:

A voice of one crying out in the desert,/ Prepare the way of the Lord,/ make straight his paths.

John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.

Men of St. Joseph Prayer

St. Joseph, help me to be like you. Help me to be obedient to the teachings of the Church and faithful to God's commands. Help me to patiently endure my cross each day. Let me be a model of holiness and a pillar of virtue. I solemnly promise to embrace God's will and I accept the challenge to work tirelessly for my family's salvation. Be my guide and companion on this journey. St. Joseph, terror of demons, pray for us!

Prayer for the Morning text used with permission of Magnificat.