

pent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”³ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’”

⁴ Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But 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 wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹ And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

OFFERTORY AND POST-COMMUNION SENTENCES

(Drawn from verses of Holy Scripture, these sentences are chosen by the celebrant or preacher to reinforce the lessons or teaching of the day.)

PROPER PREFACE

Advent

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great glory to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Sources: The Collect of the Day is taken from the Book of Common Prayer 2019. The Psalm verses are taken from the New Coverdale Psalter of the BCP 2019. Scripture quotations are taken from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



SEASONAL GREETING

Celebrant Surely the Lord is coming soon.

People **Amen. Come Lord Jesus!**

Revelation 22:20

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and the comfort of your holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ² And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. ⁹ They shall not 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.

¹⁰ In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALTER VERSES

(In said services, the psalm verses may be placed between the Epistle and the Gospel, with the congregation standing in preparation for the Gospel. At services where there is a hymn or canticle before the Gospel, the psalm might be said between the Old Testament and Epistle, the people seated.)

Psalm 72:1-15(16-19)

- ¹ Give the King your judgments, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's son.
- ² Then shall he judge your people with righteousness *
and defend the poor with justice.
- ³ The mountains also shall bring peace, *
and the little hills righteousness to the people.
- ⁴ He shall vindicate the poor among the people, *
defend the children of the poor, and punish the wrongdoer.
- ⁵ They shall fear you as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- ⁶ He shall come down like the rain upon the mown grass, *
even as showers that water the earth.
- ⁷ In his time shall the righteous flourish, *
even an abundance of peace, so long as the moon endures.
- ⁸ His dominion shall be also from one sea to the other, *
and from the river unto the world's end.
- ⁹ Those who dwell in the wilderness shall kneel before him; *
his enemies shall lick the dust.
- ¹⁰ The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall give presents; *
the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring gifts.
- ¹¹ All kings shall fall down before him; *
all nations shall do him service.
- ¹² For he shall deliver the poor when he cries, *
the needy also, and the one that has no helper.
- ¹³ He shall be favorable to the lowly and needy, *
and shall preserve the lives of the poor.
- ¹⁴ He shall deliver them from falsehood and wrong, *
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.
- ¹⁵ Long may he live! And unto him shall be given the gold of Arabia; *
prayer shall ever be made unto him, and daily shall he be blessed.
- (¹⁶ There shall be an abundance of grain on the earth, thick upon the hilltops; *
its fruit shall flourish like Lebanon, its grain like the grass upon the earth.
- ¹⁷ His Name shall endure for ever; his Name shall remain as long as the sun. *

All the nations shall be blessed through him and shall call him blessed.

- ¹⁸ Blessed be the LORD God, even the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous things;
- ¹⁹ And blessed be the Name of his majesty for ever; *
and all the earth shall be filled with his majesty. Amen, Amen.)

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 15:1-13

We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. ² Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. ³ For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me." ⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶ that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

⁸ For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹ and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name."

¹⁰ And again it is said,
"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."

¹¹ And again,
"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him."

¹² And again Isaiah says,
"The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope."

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. Matthew.

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

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ² "Re-