

2nd SUNDAY of Advent

Yr A

Reading 1

Citation: Isaiah, Chap. 11, Verses 1-10
Isaiah 11: 1-10

(Isaiah's glorious description of what God's Kingdom will be like. Proclaim the passage with as much pride, happiness, and joy as you can bring to the task. Be the excited, ecstatic Isaiah!!)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

On that day,
a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse,
and from his roots
a bud shall blossom. (very short pause)

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. [A List!]
[Vary pitch, voice tone, pace among the phrases]
(short pause)

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. (very short pause)

He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips
he shall slay the wicked. (almost disdainful – this sentence)
(very short pause)

Justice shall be the band around his waist,
and faithfulness a belt upon his hips. (stern)
(short pause)

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. [Another List!] (astonishment?)
[very pace, volume, voice tone, etc.]
[keep up astonishment, to end]

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. (very short pause)

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. (assured; confident)
(voice goes down slowly)

On that day, the root of Jesse,
set up as a signal for the nations,
the Gentiles shall seek out, (almost parenthetical)

Proclamation Format

for his dwelling shall be glorious.

(almost triumph, proud)

The word of the Lord.

2nd SUNDAY of Advent

Yr A

Reading 2

Citation: Romans, Chap. 15, Verses 4-9
Romans 15: 4-9

Paul reminds the Romans (many of whom are Gentiles living in the Jewish community there) that Jesus is as much their savior as He is of the Jews. This is a very hope-filled and uplifting proclamation. God is Good! Be as firm in your belief of this simple statement as you possibly can be, as Paul is!

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: (a loving parent)
Whatever was written previously
was written for our instruction, (very short pause)
that by endurance
and by the encouragement of the Scriptures
we might have hope. (confident) (short pause)

May the God of endurance and encouragement (prayerful)
grant you to think in harmony with one another,
in keeping with Christ Jesus,
that
with one accord (firm)
you may with one voice (firmer)
glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (celebrate!) (short pause)

Welcome one another, then,
as Christ welcomed you, (solicitous?)
for the glory of God. (very short pause)

For I say that Christ became a minister of the circumcised (voice goes up)
to show God's truthfulness, (voice goes down)
to confirm the promises to the patriarchs, (almost parenthetical)
but so that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. (short pause)

As it is written: (very short pause)

*Therefore,
I will praise you among the Gentiles
and sing praises to your name.* (firm, convinced)

The word of the Lord.

2nd SUNDAY of Advent

Yr A

GOSPEL

Citation: Matthew, Chap. 3, Verses 1-12
Matthew 3: 1-12

The introduction of John the Baptist and his role in Jesus' ministry. John is laying the groundwork for Jesus coming (more in line with what the Jews were expecting ["messiah"]) that what Jesus would ultimately describe. Still, he is urging the Jews to change their ways in order to be ready for Jesus' Coming. Consequently, you must be the prophet – bringing people up short; insisting they change their behavior to be more in keeping with their ancient covenant with God; and that there isn't much time to make the changes. Be the firm, insistent, urging, somewhat angry John!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

John the Baptist appeared,
preaching in the desert of Judea and saying,
"Repent,
for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

(short pause) (raise volume)
"

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.*

(loud but not shouting)
"
" (short pause)

John wore clothing made of camel's hair
and had a leather belt around his waist.
His food was locusts and wild honey.

(matter of fact description)
(very short pause)
(short pause)

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.

(telling the story)

(very short pause)

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.'

(anger!)
"
(less anger but not gentle)
(firm; a bit angry)
(self-righteously) (very short pause)

For I tell you,
God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

(two stresses)
(firm; almost sarcastic)

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.

(ignore first comma)

Proclamation Format

I am not worthy to carry his sandals.
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit
and fire.

(strong humility)

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."

(voice goes up)

(very firm; slowly; threatening)

The Gospel of the Lord.