

[4]

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A

FIRST READING

He shall judge the poor with justice.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

11:1-4a, 5-6, 9b

The Lord says this:

Like a branch that sprouts from a stump,
someone from David's family will someday be king.
The Spirit of the Lord will take control of him
and give him understanding and wisdom and insight.
He will be powerful,
and he will know and honor the Lord.
His greatest joy will be to worship the Lord.

He won't judge by appearances or listen to rumors.
The poor and the helpless will be treated
with fairness and with justice.
Honesty and fairness will be his royal robes.

Leopards and young goats, and wolves and lambs
will lie down and rest in the same field.
Calves and lions will eat together and be cared for by a child.

Just as water fills the sea,
the land will be filled with people who know and honor the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

72:1 and 8, 17

*R. (7) Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.*

Please help the king
to be honest and fair
just like you, our God.
Let his kingdom reach
from sea to sea,

from the Euphrates River
across all the earth.

*R. Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.*

May the glory of the king
shine brightly forever
like the sun in the sky.
Let him make nations prosper
and learn to praise him.

*R. Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.*

SECOND READING

Christ, the hope of all people.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

15: 4-6

Brothers and sisters:

The Scriptures were written to teach and encourage us by giving us hope.
God is the one who makes us patient and cheerful.

I pray that he will help you live at peace with each other,
as you follow Christ.

Then all of you together will praise God,
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

Luke 3:4, 6

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
All people shall see the salvation of God.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

† The beginning of the holy gospel according to Matthew 3:1-9, 11

John the Baptist started preaching in the desert of Judea.

He said, "Turn back to God!
The kingdom of heaven will soon be here."

John was the one the prophet Isaiah was talking about, when he said,

"In the desert someone is shouting,
'Get the road ready for the Lord!
Make a straight path for him.' "

John wore clothes made of camel's hair.
He had a leather strap around his waist
and ate grasshoppers and wild honey.

From Jerusalem and all Judea and from the Jordan River Valley
crowds of people went to John.
They told how sorry they were for their sins,
and he baptized them in the river.

Many Pharisees and Sadducees also came to be baptized.
But John said to them: "You bunch of snakes!
Who warned you to run from the coming judgment?
Do something to show that you have really given up your sins.
And don't start telling yourselves
that you belong to Abraham's family.
I tell you that God can turn these stones
into children for Abraham.

"I baptize you with water so that you will give up your sins.
But someone more powerful is going to come,
and I am not good enough even to carry his sandals.
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

The gospel of the Lord.

2nd Sunday of Advent – Cycle A

Prayer:

Dear Jesus,

We want to be your friend. Please help us to prepare for your coming so that we can be best friends forever!

In your name we pray.

Amen

Readings:

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 5-6, 9b

Psalm 72:1,8,17

Romans 15:4-6

Matthew 3:1-9, 11

Reflection:

Everybody sing, “You better watch out. You better not cry. You better not pout. I’m telling you why. Santa Claus is coming to town!” How many of you have heard your parents say, “You better be good, Santa is watching?” Why do we have to be good for Santa? (if we are good he will bring us presents!). What happens if we are on Santa’s naughty list? (coal, rocks and sticks in our stockings!)

John the Baptist is a lot like our parents. He keeps telling us to be good because Jesus, not Santa is coming. Jesus will not be bringing us toys. He will be bringing us something much better that will make our lives even happier than toys will. Jesus brings justice and peace. How great would it be to live in a world where everyone is treated fairly, took care of each other, got along and felt loved?! Take a minute to try to image life like that.....

Unlike being good for Santa who brings things for us on one day, being good in preparation for Jesus helps us become better friends with Jesus and being a friend with Jesus stays with us forever. Just as there is a down side to not being good for Santa there is also a downside to not being friends with Jesus. It means having a life without love, peace and fairness which doesn’t sound like a very happy life to me. So let’s listen to John the Baptist, our parents, our teachers, and everyone else and be good so Jesus can come into our lives and be our friend forever.

Discussion:

- What are some of the things you do to make sure you are on Santa’s Nice List?
- What are some of the things you do to prepare for Jesus’ coming?
- Are some of these actions the same?
- What is the difference between what Santa brings us and what Jesus brings us?

Activity:

As a group, create a song “Jesus Christ is Coming to Town.” Create lyrics that tell what you better do and better not do just like in “Santa Claus is Coming to Town.”