

READING GOD'S WORD Daily Mass Readings Church Year A 2020

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The English translation of some Psalm responses, some Alleluia and Gospel verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, some Summaries, and the Titles and Conclusions of the Readings, from the **Lectionary for Mass** © 1968, 1981, 1997, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc., Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

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INTRODUCTION

What began primarily as an aid to lectors preparing for Mass has now become a regular part of the daily prayer of Catholics who know the value of praying with Scripture. *Reading God's Word* helps us to follow the daily worship of the Church in a simple and convenient form.

Reading God's Word has the exact passages for daily Mass for an entire year, and they are available whenever you want them. More than simply convenient, *Reading God's Word* offers a way to respond to God's invitation to share his life. As the world Synod of Bishops on the "Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church" noted in October 2008, Scripture represents God's desire to speak directly to us. When we take up the texts in *Reading God's Word*, we enter into a relationship with God in a profound way, and these living words begin to take root in our lives and bear fruit.

True, some of the words are so familiar as to be commonplace after years of hearing them proclaimed at Mass. At the same time, new circumstances in our lives as well as the action of grace can give new meaning to a text that we have heard since childhood. When we hear or read these words intently, we discover that as St. Paul has taught us (Romans 15:4), everything written in Scripture is written as instruction for our benefit.

May *Reading God's Word* richly benefit you all during the coming year.

Editorial Staff *Living Faith: Daily Catholic Devotions*

LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

First Sunday of Advent	Dec. 1
Immaculate Conception (NOT a holy day of obligation)	
Christmas (holy day of obligation)	
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	

The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord: Solemnity of N	Mary,
the Holy Mother of God (holy day of obligation)	Wed., Jan. 1
Epiphany	Sun., Jan. 5
The Baptism of the Lord	Sun., Jan. 12
The Presentation of the Lord	Sun., Feb. 2
Ash Wednesday	Feb. 26
St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Thu., Mar. 19
The Annunciation of the Lord Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord	Wed., Mar. 25
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord	Apr. 5
Holy Thursday Good Friday	Apr. 9
Good Friday	Apr. 10
Holy Saturday	Apr. 11
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord	Apr. 12
Ascension (holy day of obligation)Thu., Ma	ay 21 or Sun., May 24
Pentecost Sunday The Most Holy Trinity	May 31
The Most Holy Trinity	Sun., June 7
The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ	Sun., June 14
The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	
The Nativity of St. John the Baptist	Wed., June 24
St. Peter and St. Paul	Mon., June 29
The Transfiguration of the Lord	
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (NOT a holy of	
	Sat., Aug. 15
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	
All Saints	
The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Sou	
	,
The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	
Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe	
First Sunday of Advent	Nov. 29

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2019 First Sunday of Advent

† Isaiah 2:1-5

The Lord will gather all nations into the eternal peace of the Kingdom of God.

 ${f T}$ his is what Isaiah, son of Amoz, saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come, the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest mountain and raised above the hills. All nations shall stream toward it: many peoples shall come and say: "Come, let us climb the LORD's mountain, to the house of the God of Jacob. that he may instruct us in his ways, and we may walk in his paths." For from Zion shall go forth instruction, U and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and impose terms on many peoples. They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD! + Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9 R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord. I rejoiced because they said to me, "We will go up to the house of the LORD." And now we have set foot within your gates, O Jerusalem. R. Jerusalem, built as a city with compact unity. To it the tribes go up. the tribes of the LORD. R. According to the decree for Israel. to give thanks to the name of the LORD. In it are set up judgment seats, seats for the house of David. R. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May those who love you prosper!

May peace be within your walls, prosperity in your buildings. **R**. Because of my brothers and friends I will say, "Peace be within you!" Because of the house of the LORD, our God, I will pray for your good. **R**.

†Romans 13:11-14

Our salvation is nearer.

Brothers and sisters:
You know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep.
For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed; the night is advanced, the day is at hand.
Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves properly as in the day, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in promiscuity and lust, not in rivalry and jealousy.
But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the flesh. + See Psalm 85:8

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Show us, Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation. **R.**

† Matthew 24:37-44

Stay awake, that you may be prepared!

esus said to his disciples: "As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. In those days before the flood. they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day that Noah entered the ark. They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away. So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be out in the field: one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left. Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. 10

Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." +

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2 ADVENT WEEKDAY

t Isaiah 4:2-6 There will be splendor for the survivors.

On that day, The branch of the LORD will be luster and glory, and the fruit of the earth will be honor and splendor for the survivors of Israel. He who remains in Zion and he who is left in Jerusalem Will be called holy: every one marked down for life in Jerusalem. When the LORD washes away the filth of the daughters of Zion, And purges Jerusalem's blood from her midst with a blast of searing judgment, Then will the LORD create, over the whole site of Mount Zion and over her place of assembly, A smoking cloud by day and a light of flaming fire by night. For over all, the LORD's glory will be shelter and protection: shade from the parching heat of day, refuge and cover from storm and rain. + Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9 R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord. I rejoiced because they said to me, "We will go up to the house of the LORD." And now we have set foot within your gates, O Jerusalem. R. Jerusalem, built as a city with compact unity. To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD. **R.** According to the decree for Israel,

to give thanks to the name of the LORD. In it are set up judgment seats, seats for the house of David. **R**. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May those who love you prosper! May peace be within your walls, prosperity in your buildings. **R**. Because of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you!" Because of the house of the LORD, our God, I will pray for your good. **R**.

See Psalm 80:4

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Come and save us, Lord our God; let your face shine upon us, that we may be saved. **R.**

† Matthew 8:5-11

Many will come from the east and the west into the Kingdom of heaven.

 ${f W}$ hen Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion approached him and appealed to him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, suffering dreadfully." He said to him, "I will come and cure him." The centurion said in reply. "Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed. For I too am a man subject to authority, with soldiers subject to me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come here,' and he comes; and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him. "Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. I say to you, many will come from the east and the west, and will recline with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the banquet in the Kingdom of heaven." +

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3 St. Francis Xavier

†Isaiah 11:1-10

The Spirit of the LORD God shall rest upon him.

On that day,

A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse,

and from his roots a bud shall blossom.

12

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 slav 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 lav 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. + Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 R. (see 7) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever. O God, with your judgment endow the king, and with your justice, the king's son; He shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment. R. Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea,

and from the River to the ends of the earth. R.

He shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save. **R**.

May his name be blessed forever;

as long as the sun his name shall remain. In him shall all the tribes of the earth be blessed; all the nations shall proclaim his happiness. **R.**

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Behold, our Lord shall come with power; he will enlighten the eyes of his servants. **R.**

t Luke 10:21-24 Jesus rejoices in the Holy Spirit.

Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I give you praise, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him." Turning to the disciples in private he said, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see.

For I say to you, many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it." +

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4 Advent Weekday, St. John Damascene

† Isaiah 25:6-10a

The LORD invites us to his feast and will wipe away the tears from all faces.

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples A feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, The web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever.

14

The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces; The reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken. On that day it will be said: "Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us! This is the LORD for whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!" For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain. + Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose; Beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul. R. He guides me in right paths for his name's sake. 10112 Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side With your rod and your staff that give me courage. R. You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes: You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. R. Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come. R.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Behold, the Lord comes to save his people; blessed are those prepared to meet him. **R**.

† Matthew 15:29-37

Jesus heals many and multiplies the bread.

At that time:

Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, went up on the mountain, and sat down there. Great crowds came to him, having with them the lame, the blind, the deformed, the mute, and many others. They placed them at his feet, and he cured them.

The crowds were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the deformed made whole, the lame walking. and the blind able to see, and they glorified the God of Israel. Jesus summoned his disciples and said, "My heart is moved with pity for the crowd, for they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, for fear they may collapse on the way." The disciples said to him. "Where could we ever get enough bread in this deserted place to satisfy such a crowd?" Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?" "Seven," they replied, "and a few fish." He ordered the crowd to sit down on the ground. Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, gave thanks, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied. They picked up the fragments left over—seven baskets full. +

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5 Advent Weekday

† Isaiah 26:1-6

Let in a nation that is just, one that keeps faith.

On that day they will sing this song in the land of Judah:

"A strong city have we; he sets up walls and ramparts to protect us.
Open up the gates to let in a nation that is just, one that keeps faith.
A nation of firm purpose you keep in peace; in peace, for its trust in you."
Trust in the LORD forever! For the LORD forever! For the LORD is an eternal Rock.
He humbles those in high places, and the lofty city he brings down; He tumbles it to the ground,

levels it with the dust.

It is trampled underfoot by the needy, by the footsteps of the poor. +Psalm 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a R. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. (or Alleluia.) Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever. It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes. **R.** Open to me the gates of justice; I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD. This gate is the LORD's: the just shall enter it. I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me and have been my savior. R. O LORD, grant salvation! O LORD, grant prosperity! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD: we bless you from the house of the LORD. The LORD is God, and he has given us light. R. Isaiah 55:6 R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call him while he is near. **R.**

† Matthew 7:21, 24-27

Whoever does the will of my Father will enter the Kingdom of heaven.

esus said to his disciples:

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,'

will enter the Kingdom of heaven,

but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

"Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them

will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.

The rain fell, the floods came,

and the winds blew and buffeted the house.

But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock.

And everyone who listens to these words of mine

but does not act on them

will be like a fool who built his house on sand.

The rain fell, the floods came,

and the winds blew and buffeted the house. And it collapsed and was completely ruined." +

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6 Advent Weekday, St. Nicholas

† Isaiah 29:17-24 On that day, the eyes of the blind shall see. \mathbf{T} hus says the Lord God: But a very little while, and Lebanon shall be changed into an orchard, and the orchard be regarded as a forest! On that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book: And out of gloom and darkness, the eyes of the blind shall see. The lowly will ever find joy in the LORD, and the poor rejoice in the Holy One of Israel. 01.-For the tyrant will be no more and the arrogant will have gone; All who are alert to do evil will be cut off, those whose mere word condemns a man, Who ensnare his defender at the gate. and leave the just man with an empty claim. Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of the house of Jacob. who redeemed Abraham: Now Jacob shall have nothing to be ashamed of, nor shall his face grow pale. When his children see the work of my hands in his midst, They shall keep my name holy; they shall reverence the Holy One of Jacob, and be in awe of the God of Israel. Those who err in spirit shall acquire understanding, and those who find fault shall receive instruction. + Psalm 27:1. 4. 13-14 **R.** (1a) The Lord is my light and my salvation. The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear? The LORD is my life's refuge;

of whom should I be afraid? R.

One thing I ask of the LORD; this I seek:

To dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,

That I may gaze on the loveliness of the LORD and contemplate his temple. **R.**

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the LORD in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD with courage; be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD. **R.**

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Behold, our Lord shall come with power; he will enlighten the eyes of his servants. **R**.

† Matthew 9:27-31

Believing in Jesus, two who were blind are cured.

As Jesus passed by, two blind men followed him, crying out, "Son of David, have pity on us!"

When he entered the house,

the blind men approached him and Jesus said to them,

"Do you believe that I can do this?"

"Yes, Lord," they said to him.

Then he touched their eyes and said,

"Let it be done for you according to your faith."

And their eyes were opened.

Jesus warned them sternly,

"See that no one knows about this."

But they went out and spread word of him through all that land. +

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

ST. AMBROSE

† Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26

The Merciful One will show you mercy when you cry out.

Thus says the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel:
O people of Zion, who dwell in Jerusalem, no more will you weep;
He will be gracious to you when you cry out, as soon as he hears he will answer you.
The Lord will give you the bread you need and the water for which you thirst.
No longer will your Teacher hide himself,

but with your own eyes you shall see your Teacher,

While from behind, a voice shall sound in your ears: "This is the way; walk in it," when you would turn to the right or to the left. He will give rain for the seed that you sow in the ground, And the wheat that the soil produces will be rich and abundant. On that day your flock will be given pasture and the lamb will graze in spacious meadows; The oxen and the asses that till the ground will eat silage tossed to them with shovel and pitchfork. Upon every high mountain and lofty hill there will be streams of running water. On the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall, The light of the moon will be like that of the sun and the light of the sun will be seven times greater like the light of seven days. On the day the LORD binds up the wounds of his people, he will heal the bruises left by his blows. + Psalm 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 R. (see Isaiah 30:18d) Blessed are all who wait for the Lord. Praise the LORD, for he is good; sing praise to our God, for he is gracious; it is fitting to praise him. The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; the dispersed of Israel he gathers. **R.** He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. He tells the number of the stars; he calls each by name. **R.** Great is our LORD and mighty in power: to his wisdom there is no limit. The LORD sustains the lowly: the wicked he casts to the ground. R. Isaiah 33:22 R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The LORD is our Judge, our Lawgiver, our King; he it is who will save us. **R**.

t Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8 At the sight of the crowds, Jesus' heart was moved with pity for them.

 esus went around to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom, and curing every disease and illness. At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest." Then he summoned his Twelve disciples
and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness.
Jesus sent out these twelve after instructing them thus, "Go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, make this proclamation: 'The Kingdom of heaven is at hand.'
Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give." +
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
† Isaiah 11:1-10 He shall judge the poor with justice.
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 line he shall slav the wicked

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. Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever. O God, with your judgment endow the king, and with your justice, the king's son; he shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment. R. Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. R. For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save. **R.** May his name be blessed forever; as long as the sun his name shall remain. In him shall all the tribes of the earth be blessed; all the nations shall proclaim his happiness. **R.** *†Romans* 15:4-9

Christ saves everyone.

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. +

Luke 3:4, 6

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all flesh shall see the salvation of God. **R**.

† Matthew 3:1-12

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!

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.