



READING GOD'S WORD
Daily Mass Readings
Church Year B 2021



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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

2020

First Sunday of Advent	Nov. 29
Immaculate Conception (<i>holy day of obligation</i>).....	Tue., Dec. 8
Christmas (<i>holy day of obligation</i>)	Fri., Dec. 25
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	Sun., Dec. 27

2021

The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (<i>holy day of obligation</i>).....	Fri., Jan. 1
Epiphany	Sun., Jan. 3
The Baptism of the Lord	Sun., Jan. 10
The Presentation of the Lord.....	Tue., Feb. 2
Ash Wednesday.....	Feb. 17
St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.....	Fri., Mar. 19
The Annunciation of the Lord.....	Thu., Mar. 25
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord.....	Mar. 28
Holy Thursday	Apr. 1
Good Friday.....	Apr. 2
Holy Saturday.....	Apr. 3
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord.....	Apr. 4
Ascension (<i>holy day of obligation</i>).....	Thu., May 13 or Sun., May 16
Pentecost Sunday	May 23
The Most Holy Trinity.....	Sun., May 30
The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ	Sun., June 6
The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.....	Fri., June 11
The Nativity of St. John the Baptist.....	Thu., June 24
St. Peter and St. Paul.....	Tue., June 29
The Transfiguration of the Lord.....	Fri., Aug. 6
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (<i>NOT a holy day of obligation</i>)	Sun., Aug. 15
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Tue., Sept. 14
All Saints (<i>NOT a holy day of obligation</i>).....	Mon., Nov. 1
The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)	Tue., Nov. 2
The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	Tue., Nov. 9
Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.....	Sun., Nov. 21
First Sunday of Advent	Nov. 28

NOTICE FOR LECTORS

If this book is used to prepare for reading at Mass, please note that the “announcement” formula is: “*A reading from the Book of . . .*,” “*A reading from the Letter of . . .*” or “*A reading from the holy Gospel according to . . .*” We have placed † before the citation as a reminder of the announcement.

At the end of the readings, the lector or presider is to say, “*The word of the Lord.*” We have placed † at the end of texts as a reminder of that concluding declaration.

Also, herein the Responsorial Verse of each day’s Psalm is printed only once in full, with an **R.** indicating where repetition is called for. The **R.** at the end of the Gospel Verse indicates that the response is one “Alleluia” or the acclamation used during Lent.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2020

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

† *Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7*

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down!

You, LORD, are our father,
our redeemer you are named forever.
Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways,
and harden our hearts so that we fear you not?
Return for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your heritage.
Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,
with the mountains quaking before you,
while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for,
such as they had not heard of from of old.
No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you
doing such deeds for those who wait for him.
Would that you might meet us doing right,
that we were mindful of you in our ways!
Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful;
all of us have become like unclean people,
all our good deeds are like polluted rags;
we have all withered like leaves,
and our guilt carries us away like the wind.
There is none who calls upon your name,
who rouses himself to cling to you;
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us up to our guilt.
Yet, O LORD, you are our father;
we are the clay and you the potter:
we are all the work of your hands. †

Psalms 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hearken,
from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth.

Rouse your power,
and come to save us. **R.**

Once again, O LORD of hosts,
look down from heaven, and see;
take care of this vine,
and protect what your right hand has planted,
the son of man whom you yourself made strong. **R.**

May your help be with the man of your right hand,
with the son of man whom you yourself made strong.
Then we will no more withdraw from you;
give us new life, and we will call upon your name. **R.**

† 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

We wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Brothers and sisters:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always on your account
for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus,
that in him you were enriched in every way,
with all discourse and all knowledge,
as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you,
so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift
as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.
He will keep you firm to the end,
irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
God is faithful,
and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. †

Psalms 85:8

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

† Mark 13:33-37

Be watchful! You do not know when the lord of the house is coming.

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Be watchful! Be alert!

You do not know when the time will come.

It is like a man traveling abroad.

He leaves home and places his servants in charge,
each with his own work,

and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch.

Watch, therefore;

you do not know when the lord of the house is coming,
whether in the evening, or at midnight,
or at cockcrow, or in the morning.

May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping.

What I say to you, I say to all: ‘Watch!’” †

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

ST. ANDREW

† Romans 10:9-18

*Thus faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard
comes through the word of Christ.*

Brothers and sisters:

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord
and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead,
you will be saved.

For one believes with the heart and so is justified,
and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.

The Scripture says,

No one who believes in him will be put to shame.

There is no distinction between Jew and Greek;
the same Lord is Lord of all,
enriching all who call upon him.

For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed?
And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard?
And how can they hear without someone to preach?
And how can people preach unless they are sent?

As it is written,

How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the good news!

But not everyone has heeded the good news;

for Isaiah says, *Lord, who has believed what was heard from us?*

Thus faith comes from what is heard,
and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

But I ask, did they not hear?

Certainly they did; for

*Their voice has gone forth to all the earth,
and their words to the ends of the world. †*

Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11

**R. (10) The judgments of the Lord are true, and all of them
are just.**

or

R. (John 6:63) Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life.

The law of the LORD is perfect,
refreshing the soul;

The decree of the LORD is trustworthy,
giving wisdom to the simple. **R.**

The precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;

The command of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eye. **R.**
The fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever;
The ordinances of the LORD are true,
all of them just. **R.**
They are more precious than gold,
than a heap of purest gold;
Sweeter also than syrup
or honey from the comb. **R.**

Matthew 4:19

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
Come after me, says the Lord,
and I will make you fishers of men. **R.**

† Matthew 4:18-22

Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers,
Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew,
casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen.

He said to them,

“Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

At once they left their nets and followed him.

He walked along from there and saw two other brothers,

James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John.

They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets.

He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father
and followed him. †

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

ADVENT WEEKDAY

† 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.
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. †

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.**

† **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 2

ADVENT WEEKDAY

† **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.
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. †

Psalms 23:1b-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.

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 3

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

† 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 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. †

Psalms 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.

Jesus 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 4

ADVENT WEEKDAY, ST. JOHN DAMASCENE

† Isaiah 29:17-24

On that day, the eyes of the blind shall see.

Thus 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.
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. †

Psalms 27:1, 4, 13-14

R. 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 5

ADVENT WEEKDAY

† **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.**

† Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

At the sight of the crowds, Jesus' heart was moved with pity for them.

Jesus 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 6
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

† *Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11*
Prepare the way of the Lord.

Comfort, give comfort to my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her
that her service is at an end,
her guilt is expiated;
indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:
In the desert prepare the way of the LORD!
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!
Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill shall be made low;
the rugged land shall be made a plain,
the rough country, a broad valley.
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together;
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Go up on to a high mountain,
Zion, herald of glad tidings;
cry out at the top of your voice,
Jerusalem, herald of good news!
Fear not to cry out
and say to the cities of Judah:
Here is your God!
Here comes with power
the Lord GOD,
who rules by his strong arm;
here is his reward with him,
his recompense before him.
Like a shepherd he feeds his flock;
in his arms he gathers the lambs,

carrying them in his bosom,
and leading the ewes with care. †

Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14

**R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and
grant us your salvation.**

I will hear what God proclaims;
the LORD—for he proclaims peace to his people.
Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him,
glory dwelling in our land. **R.**
Kindness and truth shall meet;
justice and peace shall kiss.
Truth shall spring out of the earth,
and justice shall look down from heaven. **R.**
The LORD himself will give his benefits;
our land shall yield its increase.
Justice shall walk before him,
and prepare the way of his steps. **R.**

† 2 Peter 3:8-14

We await new heavens and a new earth.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved,
that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years
and a thousand years like one day.
The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard “delay,”
but he is patient with you,
not wishing that any should perish
but that all should come to repentance.
But the day of the Lord will come like a thief,
and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar
and the elements will be dissolved by fire,
and the earth and everything done on it will be found out.

Since everything is to be dissolved in this way,
what sort of persons ought you to be,
conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion,
waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God,
because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames
and the elements melted by fire.

But according to his promise
we await new heavens and a new earth
in which righteousness dwells.

Therefore, beloved, since you await these things,
be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace. †

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.**

† *Mark 1:1-8*

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

*Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way.*

A voice of one crying out in the desert:

*“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.”*

John the Baptist appeared in the desert
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
People of the whole Judean countryside
and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem
were going out to him
and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River
as they acknowledged their sins.

John was clothed in camel’s hair,
with a leather belt around his waist.

He fed on locusts and wild honey.

And this is what he proclaimed:

“One mightier than I is coming after me.

I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.

I have baptized you with water;

he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” †

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

ST. AMBROSE

† *Isaiah 35:1-10*

God himself will come and save you.

The desert and the parched land will exult;
the steppe will rejoice and bloom.

They will bloom with abundant flowers,
and rejoice with joyful song.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to them,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;

They will see the glory of the LORD,
the splendor of our God.

Strengthen the hands that are feeble,

make firm the knees that are weak,
Say to those whose hearts are frightened:
Be strong, fear not!
Here is your God,
he comes with vindication;
With divine recompense
he comes to save you.
Then will the eyes of the blind be opened,
the ears of the deaf be cleared;
Then will the lame leap like a stag,
then the tongue of the mute will sing.
Streams will burst forth in the desert,
and rivers in the steppe.
The burning sands will become pools,
and the thirsty ground, springs of water;
The abode where jackals lurk
will be a marsh for the reed and papyrus.
A highway will be there,
called the holy way;
No one unclean may pass over it,
nor fools go astray on it.
No lion will be there,
nor beast of prey go up to be met upon it.
It is for those with a journey to make,
and on it the redeemed will walk.
Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return
and enter Zion singing,
crowned with everlasting joy;
They will meet with joy and gladness,
sorrow and mourning will flee. †

Psalm 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14

R. (Isaiah 35:4f) **Our God will come to save us!**

I will hear what God proclaims;
the LORD—for he proclaims peace to his people.
Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him,
glory dwelling in our land. **R.**
Kindness and truth shall meet;
justice and peace shall kiss.
Truth shall spring out of the earth,
and justice shall look down from heaven. **R.**
The LORD himself will give his benefits;
our land shall yield its increase.
Justice shall walk before him,
and salvation, along the way of his steps. **R.**

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Behold the king will come, the Lord of the earth,
and he himself will lift the yoke of our captivity. **R.**

† Luke 5:17-26

We have seen incredible things today.

One day as Jesus was teaching,
Pharisees and teachers of the law,
who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and Jerusalem,
were sitting there,
and the power of the Lord was with him for healing.
And some men brought on a stretcher a man who was paralyzed;
they were trying to bring him in and set him in his presence.
But not finding a way to bring him in because of the crowd,
they went up on the roof
and lowered him on the stretcher through the tiles
into the middle in front of Jesus.
When Jesus saw their faith, he said,
“As for you, your sins are forgiven.”

Then the scribes and Pharisees began to ask themselves,
“Who is this who speaks blasphemies?
Who but God alone can forgive sins?”
Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them in reply,
“What are you thinking in your hearts?
Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’
or to say, ‘Rise and walk’?
But that you may know
that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—
he said to the one who was paralyzed,
“I say to you, rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home.”

He stood up immediately before them,
picked up what he had been lying on,
and went home, glorifying God.
Then astonishment seized them all and they glorified God,
and, struck with awe, they said,
“We have seen incredible things today.” †

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY,
PATRONAL FEASTDAY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

† Genesis 3:9-15, 20

I will put enmity between your offspring and hers.

After the man, Adam, had eaten of the tree,
the LORD God called to the man and asked him, "Where are you?"
He answered, "I heard you in the garden;
but I was afraid, because I was naked,
so I hid myself."

Then he asked, "Who told you that you were naked?
You have eaten, then,
from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat!"

The man replied, "The woman whom you put here with me—
she gave me fruit from the tree, and so I ate it."

The LORD God then asked the woman,
"Why did you do such a thing?"

The woman answered, "The serpent tricked me into it, so I ate it."

Then the LORD God said to the serpent:

"Because you have done this, you shall be banned
from all the animals
and from all the wild creatures;
on your belly shall you crawl,
and dirt shall you eat
all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike at your head,
while you strike at his heel."

The man called his wife Eve,
because she became the mother of all the living. †

Psalm 98:1bcde,2-3ab,3cd-4

**R. Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous
deeds.**

Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done wondrous deeds;
His right hand has won victory for him,
his holy arm. **R.**

The LORD has made his salvation known:
in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice.

He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness
toward the house of Israel. **R.**
All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation by our God.
Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands;
break into song; sing praise. **R.**

† **Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12**

He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world.

Brothers and sisters:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ
with every spiritual blessing in the heavens,
as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world,
to be holy and without blemish before him.

In love he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ,
in accord with the favor of his will,
for the praise of the glory of his grace
that he granted us in the beloved.

In him we were also chosen,
destined in accord with the purpose of the One
who accomplishes all things according to the intention of his will,
so that we might exist for the praise of his glory,
we who first hoped in Christ. †

See Luke 1:28

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you;
blessed are you among women. **R.**

† **Luke 1:26-38**

Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.

The angel Gabriel was sent from God
to a town of Galilee called Nazareth,
to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph,
of the house of David,
and the virgin's name was Mary.

And coming to her, he said,

“Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.”

But she was greatly troubled at what was said
and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Then the angel said to her,

“Do not be afraid, Mary,
for you have found favor with God.

Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you shall name him Jesus.
He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High,
and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father,
and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever,
and of his Kingdom there will be no end.”
But Mary said to the angel,
“How can this be,
since I have no relations with a man?”
And the angel said to her in reply,
“The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.
Therefore the child to be born
will be called holy, the Son of God.
And behold, Elizabeth, your relative,
has also conceived a son in her old age,
and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren;
for nothing will be impossible for God.”
Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your word.”
Then the angel departed from her. †

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

ADVENT WEEKDAY, ST. JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATOATZIN

† Isaiah 40:25-31

The LORD God is almighty and gives strength to the fainting.

To whom can you liken me as an equal?
says the Holy One.
Lift up your eyes on high
and see who has created these things:
He leads out their army and numbers them,
calling them all by name.
By his great might and the strength of his power
not one of them is missing!
Why, O Jacob, do you say,
and declare, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?
Do you not know
or have you not heard?
The LORD is the eternal God,
creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint nor grow weary,

and his knowledge is beyond scrutiny.
He gives strength to the fainting;
for the weak he makes vigor abound.
Though young men faint and grow weary,
and youths stagger and fall,
They that hope in the LORD will renew their strength,
they will soar as with eagles' wings;
They will run and not grow weary,
walk and not grow faint. †

Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10

R. O bless the Lord, my soul!

Bless the LORD, O my soul;
and all my being, bless his holy name.
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits. **R.**
He pardons all your iniquities,
he heals all your ills.
He redeems your life from destruction,
he crowns you with kindness and compassion. **R.**
Merciful and gracious is the LORD,
slow to anger and abounding in kindness.
Not according to our sins does he deal with us,
nor does he requite us according to our crimes. **R.**

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

† Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me, all you who labor.

Jesus said to the crowds:
“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am meek and humble of heart;
and you will find rest for yourselves.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.” †

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

ADVENT WEEKDAY

† Isaiah 41:13-20

I am your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.

I am the LORD, your God,
who grasp your right hand;

It is I who say to you, "Fear not,
I will help you."

Fear not, O worm Jacob,
O maggot Israel;

I will help you, says the LORD;
your redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.

I will make of you a threshing sledge,
sharp, new, and double-edged,
To thresh the mountains and crush them,
to make the hills like chaff.

When you winnow them, the wind shall carry them off
and the storm shall scatter them.

But you shall rejoice in the LORD,
and glory in the Holy One of Israel.

The afflicted and the needy seek water in vain,
their tongues are parched with thirst.

I, the LORD, will answer them;
I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them.

I will open up rivers on the bare heights,
and fountains in the broad valleys;

I will turn the desert into a marshland,
and the dry ground into springs of water.

I will plant in the desert the cedar,
acacia, myrtle, and olive;

I will set in the wasteland the cypress,
together with the plane tree and the pine,

That all may see and know,
observe and understand,

That the hand of the LORD has done this,
the Holy One of Israel has created it. †

Psalms 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab

**R. (8) The Lord is gracious and merciful; slow to anger, and
of great kindness.**

I will extol you, O my God and King,
and I will bless your name forever and ever.

The LORD is good to all
and compassionate toward all his works. **R.**

Let all your works give you thanks, O LORD,
and let your faithful ones bless you.

Let them discourse of the glory of your Kingdom
and speak of your might. **R.**

Let them make known to men your might
and the glorious splendor of your Kingdom.

Your Kingdom is a Kingdom for all ages,
and your dominion endures through all generations. **R.**

Isaiah 45:8

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Let the clouds rain down the Just One,
and the earth bring forth a Savior. **R.**

† **Matthew 11:11-15**

None greater than John the Baptist has been born.

Jesus said to the crowds:
“Amen, I say to you,
among those born of women
there has been none greater than John the Baptist;
yet the least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than he.
From the days of John the Baptist until now,
the Kingdom of heaven suffers violence,
and the violent are taking it by force.
All the prophets and the law prophesied up to the time of John.
And if you are willing to accept it,
he is Elijah, the one who is to come.
Whoever has ears ought to hear.” †

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

ADVENT WEEKDAY, ST. POPE DAMASUS I

† **Isaiah 48:17-19**

If only you would hearken to my commandments.

Thus says the LORD, your redeemer,
the Holy One of Israel:
I, the LORD, your God,
teach you what is for your good,
and lead you on the way you should go.
If you would hearken to my commandments,
your prosperity would be like a river,
and your vindication like the waves of the sea;
Your descendants would be like the sand,
and those born of your stock like its grains,
Their name never cut off
or blotted out from my presence. †

Psalms 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6

R. (see John 8:12) **Those who follow you, Lord, will have the light of life.**

Blessed the man who follows not
the counsel of the wicked

Nor walks in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the company of the insolent,
But delights in the law of the LORD
and meditates on his law day and night. **R.**

He is like a tree
planted near running water,
That yields its fruit in due season,
and whose leaves never fade.

Whatever he does, prospers. **R.**

Not so the wicked, not so;
they are like chaff which the wind drives away.
For the LORD watches over the way of the just,
but the way of the wicked vanishes. **R.**

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord will come; go out to meet him!

He is the prince of peace. **R.**

† Matthew 11:16-19

They listened to neither John nor to the Son of Man.

Jesus said to the crowds:

“To what shall I compare this generation?

It is like children who sit in marketplaces and call to one another,

‘We played the flute for you, but you did not dance,
we sang a dirge but you did not mourn.’

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they said,

‘He is possessed by a demon.’

The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they said,

‘Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard,
a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’

But wisdom is vindicated by her works.” †

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

† Zechariah 2:14-17 (or *Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab*)

Also permitted: Any readings from the *Lectionary for Ritual Masses* (volume IV),
the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, numbers 707-712.

Rejoice, O daughter Zion! See, I am coming.

Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion!

See, I am coming to dwell among you, says the LORD.

Many nations shall join themselves to the LORD on that day,

and they shall be his people,

and he will dwell among you,

and you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you.