



READING GOD'S WORD
Daily and Sunday Mass Readings
Church Year A 2023



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Published with the authority of the Committee on Divine Worship,
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

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ISBN Number: 978-1-68279-431-9

Cover Design: Jamie Wyatt
Cover Art: Adobe Stock/jorisvo

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.

LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

2022

First Sunday of Advent	Nov. 27
Immaculate Conception (<i>holyday of obligation</i>).....	Thu., Dec. 8
Christmas.....	Sun., Dec. 25
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	Fri., Dec. 30

2023

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God; The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord:	Sun., Jan. 1
Epiphany	Sun., Jan. 8
The Baptism of the Lord	Mon., Jan. 9
The Presentation of the Lord.....	Thu., Feb. 2
Ash Wednesday.....	Feb. 22
St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.....	Mon., Mar. 20
The Annunciation of the Lord.....	Sat., Mar. 25
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord.....	Apr. 2
Holy Thursday	Apr. 6
Good Friday.....	Apr. 7
Holy Saturday.....	Apr. 8
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord.....	Apr. 9
Ascension (<i>holyday of obligation</i>)	Thu., May 18 or Sun., May 21
Pentecost Sunday	May 28
The Most Holy Trinity.....	Sun., June 4
The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ	Sun., June 11
The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.....	Fri., June 16
The Nativity of St. John the Baptist.....	Sat., June 24
St. Peter and St. Paul.....	Thu., June 29
The Transfiguration of the Lord.....	Sun., Aug. 6
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (<i>holyday of obligation</i>).....	Tue., Aug. 15
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Thu., Sept. 14
All Saints (<i>holyday of obligation</i>)	Wed., Nov. 1
The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)..	Thu., Nov. 2
The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	Thu., Nov. 9
Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.....	Sun., Nov. 26
First Sunday of Advent	Dec. 3

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 27, 2022

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

† Isaiah 2:1-5

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

This 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,
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! †

Psalms 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9

R. (see 1) **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!

Jesus 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.

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, NOVEMBER 28

ADVENT WEEKDAY

† 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. †

Psalms 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.

When 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, NOVEMBER 29

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, 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. †*

Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 11

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

or

(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. †

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

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 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. (26a) 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 2

ADVENT WEEKDAY

† 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. †

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 3

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

† **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 4
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 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.**

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.

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.

I am not worthy to carry his sandals.

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

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.” †

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

ADVENT WEEKDAY

† 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 6

ADVENT WEEKDAY, ST. NICHOLAS

† Isaiah 40:1-11

God consoles his people.

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.

A voice says, “Cry out!”

I answer, “What shall I cry out?”

“All flesh is grass,
and all their glory like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower wilts,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it.

So then, the people is the grass.

Though the grass withers and the flower wilts,
the word of our God stands forever.”

Go up onto 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 96:1-2, 3, 10ac, 11-12, 13

R. (see Isaiah 40:10ab) **The Lord our God comes with power.**

Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all you lands.

Sing to the LORD; bless his name;
announce his salvation, day after day. **R.**

Tell his glory among the nations;
among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.

Say among the nations: The LORD is king;
he governs the peoples with equity. **R.**

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice;
let the sea and what fills it resound;
let the plains be joyful and all that is in them!

Then let all the trees of the forest rejoice. **R.**

They shall exult before the LORD, for he comes;
for he comes to rule the earth.

He shall rule the world with justice
and the peoples with his constancy. **R.**

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The day of the Lord is near:

Behold, he comes to save us. **R.**

† Matthew 18:12-14

God does not will that the little ones be lost.

Jesus said to his disciples:

“What is your opinion?”

If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray,
will he not leave the ninety-nine in the hills
and go in search of the stray?

And if he finds it, amen, I say to you, he rejoices more over it than over the ninety-nine that did not stray.
In just the same way, it is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones be lost.” †

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

ST. AMBROSE

† 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 and 10

R. (1) 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 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,