

## Advent 2019 Lectionary - Year A

### **Advent 1, 27<sup>th</sup> November**

#### Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. <sup>3</sup> Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

<sup>5</sup> O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

#### Psalm 122

A Song of Ascents. Of David. <sup>1</sup> I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!' <sup>2</sup> Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together. <sup>4</sup> To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord. <sup>5</sup> For there the thrones for judgement were set up, the thrones of the house of David.

<sup>6</sup> Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May they prosper who love you. <sup>7</sup> Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.' <sup>8</sup> For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, 'Peace be within you.' <sup>9</sup> For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.;

#### Romans 13:11-14

<sup>11</sup> Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

#### Matthew 24:36-44

<sup>36</sup> 'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son,\* but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day\* your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

### **Advent 2, 5<sup>th</sup> December**

#### Isaiah 11:1-10;

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup> The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. <sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

### Psalm 72:1-7,18-19

Of Solomon. <sup>1</sup> Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son. <sup>2</sup> May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice. <sup>3</sup> May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness. <sup>4</sup> May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

<sup>5</sup> May he live\* while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations. <sup>6</sup> May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth. <sup>7</sup> In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

<sup>18</sup> Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. <sup>19</sup> Blessed be his glorious name for ever; may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.

### Romans 15:4-13;

<sup>4</sup>For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess' you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name'; <sup>10</sup>and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'; <sup>11</sup>and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; <sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.' <sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

### Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'" <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' <sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> 'I baptize you with\* water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with\* the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

### **Advent 3, 12<sup>th</sup> December**

#### **Isaiah 35:1-10,**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus<sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,\* the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it,\* but it shall be for God's people;\* no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

#### **Psalms 146:5-10**

<sup>5</sup> Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, <sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith for ever; <sup>7</sup> who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free; <sup>8</sup> the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. <sup>9</sup> The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

<sup>10</sup> The Lord will reign for ever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

#### **or Luke 1:47-55**

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, <sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

#### **James 5:7-10;**

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, beloved,\* until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> Beloved,\* do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, beloved,\* take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

#### **Matthew 11:2-11**

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah\* was doing, he sent word by his\* disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers\* are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

<sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What then did you go out to see? Someone\* dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What then did you go out to see? A prophet?\* Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." <sup>11</sup> Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

## **Advent 4, 18<sup>th</sup> December**

### **Isaiah 7:10-16;**

10 Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah\* said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman\* is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.\* <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

### **Psalm 80:1-7,17-19**

To the leader: on Lilies, a Covenant. Of Asaph. A Psalm. <sup>1</sup> Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth <sup>2</sup> before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

<sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

<sup>4</sup> O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? <sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure. <sup>6</sup> You make us the scorn\* of our neighbours; our enemies laugh among themselves.

<sup>7</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

<sup>17</sup> But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. <sup>18</sup> Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

<sup>19</sup> Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

### **Romans 1:1-7,**

Paul, a servant\* of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup>the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit\* of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup>including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup> To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

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

### **Matthew 1:18-25**

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah\* took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son;\* and he named him Jesus.