

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump
of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
²The 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.
³His 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;
⁴but 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.
⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around
his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The 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.
⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of
the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the
adder's den.
⁹They 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.

¹⁰On 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**SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13**

[not printed]

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wil-
derness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the
kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This 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.’”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with
a leather belt around his waist, and his food was
locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of
Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him,
and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they
were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confess-
ing their sins.

⁷But 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? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do 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. ¹⁰Even
now the ax 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.

¹¹“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. ¹²His
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.”

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11.

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