

**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.

<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 for the  
poor  
and decide with equity for the oppressed  
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 will feed 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**

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

[not printed]

**GOSPEL: 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 Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup>Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, <sup>9</sup>and 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 ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>“I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and 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.”

**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.

Cover: *Peaceable Kingdom* by John August Swanson. Copyright © John August Swanson. All rights reserved. Used by permission of the artist.

Readings from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Revised Common Lectionary copyright © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT), admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Please visit our website at [www.augsburgfortress.org](http://www.augsburgfortress.org).

Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Printed in U.S.A.

ITEM014949 ELCA-R