

**Spiritual Communion – 2nd Sunday of Advent
Sunday 4 December 2022**

**My Jesus,
I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the
altar.
I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive
you into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come spiritually into my soul
so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever.
Amen.**

based on a prayer of St Alphonsus Liguori

At the Saviour's command
and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**



Concluding Prayer

Replenished by the food of spiritual
nourishment, we humbly beseech
you, O Lord, that, through our
partaking in this mystery, you may
teach us to judge wisely the things
of earth and hold firm to the things
of heaven. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Opening Prayer

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those
who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of
heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. Who lives and
reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on
him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of
counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The
fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives
no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with
equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes
the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked.
Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion feed together, with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

In his days justice shall flourish, and peace till the moon fails.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement.

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds.

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor.

May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name.

Romans 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing to your name.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.**

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 3:1-12

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise 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 the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord