

## Monday of the First Week of Advent

Lectionary: 175

**Reading 1** (Isa 2:1-5)

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!

**Or, in Year A: Reading 1** (Isa 4:2-6)

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.

**Responsorial Psalm** (Ps 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. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

Jerusalem, built as a city  
with compact unity.

To it the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the LORD.

**R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

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. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!  
May those who love you prosper!

May peace be within your walls,  
prosperity in your buildings.

**R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

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. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

**Alleluia** (See Ps 80:4)

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Come and save us, LORD our God;  
let your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel** (Matt 8:5-11)

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 of the First Week of Advent

Lectionary: 176

**Reading 1** (Isa 11:1-10)

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.

**Responsorial Psalm** (Ps 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 flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.**

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. **Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.**

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. **Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.**

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. **Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.**

**Alleluia**

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Behold, our Lord shall come with power;  
he will enlighten the eyes of his servants.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel** (Luke 10:21-24)

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 of the First Week of Advent

Lectionary: 177

### Reading 1 (Isa 25:6-10a)

On this mountain the LORD of hosts  
will provide for all peoples  
A feast of rich food and choice wines,  
juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines.  
On this mountain he will destroy  
the veil that veils all peoples,  
The web that is woven over all nations;  
he will destroy death forever.  
The Lord GOD will wipe away  
the tears from all faces;  
The reproach of his people he will remove  
from the whole earth; for the Lord has spoken.

On that day it will be said:  
“Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!  
This is the LORD for whom we looked;  
let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!”  
For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain.

### Responsorial Psalm (Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6)

R. (6cd) **I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.**  
The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;  
Beside restful waters he leads me;  
he refreshes my soul.

R. **I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.**  
He guides me in right paths  
for his name’s sake.  
Even though I walk in the dark valley  
I fear no evil; for you are at my side  
With your rod and your staff  
that give me courage.

R. **I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.**  
You spread the table before me  
in the sight of my foes;  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

R. **I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.**  
Only goodness and kindness follow me  
all the days of my life;  
And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
for years to come.

R. **I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.**

## Alleluia

### R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Behold, the Lord comes to save his people;  
blessed are those prepared to meet him.

### R. Alleluia, alleluia.

### Gospel (Matt 15:29-37)

At that time:  
Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee,  
went up on the mountain, and sat down there.  
Great crowds came to him,  
having with them the lame, the blind, the deformed, the mute,  
and many others.  
They placed them at his feet, and he cured them.  
The crowds were amazed when they saw the mute speaking,  
the deformed made whole,  
the lame walking,  
and the blind able to see,  
and they glorified the God of Israel.

Jesus summoned his disciples and said,  
“My heart is moved with pity for the crowd,  
for they have been with me now for three days  
and have nothing to eat.  
I do not want to send them away hungry,  
for fear they may collapse on the way.”  
The disciples said to him,  
“Where could we ever get enough bread in this deserted place  
to satisfy such a crowd?”  
Jesus said to them, “How many loaves do you have?”  
“Seven,” they replied, “and a few fish.”  
He ordered the crowd to sit down on the ground.  
Then he took the seven loaves and the fish,  
gave thanks, broke the loaves,  
and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds.  
They all ate and were satisfied.  
They picked up the fragments left over—seven baskets full.

## Thursday of the First Week of Advent

Lectionary: 178

**Reading 1** (Isa 26:1-6)

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.

**Responsorial Psalm** (Ps 118:1+ 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a)

R. (26a) **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

or:

**R. 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. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

or:

**R. Alleluia.**

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. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

or:

**R. Alleluia.**

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. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

or:

**R. Alleluia.**

**Alleluia** (Isa 55:6)

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Seek the LORD while he may be found;  
call him while he is near.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel** (Matt 7:21, 24-27)

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 of the First Week of Advent

Lectionary: 179

### Reading 1 (Isa 29:17-24)

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.

### Responsorial Psalm (Ps 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. **The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

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. **The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

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. **The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

### Alleluia

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Behold, our Lord shall come with power;  
he will enlighten the eyes of his servants.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

### Gospel (Matt 9:27-31)

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 of the First Week of Advent

Lectionary: 180

**Reading 1** (Isa 30:19-21, 23-26)

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.

**Responsorial Psalm** (Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6)

R. (see Isa 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. Blessed are all who wait for the Lord.**  
He heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.  
He tells the number of the stars;

he calls each by name.

**R. Blessed are all who wait for the Lord.**

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. Blessed are all who wait for the Lord.**

**Alleluia** (Isa 33:22)

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

The LORD is our Judge, our Lawgiver, our King;  
he it is who will save us.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel** (Matt 9:35–10:1, 5a, 6-8)

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.”

## Monday of the Second Week of Advent

Lectionary: 181

### Reading 1 (Isa 35:1-10)

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.

### Responsorial Psalm (Ps 85:9ab+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. **Our God will come to save us!**

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. **Our God will come to save us!**

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. **Our God will come to save us!**

### Alleluia

#### R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Behold the king will come, the Lord of the earth,  
and he himself will lift the yoke of our capacity.

#### R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

### Gospel (Luke 5:17-26)

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 of the Second Week of Advent

Lectionary: 182

### Reading 1 (Isa 40:1-11)

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.

### Responsorial Psalm (Ps 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. The Lord our God comes with power.**  
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. The Lord our God comes with power.**  
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. The Lord our God comes with power.**  
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. The Lord our God comes with power.**

### Alleluia

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**  
The day of the Lord is near;  
Behold, he comes to save us.  
**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

### Gospel (Matt 18:12-14)

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 of the Second Week of Advent

Lectionary: 183

### Reading 1 (Isa 40:25-31)

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.

### Responsorial Psalm (Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8+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. **O bless the Lord, my soul!**

He pardons all your iniquities,  
he heals all your ills.  
He redeems your life from destruction,  
he crowns you with kindness and compassion.

R. **O bless the Lord, my soul!**

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. **O bless the Lord, my soul!**

### Alleluia

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Behold, the Lord comes to save his people;  
blessed are those prepared to meet him.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

### Gospel (Matt 11:28-30)

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 of the Second Week of Advent

Lectionary: 184

### Reading 1 (Isa 41:13-20)

I am the LORD, your God,  
who grasp your right hand;  
It is I who say to you, "Fear not,  
I will help you."  
Fear not, O worm Jacob,  
O maggot Israel;  
I will help you, says the LORD;  
your redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.  
I will make of you a threshing sledge,  
sharp, new, and double-edged,  
To thresh the mountains and crush them,  
to make the hills like chaff.  
When you winnow them, the wind shall carry them off  
and the storm shall scatter them.  
But you shall rejoice in the LORD,  
and glory in the Holy One of Israel.

The afflicted and the needy seek water in vain,  
their tongues are parched with thirst.  
I, the LORD, will answer them;  
I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them.  
I will open up rivers on the bare heights,  
and fountains in the broad valleys;  
I will turn the desert into a marshland,  
and the dry ground into springs of water.  
I will plant in the desert the cedar,  
acacia, myrtle, and olive;  
I will set in the wasteland the cypress,  
together with the plane tree and the pine,  
That all may see and know,  
observe and understand,  
That the hand of the LORD has done this,  
the Holy One of Israel has created it.

### Responsorial Psalm (Ps 145:1+9, 10-11, 12-13ab)

R. (8) **The Lord is gracious and merciful; slow to anger, and of great kindness.**

I will extol you, O my God and King,  
and I will bless your name forever and ever.  
The LORD is good to all  
and compassionate toward all his works.

R. **The Lord is gracious and merciful; slow to anger, and of great kindness.**

Let all your works give you thanks, O LORD,  
and let your faithful ones bless you.  
Let them discourse of the glory of your Kingdom

and speak of your might.

R. **The Lord is gracious and merciful; slow to anger, and of great kindness.**

Let them make known to men your might  
and the glorious splendor of your Kingdom.

Your Kingdom is a Kingdom for all ages,  
and your dominion endures through all generations.

R. **The Lord is gracious and merciful; slow to anger, and of great kindness.**

**Alleluia** (Isa 45:8)

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Let the clouds rain down the Just One,  
and the earth bring forth a Savior.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel** (Matt 11:11-15)

Jesus said to the crowds:

"Amen, I say to you,  
among those born of women  
there has been none greater than John the Baptist;  
yet the least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than he.  
From the days of John the Baptist until now,  
the Kingdom of heaven suffers violence,  
and the violent are taking it by force.  
All the prophets and the law prophesied up to the time of John.  
And if you are willing to accept it,  
he is Elijah, the one who is to come.  
Whoever has ears ought to hear."

## Friday of the Second Week of Advent

Lectionary: 185

### Reading 1 (Isa 48:17-19)

Thus says the LORD, your redeemer,  
the Holy One of Israel:  
I, the LORD, your God,  
teach you what is for your good,  
and lead you on the way you should go.  
If you would hearken to my commandments,  
your prosperity would be like a river,  
and your vindication like the waves of the sea;  
Your descendants would be like the sand,  
and those born of your stock like its grains,  
Their name never cut off  
or blotted out from my presence.

### Responsorial Psalm (Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4+6)

R. (see John 8:12) **Those who follow you, Lord, will have the light of life.**

Blessed the man who follows not  
the counsel of the wicked  
Nor walks in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the company of the insolent,  
But delights in the law of the LORD  
and meditates on his law day and night.

R. **Those who follow you, Lord, will have the light of life.**

He is like a tree  
planted near running water,  
That yields its fruit in due season,  
and whose leaves never fade.

Whatever he does, prospers.

R. **Those who follow you, Lord, will have the light of life.**

Not so the wicked, not so;  
they are like chaff which the wind drives away.  
For the LORD watches over the way of the just,  
but the way of the wicked vanishes.

R. **Those who follow you, Lord, will have the light of life.**

### Alleluia

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

The Lord will come; go out to meet him!  
He is the prince of peace.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

### Gospel (Matt 11:16-19)

Jesus said to the crowds:

“To what shall I compare this generation?

It is like children who sit in marketplaces and call to one another,  
‘We played the flute for you, but you did not dance,  
we sang a dirge but you did not mourn.’  
For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they said,  
‘He is possessed by a demon.’  
The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they said,  
‘Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard,  
a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’  
But wisdom is vindicated by her works.”

## Saturday of the Second Week of Advent

Lectionary: 186

**Reading 1** (Sir 48:1-4, 9-11)

In those days,  
like a fire there appeared the prophet Elijah  
whose words were as a flaming furnace.  
Their staff of bread he shattered,  
in his zeal he reduced them to straits;  
By the Lord's word he shut up the heavens  
and three times brought down fire.  
How awesome are you, Elijah, in your wondrous deeds!  
Whose glory is equal to yours?  
You were taken aloft in a whirlwind of fire,  
in a chariot with fiery horses.  
You were destined, it is written, in time to come  
to put an end to wrath before the day of the LORD,  
To turn back the hearts of fathers toward their sons,  
and to re-establish the tribes of Jacob.  
Blessed is he who shall have seen you  
and who falls asleep in your friendship.

**Responsorial Psalm** (Ps 80:2ac+3b, 15-16, 18-19)

**R. (4) Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hearken,  
From your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth.  
Rouse your power.

**R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

Once again, O LORD of hosts,  
look down from heaven, and see;  
Take care of this vine,

and protect what your right hand has planted  
the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

**R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

May your help be with the man of your right hand,  
with the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

Then we will no more withdraw from you;  
give us new life, and we will call upon your name.

**R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

**Alleluia** (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. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel** (Matt 17:9a, 10-13)

As they were coming down from the mountain,  
the disciples asked Jesus,  
"Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"  
He said in reply, "Elijah will indeed come and restore all things;  
but I tell you that Elijah has already come,  
and they did not recognize him but did to him whatever they pleased.  
So also will the Son of Man suffer at their hands."  
Then the disciples understood  
that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist.

## Monday of the Third Week of Advent

Lectionary: 187

### Reading 1 (Num 24:2-7, 15-17a)

When Balaam raised his eyes and saw Israel encamped, tribe by tribe,  
the spirit of God came upon him,  
and he gave voice to his oracle:

The utterance of Balaam, son of Beor,  
the utterance of a man whose eye is true,  
The utterance of one who hears what God says,  
and knows what the Most High knows,  
Of one who sees what the Almighty sees,  
enraptured, and with eyes unveiled:  
How goodly are your tents, O Jacob;  
your encampments, O Israel!  
They are like gardens beside a stream,  
like the cedars planted by the LORD.  
His wells shall yield free-flowing waters,  
he shall have the sea within reach;  
His king shall rise higher,  
and his royalty shall be exalted.

Then Balaam gave voice to his oracle:

The utterance of Balaam, son of Beor,  
the utterance of the man whose eye is true,  
The utterance of one who hears what God says,  
and knows what the Most High knows,  
Of one who sees what the Almighty sees,  
enraptured, and with eyes unveiled.  
I see him, though not now;  
I behold him, though not near:  
A star shall advance from Jacob,  
and a staff shall rise from Israel.

### Responsorial Psalm (Ps 25:4-5ab, 6+7bc, 8-9)

#### R.(4) Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;  
teach me your paths,  
Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my savior.

#### R. Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Remember that your compassion, O LORD,  
and your kindness are from of old.  
In your kindness remember me,  
because of your goodness, O LORD.

#### R. Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Good and upright is the LORD;

thus he shows sinners the way.  
He guides the humble to justice,  
he teaches the humble his way.

#### R. Teach me your ways, O Lord.

### Alleluia (Ps 85:8)

#### R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Show us, LORD, your love,  
and grant us your salvation.

#### R. Alleluia, alleluia.

### Gospel (Matt 21:23-27)

When Jesus had come into the temple area,  
the chief priests and the elders of the people approached him  
as he was teaching and said,  
"By what authority are you doing these things?  
And who gave you this authority?"  
Jesus said to them in reply,  
"I shall ask you one question, and if you answer it for me,  
then I shall tell you by what authority I do these things.  
Where was John's baptism from?  
Was it of heavenly or of human origin?"  
They discussed this among themselves and said,  
"If we say 'Of heavenly origin,' he will say to us,  
'Then why did you not believe him?'  
But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we fear the crowd,  
for they all regard John as a prophet."  
So they said to Jesus in reply, "We do not know."  
He himself said to them,  
"Neither shall I tell you by what authority I do these things."

## Tuesday of the Third Week of Advent

Lectionary: 188

**Reading 1** (Zeph 3:1-2, 9-13)

Thus says the LORD:

Woe to the city, rebellious and polluted,  
to the tyrannical city!  
She hears no voice,  
accepts no correction;  
In the LORD she has not trusted,  
to her God she has not drawn near.

For then I will change and purify  
the lips of the peoples,  
That they all may call upon the name of the LORD,  
to serve him with one accord;  
From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia  
and as far as the recesses of the North,  
they shall bring me offerings.

On that day  
You need not be ashamed  
of all your deeds,  
your rebellious actions against me;  
For then will I remove from your midst  
the proud braggarts,  
And you shall no longer exalt yourself  
on my holy mountain.  
But I will leave as a remnant in your midst  
a people humble and lowly,  
Who shall take refuge in the name of the LORD:  
the remnant of Israel.  
They shall do no wrong  
and speak no lies;  
Nor shall there be found in their mouths  
a deceitful tongue;  
They shall pasture and couch their flocks  
with none to disturb them.

**Responsorial Psalm** (Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19+23)

**R. (7a) The Lord hears the cry of the poor.**

I will bless the LORD at all times;  
his praise shall be ever in my mouth.  
Let my soul glory in the LORD;  
the lowly will hear me and be glad.

**R. The Lord hears the cry of the poor.**

Look to him that you may be radiant with joy,  
and your faces may not blush with shame.

When the poor one called out, the LORD heard,  
and from all his distress he saved him.

**R. The Lord hears the cry of the poor.**

The LORD confronts the evildoers,  
to destroy remembrance of them from the earth.  
When the just cry out, the LORD hears them,  
and from all their distress he rescues them.

**R. The Lord hears the cry of the poor.**

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted;  
and those who are crushed in spirit he saves.  
The LORD redeems the lives of his servants;  
no one incurs guilt who takes refuge in him.

**R. The Lord hears the cry of the poor.**

**Alleluia**

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Come, O Lord, do not delay;  
forgive the sins of your people.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel** (Matt 21:28-32)

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people:

“What is your opinion?

A man had two sons.

He came to the first and said,

‘Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.’

The son said in reply, ‘I will not,’

but afterwards he changed his mind and went.

The man came to the other son and gave the same order.

He said in reply, ‘Yes, sir,’ but did not go.

Which of the two did his father’s will?”

They answered, “The first.”

Jesus said to them, “Amen, I say to you,

tax collectors and prostitutes

are entering the Kingdom of God before you.

When John came to you in the way of righteousness,

you did not believe him;

but tax collectors and prostitutes did.

Yet even when you saw that,

you did not later change your minds and believe him.”

## Wednesday of the Third Week of Advent

Lectionary: 189

**Reading 1** (Isa 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25)

I am the LORD, there is no other;  
I form the light, and create the darkness,  
I make well-being and create woe;  
I, the LORD, do all these things.  
Let justice descend, O heavens, like dew from above,  
like gentle rain let the skies drop it down.  
Let the earth open and salvation bud forth;  
let justice also spring up!  
I, the LORD, have created this.

For thus says the LORD,  
The creator of the heavens,  
who is God,  
The designer and maker of the earth  
who established it,  
Not creating it to be a waste,  
but designing it be lived in:  
I am the LORD, and there is no other.

Who announced this from the beginning  
and foretold it from of old?  
Was it not I, the LORD,  
besides whom there is no other God?  
There is no just and saving God but me.

Turn to me and be safe,  
all you ends of the earth,  
for I am God; there is no other!  
By myself I swear,  
uttering my just decree  
and my unalterable word:  
To me every knee shall bend;  
by me every tongue shall swear,  
Saying, "Only in the LORD  
are just deeds and power.  
Before him in shame shall come  
all who vent their anger against him.  
In the LORD shall be the vindication and the glory  
of all the descendants of Israel."

**Responsorial Psalm** (Ps 85:9ab+10, 11-12, 13-14)

R. (Isaiah 45:8) **Let the clouds rain down the Just One, and the earth bring forth a Savior.**

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. **Let the clouds rain down the Just One, and the earth bring forth a Savior.**

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. **Let the clouds rain down the Just One, and the earth bring forth a Savior.**

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. **Let the clouds rain down the Just One, and the earth bring forth a Savior.**

**Alleluia** (See Isa 40:9-10)

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Raise your voice and tell the Good News:  
Behold, the Lord GOD comes with power.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel** (Luke 7:18b-23)

At that time,  
John summoned two of his disciples and sent them to the Lord to ask,  
"Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"  
When the men came to the Lord, they said,  
"John the Baptist has sent us to you to ask,  
'Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?'"  
At that time Jesus cured many of their diseases, sufferings, and evil spirits;  
he also granted sight to many who were blind.  
And Jesus said to them in reply,  
"Go and tell John what you have seen and heard:  
the blind regain their sight,  
the lame walk,  
lepers are cleansed,  
the deaf hear, the dead are raised,  
the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.  
And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."



## Thursday of the Third Week in Advent

Lectionary: 190

### Reading 1 (Isa 54:1-10)

Raise a glad cry, you barren one who did not bear,  
Break forth in jubilant song, you who were not in labor,  
For more numerous are the children of the deserted wife  
than the children of her who has a husband,  
says the LORD.

Enlarge the space for your tent,  
spread out your tent cloths unsparingly;  
lengthen your ropes and make firm your stakes.  
For you shall spread abroad to the right and to the left;  
your descendants shall dispossess the nations  
and shall people the desolate cities.

Fear not, you shall not be put to shame;  
you need not blush, for you shall not be disgraced.  
The shame of your youth you shall forget,  
the reproach of your widowhood no longer remember.

For he who has become your husband is your Maker;

his name is the LORD of hosts;

Your redeemer is the Holy One of Israel,  
called God of all the earth.

The LORD calls you back,  
like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit,  
A wife married in youth and then cast off,  
says your God.

For a brief moment I abandoned you,  
but with great tenderness I will take you back.

In an outburst of wrath, for a moment

I hid my face from you;

But with enduring love I take pity on you,  
says the LORD, your redeemer.

This is for me like the days of Noah,  
when I swore that the waters of Noah  
should never again deluge the earth;  
So I have sworn not to be angry with you,  
or to rebuke you.

Though the mountains leave their place  
and the hills be shaken,

My love shall never leave you

nor my covenant of peace be shaken,

says the LORD, who has mercy on you.

### Responsorial Psalm (Ps 30:2+4, 5-6, 11-12a+13b)

R. (2a) **I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.**

I will extol you, O LORD, for you drew me clear

and did not let my enemies rejoice over me.

O LORD, you brought me up from the nether world;

you preserved me from among those going down into the pit.

**R. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.**

Sing praise to the LORD, you his faithful ones,

and give thanks to his holy name.

For his anger lasts but a moment;

a lifetime, his good will.

At nightfall, weeping enters in,

but with the dawn, rejoicing.

**R. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.**

“Hear, O LORD, and have pity on me;

O LORD, be my helper.”

You changed my mourning into dancing;

O LORD, my God, forever will I give you thanks.

**R. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.**

**Alleluia** (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. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel** (Luke 7:24-30)

When the messengers of John the Baptist had left,

Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John.

“What did you go out to the desert to see—a reed swayed by the wind?

Then what did you go out to see?

Someone dressed in fine garments?

Those who dress luxuriously and live sumptuously  
are found in royal palaces.

Then what did you go out to see?

A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

This is the one about whom Scripture says:

*Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
he will prepare your way before you.*

I tell you,

among those born of women, no one is greater than John;  
yet the least in the Kingdom of God is greater than he.”

(All the people who listened, including the tax collectors,

who were baptized with the baptism of John,

acknowledged the righteousness of God;

but the Pharisees and scholars of the law,

who were not baptized by him,

rejected the plan of God for themselves.)

## Friday of the Third Week in Advent

Lectionary: 191

### Reading 1 (Isa 56:1-3a, 6-8)

Thus says the LORD:

Observe what is right, do what is just;  
for my salvation is about to come,  
my justice, about to be revealed.

Blessed is the man who does this,  
the son of man who holds to it;  
Who keeps the sabbath free from profanation,  
and his hand from any evildoing.

Let not the foreigner say,  
when he would join himself to the LORD,  
“The LORD will surely exclude me from his people.”

The foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,  
ministering to him,  
Loving the name of the LORD,  
and becoming his servants—  
All who keep the sabbath free from profanation  
and hold to my covenant,  
Them I will bring to my holy mountain  
and make joyful in my house of prayer;  
Their burnt offerings and sacrifices  
will be acceptable on my altar,  
For my house shall be called  
a house of prayer for all peoples.  
Thus says the Lord GOD,  
who gathers the dispersed of Israel:  
Others will I gather to him  
besides those already gathered.

### Responsorial Psalm (Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8)

R. (4) **O God, let all the nations praise you!**

May God have pity on us and bless us;  
may he let his face shine upon us.  
So may your way be known upon earth;  
among all nations, your salvation.

R. **O God, let all the nations praise you!**

May the nations be glad and exult  
because you rule the peoples in equity;  
the nations on the earth you guide.

R. **O God, let all the nations praise you!**

The earth has yielded its fruits;  
God, our God, has blessed us.  
May God bless us,

and may all the ends of the earth fear him!

R. **O God, let all the nations praise you!**

### Alleluia

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Come, Lord, bring us your peace  
that we may rejoice before you with a perfect heart.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

### Gospel (John 5:33-36)

Jesus said to the Jews:

“You sent emissaries to John, and he testified to the truth.

I do not accept testimony from a human being,  
but I say this so that you may be saved.

John was a burning and shining lamp,  
and for a while you were content to rejoice in his light.

But I have testimony greater than John’s.

The works that the Father gave me to accomplish,  
these works that I perform testify on my behalf  
that the Father has sent me.”

**Advent Weekday: Dec. 17**

Lectionary: 193

**Reading 1** (Gen 49:2, 8-10)

Jacob called his sons and said to them:

“Assemble and listen, sons of Jacob,  
listen to Israel, your father.

“You, Judah, shall your brothers praise  
–your hand on the neck of your enemies;  
the sons of your father shall bow down to you.  
Judah, like a lion’s whelp,  
you have grown up on prey, my son.  
He crouches like a lion recumbent,  
the king of beasts—who would dare rouse him?  
The scepter shall never depart from Judah,  
or the mace from between his legs,  
While tribute is brought to him,  
and he receives the people’s homage.”

**Responsorial Psalm** (Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 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 flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.**

The mountains shall yield peace for the people,  
and the hills justice.

He shall defend the afflicted among the people,  
save the children of the poor.

R. **Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.**

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. **Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.**

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. **Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.**

**Alleluia**

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

O Wisdom of our God Most High,  
guiding creation with power and love:

come to teach us the path of knowledge!

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel** (Matt 1:1-17)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ,  
the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham became the father of Isaac,  
Isaac the father of Jacob,  
Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers.  
Judah became the father of Perez and Zerah,  
whose mother was Tamar.  
Perez became the father of Hezron,  
Hezron the father of Ram,  
Ram the father of Amminadab.  
Amminadab became the father of Nahshon,  
Nahshon the father of Salmon,  
Salmon the father of Boaz,  
whose mother was Rahab.  
Boaz became the father of Obed,  
whose mother was Ruth.  
Obed became the father of Jesse,  
Jesse the father of David the king.

David became the father of Solomon,  
whose mother had been the wife of Uriah.  
Solomon became the father of Rehoboam,  
Rehoboam the father of Abijah,  
Abijah the father of Asaph.  
Asaph became the father of Jehoshaphat,  
Jehoshaphat the father of Joram,  
Joram the father of Uzziah.  
Uzziah became the father of Jotham,  
Jotham the father of Ahaz,  
Ahaz the father of Hezekiah.  
Hezekiah became the father of Manasseh,  
Manasseh the father of Amos,  
Amos the father of Josiah.  
Josiah became the father of Jechoniah and his brothers  
at the time of the Babylonian exile.

After the Babylonian exile,  
Jechoniah became the father of Shealtiel,  
Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,  
Zerubbabel the father of Abiud.  
Abiud became the father of Eliakim,  
Eliakim the father of Azor,  
Azor the father of Zadok.  
Zadok became the father of Achim,

Achim the father of Eliud,  
Eliud the father of Eleazar.  
Eleazar became the father of Matthan,  
Matthan the father of Jacob,  
Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary.  
Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ.

Thus the total number of generations  
from Abraham to David  
is fourteen generations;  
from David to the Babylonian exile, fourteen generations;  
from the Babylonian exile to the Christ,  
fourteen generations.

**Advent Weekday: Dec. 18**

Lectionary: 194

**Reading 1** (Jer 23:5-8)

Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD,  
when I will raise up a righteous shoot to David;  
As king he shall reign and govern wisely,  
he shall do what is just and right in the land.  
In his days Judah shall be saved,  
Israel shall dwell in security.  
This is the name they give him:  
“The LORD our justice.”

Therefore, the days will come, says the LORD,  
when they shall no longer say, “As the LORD lives,  
who brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt”;  
but rather, “As the LORD lives,  
who brought the descendants of the house of Israel  
up from the land of the north” –  
and from all the lands to which I banished them;  
they shall again live on their own land.

**Responsorial Psalm** (Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19)

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 flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.**

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. **Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.**

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous deeds.  
And blessed forever be his glorious name;  
may the whole earth be filled with his glory.

R. **Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.**

**Alleluia**

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

O Leader of the House of Israel,  
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:  
come to rescue us with your mighty power!

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel** (Matt 1:18-25)

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about.  
When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph,  
but before they lived together,  
she was found with child through the Holy Spirit.  
Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man,  
yet unwilling to expose her to shame,  
decided to divorce her quietly.  
Such was his intention when, behold,  
the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,  
“Joseph, son of David,  
do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.  
For it is through the Holy Spirit  
that this child has been conceived in her.  
She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,  
because he will save his people from their sins.”  
All this took place to fulfill  
what the Lord had said through the prophet:

*Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,*

which means “God is with us.”

When Joseph awoke,  
he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him  
and took his wife into his home.  
He had no relations with her until she bore a son,  
and he named him Jesus.

**Advent Weekday: Dec. 19**

Lectionary: 195

**Reading 1** (Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a)

There was a certain man from Zorah, of the clan of the Danites,  
whose name was Manoah.

His wife was barren and had borne no children.

An angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her,

“Though you are barren and have had no children,

yet you will conceive and bear a son.

Now, then, be careful to take no wine or strong drink  
and to eat nothing unclean.

As for the son you will conceive and bear,

no razor shall touch his head,

for this boy is to be consecrated to God from the womb.

It is he who will begin the deliverance of Israel  
from the power of the Philistines.”

The woman went and told her husband,

“A man of God came to me;

he had the appearance of an angel of God, terrible indeed.

I did not ask him where he came from, nor did he tell me his name.

But he said to me,

‘You will be with child and will bear a son.

So take neither wine nor strong drink, and eat nothing unclean.

For the boy shall be consecrated to God from the womb,  
until the day of his death.”

The woman bore a son and named him Samson.

The boy grew up and the LORD blessed him;

the Spirit of the LORD stirred him.

**Responsorial Psalm** (Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17)

R. (see 8) **My mouth shall be filled with your praise, and I will sing your glory!**

Be my rock of refuge,

a stronghold to give me safety,

for you are my rock and my fortress.

O my God, rescue me from the hand of the wicked.

R. **My mouth shall be filled with your praise, and I will sing your glory!**

For you are my hope, O LORD;

my trust, O God, from my youth.

On you I depend from birth;

from my mother’s womb you are my strength.

R. **My mouth shall be filled with your praise, and I will sing your glory!**

I will treat of the mighty works of the LORD;

O God, I will tell of your singular justice.

O God, you have taught me from my youth,

and till the present I proclaim your wondrous deeds.

R. **My mouth shall be filled with your praise, and I will sing your glory!**

**Alleluia**

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

O Root of Jesse’s stem,

sign of God’s love for all his people:

come to save us without delay!

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel** (Luke 1:5-25)

In the days of Herod, King of Judea,

there was a priest named Zechariah

of the priestly division of Abijah;

his wife was from the daughters of Aaron,

and her name was Elizabeth.

Both were righteous in the eyes of God,

observing all the commandments

and ordinances of the Lord blamelessly.

But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren

and both were advanced in years.

Once when he was serving as priest

in his division’s turn before God,

according to the practice of the priestly service,

he was chosen by lot

to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to burn incense.

Then, when the whole assembly of the people was praying outside

at the hour of the incense offering,

the angel of the Lord appeared to him,

standing at the right of the altar of incense.

Zechariah was troubled by what he saw, and fear came upon him.

But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah,

because your prayer has been heard.

Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son,

and you shall name him John.

And you will have joy and gladness,

and many will rejoice at his birth,

for he will be great in the sight of the Lord.

He will drink neither wine nor strong drink.

He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother’s womb,

and he will turn many of the children of Israel

to the Lord their God.

He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah

to turn the hearts of fathers toward children

and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous,

to prepare a people fit for the Lord.”

Then Zechariah said to the angel,  
“How shall I know this?  
For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.”  
And the angel said to him in reply,  
“I am Gabriel, who stand before God.  
I was sent to speak to you and to announce to you this good news.  
But now you will be speechless and unable to talk  
until the day these things take place,  
because you did not believe my words,  
which will be fulfilled at their proper time.”  
Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah  
and were amazed that he stayed so long in the sanctuary.  
But when he came out, he was unable to speak to them,  
and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary.  
He was gesturing to them but remained mute.

Then, when his days of ministry were completed, he went home.

After this time his wife Elizabeth conceived,  
and she went into seclusion for five months, saying,  
“So has the Lord done for me at a time when he has seen fit  
to take away my disgrace before others.”

**Advent Weekday: Dec. 20**

Lectionary: 196

**Reading 1** (Isa 7:10-14)

The LORD spoke to Ahaz:  
Ask for a sign from the LORD, your God;  
let it be deep as the nether world, or high as the sky!  
But Ahaz answered,  
“I will not ask! I will not tempt the LORD!”  
Then Isaiah said:  
Listen, O house of David!  
Is it not enough for you to weary men,  
must you also weary my God?  
Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign:  
the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and shall name him Emmanuel.

**Responsorial Psalm** (Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6)

R. (see 7c and 10b) **Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.**

The LORD's are the earth and its fullness;  
the world and those who dwell in it.

For he founded it upon the seas  
and established it upon the rivers.

R. **Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.**

Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD?  
or who may stand in his holy place?

He whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean,  
who desires not what is vain.

R. **Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.**

He shall receive a blessing from the LORD,  
a reward from God his savior.

Such is the race that seeks for him,  
that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.

R. **Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.**

**Alleluia**

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

O Key of David,  
opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom:  
come and free the prisoners of darkness!

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel** (Luke 1:26-38)

In the sixth month,  
the angel Gabriel was sent from God  
to a town of Galilee called Nazareth,  
to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph,

of the house of David,  
and the virgin's name was Mary.  
And coming to her, he said,  
“Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.”  
But she was greatly troubled at what was said  
and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.  
Then the angel said to her,  
“Do not be afraid, Mary,  
for you have found favor with God.  
Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,  
and you shall name him Jesus.  
He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High,  
and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father,  
and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever,  
and of his Kingdom there will be no end.”

But Mary said to the angel,  
“How can this be,  
since I have no relations with a man?”  
And the angel said to her in reply,  
“The Holy Spirit will come upon you,  
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.  
Therefore the child to be born  
will be called holy, the Son of God.  
And behold, Elizabeth, your relative,  
has also conceived a son in her old age,  
and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren;  
for nothing will be impossible for God.”

Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.  
May it be done to me according to your word.”  
Then the angel departed from her.



**Advent Weekday: Dec. 21**

Lectionary: 197

**Reading 1** (Songs 2:8-14)

Hark! my lover—here he comes  
springing across the mountains,  
leaping across the hills.  
My lover is like a gazelle  
or a young stag.  
Here he stands behind our wall,  
gazing through the windows,  
peering through the lattices.  
My lover speaks; he says to me,  
“Arise, my beloved, my dove, my beautiful one,  
and come!  
“For see, the winter is past,  
the rains are over and gone.  
The flowers appear on the earth,  
the time of pruning the vines has come,  
and the song of the dove is heard in our land.  
The fig tree puts forth its figs,  
and the vines, in bloom, give forth fragrance.  
Arise, my beloved, my beautiful one,  
and come!  
“O my dove in the clefts of the rock,  
in the secret recesses of the cliff,  
Let me see you,  
let me hear your voice,  
For your voice is sweet,  
and you are lovely.”

**Or** Zeph 3:14-18a

Shout for joy, O daughter Zion!  
Sing joyfully, O Israel!  
Be glad and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!  
The LORD has removed the judgment against you,  
he has turned away your enemies;  
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst,  
you have no further misfortune to fear.  
On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged!  
The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a mighty savior;  
He will rejoice over you with gladness,  
and renew you in his love,

He will sing joyfully because of you,  
as one sings at festivals.

**Responsorial Psalm** (Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21)

R. (1a; 3a) **Exult, you just, in the Lord! Sing to him a new song.**  
Give thanks to the LORD on the harp;  
with the ten-stringed lyre chant his praises.  
Sing to him a new song;  
pluck the strings skillfully, with shouts of gladness.  
R. **Exult, you just, in the Lord! Sing to him a new song.**  
But the plan of the LORD stands forever;  
the design of his heart, through all generations.  
Blessed the nation whose God is the LORD,  
the people he has chosen for his own inheritance.  
R. **Exult, you just, in the Lord! Sing to him a new song.**  
Our soul waits for the LORD,  
who is our help and our shield,  
For in him our hearts rejoice;  
in his holy name we trust.  
R. **Exult, you just, in the Lord! Sing to him a new song.**

**Alleluia**

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**  
O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law:  
come to save us, Lord our God!  
R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel** (Luke 1:39-45)

Mary set out in those days  
and traveled to the hill country in haste  
to a town of Judah,  
where she entered the house of Zechariah  
and greeted Elizabeth.  
When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting,  
the infant leaped in her womb,  
and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit,  
cried out in a loud voice and said,  
“Most blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.  
And how does this happen to me,  
that the mother of my Lord should come to me?  
For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears,  
the infant in my womb leaped for joy.  
Blessed are you who believed  
that what was spoken to you by the Lord  
would be fulfilled.”

**Advent Weekday: Dec. 22**

Lectionary: 198

**Reading 1** (1 Sam 1:24-28)

In those days,  
Hannah brought Samuel with her,  
along with a three-year-old bull,  
an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine,  
and presented him at the temple of the LORD in Shiloh.  
After the boy's father had sacrificed the young bull,  
Hannah, his mother, approached Eli and said:  
"Pardon, my lord!  
As you live, my lord,  
I am the woman who stood near you here, praying to the LORD.  
I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request.  
Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD;  
as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD."  
She left Samuel there.

**Responsorial Psalm** (1 Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd)

R. (see 1a) **My heart exults in the Lord, my Savior.**

"My heart exults in the LORD,  
my horn is exalted in my God.  
I have swallowed up my enemies;  
I rejoice in my victory."

R. **My heart exults in the Lord, my Savior.**

"The bows of the mighty are broken,  
while the tottering gird on strength.  
The well-fed hire themselves out for bread,  
while the hungry batten on spoil.  
The barren wife bears seven sons,  
while the mother of many languishes."

R. **My heart exults in the Lord, my Savior.**

"The LORD puts to death and gives life;  
he casts down to the nether world;  
he raises up again.

The LORD makes poor and makes rich,  
he humbles, he also exalts."

R. **My heart exults in the Lord, my Savior.**

"He raises the needy from the dust;  
from the dung heap he lifts up the poor,  
To seat them with nobles  
and make a glorious throne their heritage."

R. **My heart exults in the Lord, my Savior.**

**Alleluia**

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:  
come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel** (Luke 1:46-56)

Mary said:

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;  
my spirit rejoices in God my savior.  
for he has looked upon his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him  
in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm,  
and has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel  
for he remembered his promise of mercy,  
the promise he made to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his children for ever."

Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months  
and then returned to her home.

**Advent Weekday: Dec. 23**

Lectionary: 199

**Reading 1** (Mal 3:1-4, 23-24)

Thus says the Lord GOD:  
Lo, I am sending my messenger  
to prepare the way before me;  
And suddenly there will come to the temple  
the LORD whom you seek,  
And the messenger of the covenant whom you desire.  
Yes, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.  
But who will endure the day of his coming?  
And who can stand when he appears?  
For he is like the refiner's fire,  
or like the fuller's lye.  
He will sit refining and purifying silver,  
and he will purify the sons of Levi,  
Refining them like gold or like silver  
that they may offer due sacrifice to the LORD.  
Then the sacrifice of Judah and Jerusalem  
will please the LORD,  
as in the days of old, as in years gone by.

Lo, I will send you  
Elijah, the prophet,  
Before the day of the LORD comes,  
the great and terrible day,  
To turn the hearts of the fathers to their children,  
and the hearts of the children to their fathers,  
Lest I come and strike  
the land with doom.

**Responsorial Psalm** (Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10+14)

R. (see Luke 21:28) **Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand.**

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;  
teach me your paths,  
Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my savior.

R. **Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand.**

Good and upright is the LORD;  
thus he shows sinners the way.  
He guides the humble to justice,  
he teaches the humble his way.

R. **Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand.**

All the paths of the LORD are kindness and constancy  
toward those who keep his covenant and his decrees.  
The friendship of the LORD is with those who fear him,

and his covenant, for their instruction.

R. **Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand.**

**Alleluia**

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:  
come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel** (Luke 1:57-66)

When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child  
she gave birth to a son.  
Her neighbors and relatives heard  
that the Lord had shown his great mercy toward her,  
and they rejoiced with her.  
When they came on the eighth day to circumcise the child,  
they were going to call him Zechariah after his father,  
but his mother said in reply,  
"No. He will be called John."  
But they answered her,  
"There is no one among your relatives who has this name."  
So they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called.  
He asked for a tablet and wrote, "John is his name,"  
and all were amazed.  
Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed,  
and he spoke blessing God.  
Then fear came upon all their neighbors,  
and all these matters were discussed  
throughout the hill country of Judea.  
All who heard these things took them to heart, saying,  
"What, then, will this child be?"  
For surely the hand of the Lord was with him.

**Advent Weekday: Dec. 24**

Lectionary: 200

**Reading 1** (2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16)

When King David was settled in his palace,  
and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side,  
he said to Nathan the prophet,  
“Here I am living in a house of cedar,  
while the ark of God dwells in a tent!”  
Nathan answered the king,  
“Go, do whatever you have in mind,  
for the LORD is with you.”  
But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said:  
“Go, tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD:  
Should you build me a house to dwell in?

“‘It was I who took you from the pasture  
and from the care of the flock  
to be commander of my people Israel.  
I have been with you wherever you went,  
and I have destroyed all your enemies before you.  
And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth.  
I will fix a place for my people Israel;  
I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place  
without further disturbance.  
Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old,  
since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel.  
I will give you rest from all your enemies.  
The LORD also reveals to you  
that he will establish a house for you.  
And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors,  
I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins,  
and I will make his Kingdom firm.  
I will be a father to him,  
and he shall be a son to me.  
Your house and your Kingdom shall endure forever before me;  
your throne shall stand firm forever.’”

**Responsorial Psalm** (Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27+29)

**R. (2) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

The favors of the LORD I will sing forever;  
through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness.  
For you have said, “My kindness is established forever”;  
in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.

**R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

“I have made a covenant with my chosen one,  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
Forever will I confirm your posterity

and establish your throne for all generations.”

**R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

“He shall say of me, ‘You are my father,  
my God, the rock, my savior.’

Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him,  
and my covenant with him stands firm.”

**R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

**Alleluia**

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

O Radiant Dawn,  
splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:  
come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel** (Luke 1:67-79)

Zechariah his father, filled with the Holy Spirit, prophesied, saying:

“Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;  
for he has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
born of the house of his servant David.  
Through his prophets he promised of old  
that he would save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all who hate us.  
He promised to show mercy to our fathers  
and to remember his holy covenant.  
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hand of our enemies,  
free to worship him without fear,  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.  
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
to give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.  
In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

**Nov. 30: Feast of Saint Andrew, Apostle**

Lectionary: 684

**Reading 1** (Rom 10:9-18)

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.*

**Responsorial Psalm** (Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11)

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

or:

R. (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 judgments of the Lord are true, and all of them are just.**

or:

R. **Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life.**

The precepts of the LORD are right,

rejoicing the heart;

The command of the LORD is clear,

enlightening the eye.

R. **The judgments of the Lord are true, and all of them are just.**

or:

R. **Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life.**

The fear of the LORD is pure,

enduring forever;

The ordinances of the LORD are true,

all of them just.

R. **The judgments of the Lord are true, and all of them are just.**

or:

R. **Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life.**

They are more precious than gold,

than a heap of purest gold;

Sweeter also than syrup

or honey from the comb.

R. **The judgments of the Lord are true, and all of them are just.**

or:

R. **Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life.**

**Alleluia** (Matt 4:19)

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Come after me, says the Lord,

and I will make you fishers of men.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel** (Matt 4:18-22)

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.

## Dec. 8: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Lectionary: 689

### Reading 1 (Gen 3:9-15, 20)

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,  
and dirt shall you eat  
all the days of your life.  
I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will strike at your head,  
while you strike at his heel."

The man called his wife Eve,  
because she became the mother of all the living.

### Responsorial Psalm (Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4)

R. (1) **Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous deeds.**

Sing to the LORD a new song,  
for he has done wondrous deeds;  
His right hand has won victory for him,  
his holy arm.

R. **Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous deeds.**

The LORD has made his salvation known:  
in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice.  
He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness  
toward the house of Israel.

R. **Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous deeds.**

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation by our God.  
Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands;  
break into song; sing praise.

R. **Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous deeds.**

### Reading 2 (Eph 1:3-6, 11-12)

Brothers and sisters:  
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

who has blessed us in Christ  
with every spiritual blessing in the heavens,  
as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world,  
to be holy and without blemish before him.  
In love he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ,  
in accord with the favor of his will,  
for the praise of the glory of his grace  
that he granted us in the beloved. In him we were also chosen,  
destined in accord with the purpose of the One  
who accomplishes all things according to the intention of his will,  
so that we might exist for the praise of his glory,  
we who first hoped in Christ.

**Alleluia** (See Luke 1:28)

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you;  
blessed are you among women.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel** (Luke 1:26-38)

The angel Gabriel was sent from God  
to a town of Galilee called Nazareth,  
to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph,  
of the house of David,  
and the virgin's name was Mary.  
And coming to her, he said,  
"Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you."  
But she was greatly troubled at what was said  
and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.  
Then the angel said to her,  
"Do not be afraid, Mary,  
for you have found favor with God.  
Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,  
and you shall name him Jesus.  
He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High,  
and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father,  
and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever,  
and of his Kingdom there will be no end."  
But Mary said to the angel,  
"How can this be,  
since I have no relations with a man?"  
And the angel said to her in reply,  
"The Holy Spirit will come upon you,  
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.  
Therefore the child to be born  
will be called holy, the Son of God.  
And behold, Elizabeth, your relative,  
has also conceived a son in her old age,  
and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren;  
for nothing will be impossible for God."  
Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.  
May it be done to me according to your word."  
Then the angel departed from her.

## Dec. 12: Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Lectionary: 690A

### Reading 1 (Zech 2:14-17)

Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion!  
See, I am coming to dwell among you, says the LORD.  
Many nations shall join themselves to the LORD on that day,  
and they shall be his people,  
and he will dwell among you,  
and you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you.  
The LORD will possess Judah as his portion in the holy land,  
and he will again choose Jerusalem.  
Silence, all mankind, in the presence of the LORD!  
For he stirs forth from his holy dwelling.

Or Rev 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab

God's temple in heaven was opened,  
and the ark of his covenant could be seen in the temple.

A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun,  
with the moon under her feet,  
and on her head a crown of twelve stars.  
She was with child and wailed aloud in pain as she labored to give birth.  
Then another sign appeared in the sky;  
it was a huge red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns,  
and on its heads were seven diadems.  
Its tail swept away a third of the stars in the sky  
and hurled them down to the earth.  
Then the dragon stood before the woman about to give birth,  
to devour her child when she gave birth.  
She gave birth to a son, a male child,  
destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod.  
Her child was caught up to God and his throne.  
The woman herself fled into the desert  
where she had a place prepared by God.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:  
"Now have salvation and power come,  
and the Kingdom of our God  
and the authority of his Anointed."

**Responsorial Psalm** (Judith 13:18bcde, 19)

R. (15:9d) **You are the highest honor of our race.**

Blessed are you, daughter, by the Most High God,  
above all the women on earth;  
and blessed be the LORD God,  
the creator of heaven and earth.

R. **You are the highest honor of our race.**

Your deed of hope will never be forgotten  
by those who tell of the might of God.

R. **You are the highest honor of our race.**

**Alleluia**

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Blessed are you, holy Virgin Mary, deserving of all praise;  
from you rose the sun of justice, Christ our God.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel** (Luke 1:26-38)

The angel Gabriel was sent from God  
to a town of Galilee called Nazareth,  
to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph,  
of the house of David,  
and the virgin's name was Mary.  
And coming to her, he said,  
"Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you."  
But she was greatly troubled at what was said  
and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.  
Then the angel said to her,  
"Do not be afraid, Mary,  
for you have found favor with God.  
Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,  
and you shall name him Jesus.  
He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High,  
and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father,  
and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever,  
and of his Kingdom there will be no end."  
But Mary said to the angel,  
"How can this be,  
since I have no relations with a man?"  
And the angel said to her in reply,  
"The Holy Spirit will come upon you,  
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.  
Therefore the child to be born  
will be called holy, the Son of God.  
And behold, Elizabeth, your relative,  
has also conceived a son in her old age,  
and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren;  
for nothing will be impossible for God."  
Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.  
May it be done to me according to your word."  
Then the angel departed from her.

Or Luke 1:39-47

Mary set out  
and traveled to the hill country in haste  
to a town of Judah,  
where she entered the house of Zechariah  
and greeted Elizabeth.  
When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting,  
the infant leaped in her womb,  
and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit,  
cried out in a loud voice and said,  
"Most blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.  
And how does this happen to me,  
that the mother of my Lord should come to me?  
For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears,  
the infant in my womb leaped for joy.  
Blessed are you who believed  
that what was spoken to you by the Lord  
would be fulfilled."

And Mary said:  
"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;  
my spirit rejoices in God my savior."