

# Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A

## **ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.  
Indeed, the Lord is near.

## **FIRST READING:**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended

The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**

## **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

**Lord, come and save us.**

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.

It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger  
and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R.)**

It is the Lord who loves the just  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.

The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

## **SECOND READING:**

A reading from the letter of St James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

**Alleluia!**

## **GOSPEL:**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

## **COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

**Say to the faint of heart: be strong and do not fear.  
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.**

## **AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

My Jesus,  
I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament.  
I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
As though you have already come,  
I embrace You and Unite myself entirely to You:  
never permit me to be separated from You.  
Amen



## **READINGS NEXT WEEK:**

### **The Nativity of the Lord, Vigil**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: **Isaiah 62:1-5**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: **Acts 13:16-17, 22-25**  
Gospel: **Matthew 1:1-25**

### **The Nativity of the Lord, Night**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: **Isaiah 9:1-7**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: **Titus 2:11-14**  
Gospel: **Luke 2:1-14**

### **The Nativity of the Lord, Day**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: **Isaiah 52:7-10**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: **Hebrews 1:1-6**  
Gospel: **John 1:1-18**