

Monday-Saturday, 12th —17th December, 2022

Year A—3rd Week of Advent

MONDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

Mass of the Day

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Hear the word of the Lord, O nations; declare it to the distant lands: Behold, our Saviour will come; you need no longer fear.

READING: Num 24:2-7. 15-17

A reading from the book of Numbers.

Raising his eyes Balaam saw Israel, encamped by tribes; the spirit of God came on him and he declaimed his poem. He said:

'The oracle of Balaam son of Beor,
the oracle of the man with far-seeing eyes,
the oracle of one who hears the word of God.
He sees what Shaddai makes him see,
receives the divine answer, and his eyes are opened.

How fair are your tents, O Jacob!
How fair your dwellings, Israel!
Like valleys that stretch afar,
like gardens by the banks of a river,
like aloes planted by the Lord,
like cedars beside the waters!
A hero arises from their stock,
he reigns over countless peoples.
His king is greater than Agag,
his majesty is exalted.'

Then Balaam declaimed his poem again. He said:

'The oracle of Balaam son of Beor,
the oracle of the man with far-seeing eyes,
the oracle of the one who hears the word of God,
of one who knows the knowledge of the Most High.

He sees what Shaddai makes him see,
receives the divine answer, and his eyes are opened.

I see him – but not in the present,
I behold him – but not close at hand:
a star from Jacob takes the leadership,
a sceptre arises from Israel.'

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: **Teach me your ways, O Lord.**

ACCLAMATION: **Alleluia, alleluia!**

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: *Mt 21:23-27*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Jesus had gone into the Temple and was teaching,
when the chief priests and the elders of the people

came to him and said, 'What authority have you for acting like this? And who gave you this authority?' 'And I' replied Jesus 'will ask you a question, only one; if you tell me the answer to it, I will then tell you my authority for acting like this. John's baptism: where did it come from: heaven or man?' And they argued it out this way among themselves, 'If we say from heaven, he will retort, "Then why did you refuse to believe him?"; but if we say from man, we have the people to fear, for they all hold that John was a prophet.' So their reply to Jesus was, 'We do not know.' And he retorted, 'Nor will I tell you my authority for acting like this.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Come, O Lord, visit us in peace, that we may rejoice before you with a blameless heart.

TUESDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

*Memorial of St Lucy
(Alternative Readings used)*



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Behold, now she follows the Lamb who was crucified for us, powerful in virginity, modesty her offering, a sacrifice on the altar of chastity.

READING: 2 Cor 10:17-11:2

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
If anyone wants to boast, let him boast of the Lord. It is not the man who commends himself that can be accepted, but the man who is commended by the Lord.

I only wish you were able to tolerate a little foolishness from me. But of course: you are tolerant towards me. You see, the jealousy that I feel for you

is God's own jealousy: I arranged for you to marry Christ so that I might give you away as a chaste virgin to this one husband.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Into your hands, O Lord, I entrust my spirit.

ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia!

This is the wise bridesmaid, whom the Lord found waiting; at his coming she went in with him to the wedding feast. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Mt 25:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples:

'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The Lamb who is at the centre of the throne will lead them to the springs of the waters of life.

WEDNESDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

*Memorial of St John of the Cross
(Alternative Readings used)*



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: May I never boast, except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

READING: 1 Cor 2:1-10

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belonged to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

But we still have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what the scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him. These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: The mouths of the just murmur wisdom.

ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs! Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Lk 14:25-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me, says the Lord.

THURSDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT
Mass of the Day

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: You, O Lord, are close, and all your ways are truth. From of old I have known of your decrees, for you are eternal.

READING: Is 54:1-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Shout for joy, you barren women who bore no children!

Break into cries of joy and gladness, you who were never in labour!

For the sons of the forsaken one are more in Number than the sons of the wedded wife, says the Lord.

Widen the space of your tent, stretch out your hangings freely, lengthen your ropes, make your pegs firm; for you will burst out to right and left.

Your race will take possession of the nations, and people the abandoned cities.

Do not be afraid, you will not be out to shame, do not be dismayed, you will not be disgraced; for you will forget the shame of your youth and no longer remember the curse of your widowhood.

For now your creator will be your husband, his name, the Lord of hosts; your redeemer will be the Holy One of Israel, he is called the God of the whole earth.

Yes, like a forsaken wife, distressed in spirit, the Lord calls you back.

Does a man cast off the wife of his youth? Says your God.

I did forsake you for a brief moment, but with great love will I take you back.

In excess of anger, for a moment I hid my face from you.

But with everlasting love I have taken pity on you, says the Lord, your redeemer.

I am now as I was in the days of Noah when I swore that Noah's waters should never flood the world again.

So now I swear concerning my anger with you and the threats I made against you; for the mountains may depart,

the hills be shaken,

but my love for you will never leave you and my covenant of peace with you will never be shaken, says the Lord who takes pity on you.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

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

ACCLAMATION: **Alleluia, alleluia!**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: *Lk 7:24-30*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

When John's messengers had gone 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

dressed in fine clothes? Oh no, those who go in for fine clothes and live luxuriously are to be found at court! Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: See, I am going to send my messenger before you. I tell you, of all the children born of woman, there is no greater than John: yet the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he is. All the people who heard him, and the tax collectors too, acknowledged God's plan by accepting baptism from John; but by refusing baptism from him the Pharisees and the lawyers had thwarted what God had in mind for them.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: **Let us live justly and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of the glory of our great God.**

FRIDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT
Mass of the Day

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Behold, the Lord will come descending with splendour to visit his people with peace, and he will bestow on them eternal life.

READING: Is 56:1-3. 6-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Blessed is the man who does this and the son of man who clings to it: observing the sabbath, not profaning it, and keeping his hand from every evil deed. Let no foreigner who has attached himself to the Lord say, 'The Lord will surely exclude me from his people.'

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants - all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant - these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

It is the Lord God who speaks, who gathers the outcasts of Israel: there are others I will gather besides those already gathered.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: **O God, let all the nations praise you!**

ACCLAMATION: **Alleluia, alleluia!**

Come, Lord, bring to us your peace; let us rejoice before you with a perfect heart. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: *Jn 5:33-36*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the Jews:

You sent messengers to John, and he gave his testimony to the truth: not that I depend on human testimony; no, it is for your salvation that I speak of this. John was a lamp alight and shining and for a time you were content to enjoy the light that he gave.

But my testimony is greater than John's:
the works my Father has given me to carry out,
these same works of mine
testify that the Father has sent me.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: **We await a saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our mortal bodies, to conform with his glorified body.**

SATURDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

Mass of the Day

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: **Rejoice, O heavens, and exult, O earth, for our Lord will come to show mercy to his poor.**

READING: *Genesis 49:2. 8-10*

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Jacob called his sons and said,

'Gather round, sons of Jacob, and listen;
listen to Israel your father.

Judah, your brothers shall praise you:
you grip your enemies by the neck,
your father's sons shall do you homage.

Judah is a lion cub,

you climb back, my son, from your kill;
like a lion he crouches and lies down,
or a lioness: who dare rouse him?

The sceptre shall not pass from Judah,
nor the mace from between his feet,
until he comes to whom it belongs,
to whom the peoples shall render obedience.'

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

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

ACCLAMATION: **Alleluia, alleluia!**

Come, Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: teach us to walk in the paths of knowledge. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:1-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

A genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham:

Abraham was the father of Isaac,

Isaac the father of Jacob,

Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah, Tamar being their mother,

Perez was the father of Hezron,

Hezron the father of Ram,

Ram was the father of Amminadab,

Amminadab was the father of Nahshon,

Nahshon the father of Salmon,

Salmon was the father of Boaz, Rahab being his mother,

Boaz was the father of Obed, Ruth being his mother,

Obed was the father of Jesse;

and Jesse was the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,

Solomon was the father of Rehoboam,

Rehoboam the father of Abijah,

Abijah the father of Asa,

Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat,

Jehoshaphat the father of Joram,

Joram the father of Azariah,

Azariah was the father of Jotham,

Jotham the father of Ahaz,

Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,

Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh,

Manasseh the father of Amon,

Amon the father of Josiah;

and Josiah was the father of Jechoniah and his brothers.

Then the deportation to Babylon took place.

After the deportation to Babylon:

Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel,

Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,

Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud,

Abiud the father of Eliakim,

Eliakim the father of Azor,

Azor was the father of Zadok,

Zadok the father of Achim,

Achim the father of Eliud,

Eliud was the father of Eleazar,

Eleazar the father of Matthan,

Matthan the father of Jacob;

and Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary; of her was born Jesus who is called Christ.

The sum of generations is therefore: fourteen from Abraham to David; fourteen from David to the Babylonian deportation; and fourteen from the Babylonian deportation to Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: **Behold, the Desired of all the nations will come, and the house of the Lord will be filled with glory.**