

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 4, 2016

Year A, Revised Common Lectionary

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The Peaceable Kingdom, detail, Edward Hicks, Brooklyn Museum, New York, NY, ca. 1833

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Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19

- ✘ Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.
- ✘ May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.
- ✘ May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.
- ✘ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.
- ✘ May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
- ✘ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.
- ✘ In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

- ✘ Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.
- ✘ Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.

Romans 15:4-13 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 3:1-12 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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