

## **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

December 10, 2017

Year B, Revised Common Lectionary

*[formatted version with line breaks and verse markers removed]*

### **Table of Contents**

- [All Texts, Enhanced Font, Psalm in Poem Format, with Black and White Art Image](#) [pg. 2]
- [Compact Double Column All Texts](#) [pg. 3]
- [Compact Triple Column All Texts](#) [pg. 4]
- [All Texts, Large Font](#) [pgs. 5-11]
- [All Texts, Half Page Format](#) [pg. 12]

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**John the Baptist**, mosaic from Hagia Sophia, Istanbul, Turkey, 12<sup>th</sup> century, from: <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=46584>

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**Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13**

- ✘ LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- ✘ You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. Selah
- ✘ Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

- ✘ Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.
- ✘ Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
- ✘ Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.
- ✘ The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.
- ✘ Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

**2 Peter 3:8-15a** But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him.

**Mark 1:1-8** The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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