

Baptist also on Advent Two. For our purpose we consider John the herald of the Old Covenant and the Prophet of the New Covenant. He represented the transition between the Old and New Covenant. John was the last of the Old Testament Prophets, and in our Gospel Lesson he made the final prophesy of the coming of the Messiah, the very Messiah promised by Isaiah. John came to a people beaten down by their life circumstances. (Some of these people had given up on the prophesy) John gave them the assurance that the One Who would Baptize with the Holy Spirit was with them. We are assured that Christ will come again.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

⑨ O Lord God, the Father of all light and wisdom, You are righteous in all Your ways and true in all Your judgments. We give thanks to You for Your Word; for Your Commandments, for the Law which has been written on our hearts, for Your sure Word of prophecy, and especially for the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. For this Holy Counsel which You have given to us we praise You. We ask Your blessing on all who preach, teach, read and study Your Word, that all may hear the joyful sound of the Gospel of faith in Jesus Christ.

Fill us with all joy and peace in believing that we abound in the expectation of eternal life through the power of the Holy Spirit. Help us serve You with clean hands, love You with pure hearts, worship You with a beautiful mouth, obey You with willing minds, trust You with perfect confidence, believe You and none other, and follow You to the ends of the world.

Guard us that the devil, the world and our own sinful flesh may not deceive us or lead us into error, unbelief or sin. Teach us to pray always, that, remaining faithful to the end, we may be found worthy to stand before the Son of Man and obtain the inheritance which He has prepared for all who love Him.

We pray a special blessing on our homes and families. Rule the hearts of parents and children. Give strength and healing to the sick; give comfort those who sorrow; give guidance to the perplexed; and lead all of us to look now and always to Jesus, the author and Finisher of our faith. In His Second Advent He will receive us and all who believe in Him to Himself and to You our heavenly Father for our life of salvation.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (**Time of silent prayer.**)

Bless those entrusted with leading our nation with Your mind, and grant peace to the world. This we pray in the name and in the righteousness of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Savior.

© Amen.

ADVENT TWO

Chant Tone



Introit

In the wilderness prepare the way | of the Lord;*

make straight in the desert a highway | for our God.

Seek the Lord | and His strength;* seek His presence con | tinually!

Remember the wondrous works that | He has done,*

His miracles, and the judgments He — uttered.

O offspring of Abraham, His — servant,* children of Jacob, His | chosen ones!

He is the | Lord our God;* His judgments are in | all the Earth. He remembers His covenant for — ever,* the word that He commanded, for a thousand gener — ations.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy — Spirit; as it was in the be — ginning,* is now, and will be forever. — Amen.

In the wilderness prepare the way | of the Lord;*

make straight in the desert a highway | for our God.

(Antiphon, Isaiah 40:3b;
Psalm 105:4-8)

Collect of the Day

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of — Zion!*

Shout aloud, O daughter of Je | rusalem!

Behold, your King is com | ing to you;*

righteous and having salva | tion is He.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.*

We bless you from the house | of the Lord.

(Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: O Lord, our heavenly Father, as Your unworthy servants we come before You. We give You hearty thanks for the comfort we receive from Your Word. We are grateful for Your Word of prophecy regarding the Advent of Your Son Jesus Christ. We are forever blessed by the first Advent of our King. Help us to hear the cry of Your messengers Isaiah and John, that we will be prepared when Jesus arrives. May Your Holy Spirit move us to genuine repentance that we may experience the comfort foretold by Your prophets. As You are not willing that any should perish, bless our world with Your Gospel message of salvation. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

THE SEASON OF ADVENT BRINGS WITH IT MANY TRADITIONS AND CELEBRATIONS. We are not quite to Christmas, we are in a season where the excitation builds. The excitation builds when we bring in the tree, we put up lights, we buy the presents. To "get ready" for the birth of Christ? No! The birth is history. It is perfectly acceptable for us to celebrate the birth, but our excitation builds as we consider the "Second Coming," the second coming of our Savior. So let the excitation build. Prepare the way for the Lord, put up your tree, put up your lights—make straight paths. Give up your sin and give your self will over to the omnipotent will of God, and every problem in your life, every pit you might have fallen into, every hill that would have been too hard to climb, will all become flat straight roads that lead to one place, our Eternal home in Heaven.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Prophecy Fulfilled

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Isaiah 40:3b;) Psalm 105:4-8

Isaiah chapter 40 is a prophecy of comfort for people in tribulation. Verse 3 is a direct prophecy fulfilled by John the Baptist. Psalm 105 (likely written by David,) is a song of praise for the gracious manner by which God deals with His people. Verses 4-6 are part of the general introduction of the Psalm. Verse 7 begins the "Praise of the Lord" (Hallelujah) stanzas with verse 8 being praise to the Lord for remembering His promises.

COLLECT

We are aware that we have the ability to walk away from the truth of God. We ask, that we are able to serve God with a pure mind as we seek the Second Coming of Christ.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Isaiah 11:1-10

We use of Isaiah in our Introit to compliment the use of Isaiah as our Old Testament Lesson. Isaiah was the major prophet at work when the Ten Northern Tribes were taken into captivity. He proclaimed the judgment and then he was forced to watch as his prophecy came true. He was also allowed to proclaim the wonder, that God was keeping together a remnant. All He had promised came true. In 11:1-10 he repeated the promise made to David. Jesus would stand as the banner around which the nations of the Earth rally.

GRADUAL—Zechariah 9:9, Psalm 118:26

Our trust is in the return of our King, the Lord. The Old Testament people put their trust in the prophecy of Zechariah. 9:9. It is in our Gradual, to remind us think about the Palm Sunday event of Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Palm Sunday was Christ's Advent in power, before He went to the cross. Psalm 118 is an unidentified song of praise. It was sung in anticipation of the birth of the Savior. Now we sing as our surprise grows in anticipation of His Second Advent.

EPISTLE LESSON—Romans 15:4-13

The message of the Introit, Old Testament and Gradual is: Prophecy fulfilled! In this Lesson, Paul guaranteed that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Word of God prophesied by Isaiah. In Scriptures, we find Jesus, The One prophesied. He is the fulfillment of all the prophecy. This fulfillment gives us the endurance and encouragement to live in the Spirit of God to the end of the world. We overflow in the excitation of our knowledge.

GOSPEL LESSON—Matthew 3:1-12

Traditionally, Advent Three is the Sunday we read lessons involving John the Baptist. In the "A" series of readings we have a lesson with John the