

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

*Serving St Benedict's, St Mary's & St Oswald's,
Warrington*



2nd Sunday of Advent (A)

4 December 2022

Introductory Rites

Entrance Procession

Hark! a herald voice is calling (92)

Greeting & Introduction

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Penitential Act

Collect

God of power and mercy,
open our hearts in welcome.
Remove the things that hinder us
from receiving Christ with joy,
so that we may share his wisdom
and become one with him
when he comes in glory,
for he lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

(Isaiah 11: 1-10)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,
a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,
a spirit of wisdom and insight,
a spirit of counsel and power,
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)
He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict on hearsay,
but judges the wretched with integrity,
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.
His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless,
his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb,
the panther lies down with the kid,
calf and lion feed together,
with a little boy to lead them.
The cow and the bear make friends,
their young lie down together.
The lion eats straw like the ox.
The infant plays over the cobra's hole;
into the viper's lair
the young child puts his hand.
They do no hurt, no harm,
on all my holy mountain,
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse
shall stand as a signal to the peoples.
It will be sought out by the nations
and its home will be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72

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

- 1 O God, with your judgment endow the king,
and with your justice, the king's son;
he shall govern your people with justice
and your afflicted ones with judgment.
- 2 Justice shall flower in his days,
and profound peace, till the moon be no more.
May he rule from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Second Reading

(Romans 15: 4-9)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures
was meant to teach us something about hope from the
examples scripture gives of how people who did not
give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us
when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant
with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus,
so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to
the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat
each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated
you. The reason Christ became the servant of
circumcised Jews was not only so that God could
faithfully carry out the promises made to the
patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory
to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For
this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing to
your name.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

(Matthew 3: 1-12)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Apostles' Creed

Together, we say:

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.**

Bidding Prayers

Come, Lord Jesus! **R. Maranatha!**

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

Music: Comfort, comfort, now my people – J Olearius

Prayer over the Offerings

Lord,
we are nothing without you.
As you sustain us with your mercy,
receive our prayers and offerings.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

Mass of Hope – Bernadette Farrell (559)

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
Holy Lord, Holy Lord, God of hosts.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed, blessed, blessed, blessed is he
who comes in the name,
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

The Mystery of Faith

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.**

The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

Communion

Music: Jesus Christ the Apple Tree – Richard Hutchins

Prayer after Communion

Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment,
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,
that, through our partaking in this mystery,
you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth
and hold firm to the things of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Concluding Rite

Blessing & Dismissal

Final Song

Promised Lord and Christ (103)

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