

Sunday, December 3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent, Year B

First Reading Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A READING FROM ISAIAH

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;

we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

THE WORD OF THE LORD **THANKS BE TO GOD**

*(If the Psalm is sung by the choir, you will not be required to lead the Psalm.
Check the day's worship bulletin to confirm one way or the other)*

PLEASE JOIN ME IN READING THE 80th PSALM IN UNISON

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph ¹ like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- ¹ on the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, ¹ and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and ¹ come to help us.**

³Restore ¹ us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we ¹ shall be saved.

⁴**O LORD¹ God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your ¹ people
pray? R**

⁵You have fed them with the ¹ bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of ¹ tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision ¹ of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh ¹ us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O ¹ God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we ¹ shall be saved.

¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at ¹ your right hand,
the one you have made so strong ¹ for yourself. R**

¹⁸And so will we never turn a- ¹ way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- ¹ on your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD¹ God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we ¹ shall be saved. R**

A READING FROM 1 CORINTHIANS

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE WORD OF THE LORD
THANKS BE TO GOD

Sunday, December 10, 2023
Second Sunday of Advent, Year B

First Reading Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm Psalm 85:1-2, 8-1
Second Reading 2 Peter 3:8-15a

A READING FROM ISAIAH

¹Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD

*(If the Psalm is sung by the choir, you will not be required to lead the Psalm.
Check the day's worship bulletin to confirm one way or the other)*

PLEASE JOIN ME IN READING THE 85th PSALM IN UNISON

¹You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD;
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

²**You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people
and blotted out | all their sins.**

⁸I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who
turn their | hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear
you,**

that your glory may dwell | in our land. R

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,
and our land will | yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD
and shall prepare for | God a pathway. R**

A READING FROM 2 PETER

⁸Do 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.

⁹The 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. ¹⁰But 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.

¹¹Since 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, ¹²waiting 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? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish;

^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD
THANKS BE TO GOD**

Sunday, December 17, 2023
Third Sunday of Advent, Year B

First Reading Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm Psalm 126
Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A READING FROM ISAIAH

- ¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
- ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
- ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
- ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
- ⁸For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
- ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,

and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

THE WORD OF THE LORD
THANKS BE TO GOD

*(If the Psalm is sung by the choir, you will not be required to lead the Psalm.
Check the day's worship bulletin to confirm one way or the other)*

PLEASE JOIN ME IN READING THE 126th PSALM IN UNISON

¹When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,
then were we like | those who dream.

²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue
with | shouts of joy.**

**Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done
great | things for them."**

³The LORD has done great | things for us,
and we are | glad indeed.

⁴**Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses | of the Negeb. R**

⁵Those who | sowed with tears
will reap with | songs of joy.

⁶**Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their
sheaves. R**

A READING FROM 1 THESSALONIANS

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all
circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of
prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good;

²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may
your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the
coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is
faithful, and he will do this.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD
THANKS BE TO GOD**

Sunday, December 24, 2023 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Psalm Luke 1:46b-55

Second Reading Romans 16:25-27

A READING FROM 2 SAMUEL

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.

⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.

¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD

*(If the Psalm is sung by the choir, you will not be required to lead the Psalm.
Check the day's worship bulletin to confirm one way or the other)*

PLEASE JOIN ME IN READING LUKE 1 PSALM IN UNISON

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord,

⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,

⁴⁸**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your | lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will | call me blessed:

⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great | things for me
and holy | is your name.

⁵⁰**You have mercy on | those who fear you,
from generation to | generation. R**

⁵¹You have shown strength | with your arm
and scattered the proud in | their conceit,

⁵²**casting down the mighty | from their thrones
and lifting | up the lowly.**

⁵³You have filled the hungry | with good things
and sent the rich | away empty.

⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your | servant Israel,
to remember the prom- | ise of mercy,**

⁵⁵the promise made | to our forebears,
to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever. **R**

A READING FROM ROMANS

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

THE WORD OF THE LORD
THANKS BE TO GOD

Sunday, December 24, 2023
Nativity of Our Lord I: Christmas Eve, Year B

First Reading Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm Psalm 96
Second Reading Titus 2:11-14

A READING FROM ISAIAH

²The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
 on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
 you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
 as with joy at the harvest,
 as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
 and the bar across their shoulders,
 the rod of their oppressor,
 you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
 and all the garments rolled in blood
 shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
 a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
 and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
 and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
 He will establish and uphold it

with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

*(If the Psalm is sung by the choir, you will not be required to lead the Psalm.
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PLEASE JOIN ME IN READING THE 96th PSALM IN UNISON

- ¹Sing to the LORD¹ a new song;
sing to the LORD,¹ all the earth.
- ²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name¹ of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from¹ day to day.**
- ³Declare God's glory a-¹ mong the nations
and God's wonders a-¹ mong all peoples.
- ⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly¹ to be praised,
more to be feared¹ than all gods. R**
- ⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they¹ are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have¹ made the heavens.
- ⁶**Majesty and magnificence are¹ in your presence;
power and splendor are in your¹ sanctuary.**
- ⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families¹ of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon-¹ or and power.
- ⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the¹ holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts¹ of the LORD. R**
- ⁹Worship the LORD in the beau-¹ ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD,¹ all the earth.
- ¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The¹ LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be
moved will judge the peo-¹ ples with equity."**
- ¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the¹ earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful

and all that ¹ is therein.

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at
your com- ¹ ing, O LORD,
for you come to ¹ judge the earth.**

¹³You will judge the ¹ world with righteousness
and the peoples ¹ with your truth. **R**

A READING FROM TITUS

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,
¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the
present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and
godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation
of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is
who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity
and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for
good deeds.

THE WORD OF THE LORD
THANKS BE TO GOD

Sunday, December 31, 2023
FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS, Year B

First Reading Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm Psalm 148
Second Reading Galatians 4:4-7

A READING FROM ISAIAH

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

^{62:1}For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

THE WORD OF THE LORD
THANKS BE TO GOD

*(If the Psalm is sung by the choir, you will not be required to lead the Psalm.
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PLEASE JOIN ME IN READING THE 148th PSALM IN UNISON

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;
praise God | in the heights.

²**Praise the LORD, | all you angels;
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**

³Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.

⁴**Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
who commanded, and they | were created,

⁶**who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not | pass away. R**

⁷Praise the LORD | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;

⁸**fire and hail, | snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;**

⁹mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;

¹⁰**wild beasts | and all cattle,
creeping things and | flying birds;**

¹¹sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;

¹²**young | men and maidens,
old and | young together. R**

¹³Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth
and heaven.

¹⁴**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and
praise for all | faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. |
Hallelujah! R**

A READING FROM GALATIANS

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

THE WORD OF THE LORD
THANKS BE TO GOD