

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 71)

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

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

LECTOR: O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **R.**

LECTOR: In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails: He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. **R.**

LECTOR: For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **R.**

LECTOR: May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

TODAY'S READINGS Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

NEXT WEEK (3rd Sunday of Advent, Year A) Isaiah 35:1-6, 10; Ps 145; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

Brighten up
your day with
The Majellan

Majellan Media closure

Majellan Media will be closed from Friday December 19 until Monday January 12 2026. In the meantime, why not take a look at the products on our website. There are prayers, podcasts, magazine articles ... and much more.



majellan.media/product/the-majellan-magazine/

majellan

Preparing the way



7 December 2025 2nd Sunday Advent Year A

When we hear the words, 'a voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord ...', what do we hear? One young man wondered whether he was being called to be a priest. But when have we heard a call to prepare a way for the Lord?

Have we, in our wilderness, heard a voice calling us to a change of heart? One woman heard such a voice when, in a small group, she spoke of her grief. A friend's response enabled her, she explained, 'to find release from the doubts and fears and self-concern that had imprisoned me.' That's the hope and the joy offered to us in Advent, in the person of the one who is to come.

John the Baptist prepares a way for Him, and he reveals how we might do this, by calling us to repent, to a change of heart, so the kingdom of heaven might be made real in our lives. When the people were baptised by John, they 'confessed their sins', naming them so they might be forgiven, and their relationship with God and one another might be restored. These are the fruits of repentance. We can't simply presume, like the religious leaders do in the gospel, that all is well because we're in good standing with God, as John calls them out for their complacency.

Clearly, John's an agent of change and, as the young man considering the priesthood and the grieving woman instinctively understood, it's decision time, because John

points to the coming one's role as judge at the end of time. He will baptise us with the Holy Spirit and with fire – a baptism of fire.

A woman experienced something like this a few years ago when a bushfire destroyed her home. Having lost everything, she slowly came to realise it was an opportunity to do things differently this time, with God at the centre of her life. She came to understand this judgement is not something to be afraid of, for when it comes it will be the moment when all is revealed, the moment of our liberation, when we will be 'set free to love'.

The only question is, do we long for this transformation or cling to what we've known? It's not quite what John had in mind, but it is the hope and joy of Advent: that the Lord's judgment will see the birth of a community of hope, where we might experience the joy of being with one another, both now and forever.

This community is at the heart of today's first and second readings. Isaiah speaks of a new life for God's people on returning from exile – renewed relationship with one another and all creation. Paul speaks of hope in the scriptures and following the example of Christ and our forebears in faith, the building up of a community where we might all give glory to God. In this way we 'prepare a way for the Lord': it's what we're called to do.

Damian Coleridge

© Majellan Media 2025