

Bible Study - 2nd Sunday in Advent

December 7, 2025

Old Testament Reading - Isaiah 11:1-10

Look at our Advent banners. Isaiah 11 is the source for these images. Who is Jesse? Why is he so important in Advent?

What kind of fruit is borne by the Branch?

What are the gifts of the Spirit given to the Shoot?

What is righteousness?

Verses 6 thru 10 show us animals and a little Child. What does this mean? What is surprising about their interaction?

The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain," says the Lord. Isaiah 65:25

Epistle Reading - Romans 15:4-13

To whom is Paul addressing this whole epistle? What is he confirming here?

In light of Jesus' Jewish roots, what claim does Paul make?

What does this have to do with John the Baptist?

10 And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" 11 And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." 12 Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" 13 And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." 14 Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages." Luke 3:10-14

Gospel Reading - Matthew 3:1-12

How would you describe John the Baptist?

What was John's central message for his first hearers? Is it the same today?

John tells them that claiming Abraham is not enough. Jesus using a similar language in John 8. What does this mean?

39 They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, 40 but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. John 8:39-40

What does this reading say about Jesus' Second Advent?

On Jordan's banks, the Baptist cries!
Announcing that the Lord is nigh!
Awake and harken for he brings,
Glad tidings of the King of Kings! LSB 344 v.1

Did John the Baptist bring glad tidings?