

ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER 2021

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Year C



Think about all the people and the things which make you happy and full of joy!



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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.

COLLECT

Almighty and merciful God,
may no earthly undertaking hinder those
who set out in haste to meet your Son,
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom
gain us admittance to his company...

We say these words
or sing a hymn as the
priest approaches
the altar.

We ask for God's help.
Listen now to the
priest as he offers
this prayer.



FIRST READING BARUCH 5:1-9

We can't really 'wear'
qualities like honesty,
justice or sorrow. Baruch
uses this language,
however, as a way of
helping us to imagine
the difference between
life with God and life
without God. God's
people have been living

in exile, banished from
their homeland, far from
God. Now they are given
hope that they will soon
be close to God again,
wrapped in God's love
and forgiveness. God's
justice and peace will be
seen in the way God's
joyful people live.

LOOK at the reader
and LISTEN.

Everyone will be
guided by God's light
to lives full of joy.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 125

What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.

The cantor or psalmist
sings or says the psalm.
Listen to the verses,
and then respond by
using these words.



SECOND READING PHILIPPIANS 1:4-6, 8-11

We are all becoming
more and more like Jesus
every day. Even the
very first Christians had
to practise being loving.
Here Paul is sending his
love to the community in
Philippi, telling them how
he is praying for them.
Paul knows that they

need help to improve
in their knowledge and
understanding of God
and in their relationships
with each other. He also
knows that they can be
confident that they will
become perfect with
God's help, just as we
will too!

LOOK at the reader
and LISTEN.

Paul prays with joy
for the Christians in
Philippi.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

We give a shout of
praise to God, using
these words taken
from the Bible.



DO YOU KNOW?

John the Baptist preaches
repentance in today's
Gospel. "Repentance"
comes from the Greek
word "metanoia". This
word means a complete
change in heart and mind.
When we repent we turn
our lives around. Advent
is a great opportunity to
think about how we might
turn things round, so that
we are even more loving.



THINK

The Romans built roads
as straight as possible,
in order to travel as
quickly as they could.
Winding roads make a
journey longer. Even
before the Romans, the
Old Testament prophets
knew about this
engineering - and John
the Baptist uses their
imagery. It takes more
work to make straight
roads, and it might take
some effort to get our
hearts ready to welcome
Jesus, but hard work is
usually worthwhile!



GOSPEL LUKE 3:1-6

The Good News about Jesus is told to us by St Luke.

John the Baptist is an unusual man, even for Jesus' time! He is completely committed to delivering God's message, standing out from the crowd in the way he dresses, eats and lives. We know the truth of John's message because Luke gives us the historical facts and reminds us that Isaiah had

spoken about someone who would announce the Messiah's arrival. John the Baptist is a signpost pointing to Jesus. We are being invited by John to open our hearts and minds to really hear Jesus' message. In the challenges of the wilderness we are invited to meet God. Are we ready?

STAND to LISTEN

to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel.

Before he reads the Gospel, what does the priest or deacon do to his forehead, his lips and his heart? Can you copy him?

Listen to the reader as he or she encourages us to pray for situations and people in need. This is a prayer you could say privately.

Watch as the gifts are made ready and the priest washes his hands and prepares for the Eucharistic Prayer.

We listen to the prayer of praise and thanks to God.

You are invited to sing a Communion song or say this verse, which has been especially chosen for today's celebration.



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I would like to pray for anyone who wants to make changes in their lives but is struggling to do so. Please help them to know that with you, anything is possible. Lord, hear my prayer.



OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think about a time this week when you were sad and then think about all the times you were happy and joyful.

Say a little prayer offering these thoughts up to God.



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Today's special prayer thanks God for fulfilling all God's promises to us.

What can you give special thanks for today?



THE LORD'S PRAYER

As the priest extends his hands, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.



MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you, Jesus for the joy and happiness I feel when I think about how much you love me! Amen.



We take Jesus with us to carry on the work that he did on earth, until we meet again next Sunday.

Go in peace.

ICHTHUS



IXΘΥΣ



PRAY

"Prepare a way for the Lord."

Jesus, I want to make your path to my heart as easy to travel on as possible. Help me to build the bridges and fill in the holes that I need to, so that you can find me quickly. Amen.



DO

Light a candle and sing a verse of an Advent carol with your family every night this week.



IXΘΥΣ

is the Greek word for "fish" and was used in the catacombs as a sign for early Christians. It is made up from the first letter of five Greek titles for the Lord:

I (Jesus)
X (Christos)
Θ (Theou/God's)
Υ (Uios/Son)
Σ (Soter/Saviour)

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ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 12 DECEMBER 2021

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Year C



Say "hello" to Jesus, who is right here with you!



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

We say these words or sing a hymn as the priest approaches the altar.

COLLECT

O God, who see how your people
faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity,
enable us, we pray,
to attain the joys of so great a salvation
and to celebrate them always
with solemn worship and glad rejoicing...

We ask for God's help.
Listen now to the
priest as he offers this prayer.



FIRST READING ZEPHANIAH 3:14-18

Life with God is like a festival! God's people are celebrating – God is with them. What better way to celebrate than with music, singing and dancing! They have been having a very difficult time and have felt far away from

God. Now, everything has changed. God has rescued them from their troubles, bringing love and forgiveness. God is right in their midst – and God is with us too, bringing love to our lives. Let's celebrate with shouts of joy!

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN.
God's people have a good reason to celebrate.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 12

Sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

The cantor or psalmist sings or says the psalm. Listen to the verses, and then respond by using these words.



SECOND READING PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

Life with God will make us truly happy. Paul knows this, and this is his prayer for the people of Philippi. He wants nothing more than for his good friends to be happy in the Lord. Trust in God and know

that God is always very close to us. There is no need to worry, but if we are anxious we just need to talk to God. God will look after our hearts and minds, giving us deep and lasting peace.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN.
God is with us, bringing us peace and lasting happiness.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.
Alleluia!

We give a shout of praise to God, using these words taken from the Bible.



DO YOU KNOW?

The word "festival" comes from the Latin word "festum" meaning "a feast". Working people in the past only had time off for religious celebrations when everyone had fun eating and drinking together – although Christmas Day only became a public holiday in 1834. God being with us is the best reason to celebrate with a festival!



THINK

Singing is great fun! Singing is also really good for us. It is good for our bodies and good for our minds. It can help us sleep, improves our brain power and even our immune system. Singing can even help us to make friends and develop the way we work with other people. Let's thank God – and sing and shout for joy!



GOSPEL LUKE 3:10-18

The Good News about Jesus is told to us by St Luke.

"How do we live as God asks?", the people ask. Giving very practical examples, John the Baptist explains that God wants everyone to be just and fair. If we have more than we need, we should share with those who have nothing. We must never bully people and be grateful for what we

have. Understanding that John is a man of God, the people begin to think that he is the long-awaited Messiah. But John puts them straight: he is just preparing the way for someone much more special and important. The Christ will baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire, not just water.

STAND to LISTEN

to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel. Before he reads the Gospel, what does the priest or deacon do to his forehead, his lips and his heart? Can you copy him?



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I would like to pray for the courage to share. Please help us all to be honest about what we need, and work to make sure that the world is a fairer place. Lord, hear my prayer.

Listen to the reader as he or she encourages us to pray for situations and people in need. This is a prayer you could say privately.



OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think about any times this week when you were unhappy and then think about the times when you were contented and happy.

Say a little prayer offering these thoughts up to God.

Watch as the gifts are made ready and the priest washes his hands and prepares for the Eucharistic Prayer.



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Today's special prayer thanks God for fulfilling all God's promises to us.

What can you give special thanks for today?

We listen to the prayer of praise and thanks to God.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

As the priest extends his hands, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

You are invited to sing a Communion song or say this verse, which has been especially chosen for today's celebration.



MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you, Jesus for the love in my life. Thank you for the peace and joy your love gives me. Amen.



PRAY

"Shout for joy!"

Enjoy thanking God for all the good things in your life by shouting and dancing for joy! Make your joyful dancing a prayer to God who is always with you.



DO

Sing a happy song every day this week!



IXΘΥΣ

is the Greek word for "fish" and was used in the catacombs as a sign for early Christians. It is made up from the first letter of five Greek titles for the Lord:

I (Jesus)
X (Christos)
Θ (Theou/God's)
Υ (Uios/Son)
Σ (Soter/Saviour)

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We take Jesus with us to carry on the work that he did on earth, until we meet again next Sunday.

Go in peace.

ICHTHUS



ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 19 DECEMBER 2021

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Year C



Can you see any statues or paintings of Jesus' mother Mary in church?



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

We say these words
or sing a hymn as the
priest approaches
the altar.

COLLECT

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection...

We ask for God's help.
Listen now to the
priest as he offers
this prayer.



FIRST READING MICAH 5:1-4

God promises that the saviour sent to rule over the world will come from Bethlehem. His family has been part of God's story from the very beginning. When this saviour arrives, all God's people will be gathered together. Everything this

Messiah does will be through God's power and will be done in God's name. All the people will be safe with him, just as sheep are safe with their shepherd. Because of him, God's rule will spread over the whole land, bringing peace.

LOOK at the reader
and LISTEN.

The Messiah will come
from Bethlehem, as
God has promised.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 79

God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

The cantor or psalmist
sings or says the psalm.
Listen to the verses,
and then respond by
using these words.



SECOND READING HEBREWS 10:5-10

Jesus has come into the world to show us how much God loves us and to show us how to love and worship God. He says, "Here I am!" and willingly does as God wants, sharing love with everyone. We love God

by loving other people. Jesus sacrificed his life and we can sacrifice ourselves by offering our time and energy to others. This is how we can truly worship God; sharing love. With Jesus we say, "Here I am!"

LOOK at the reader
and LISTEN.

God is with us,
bringing us peace and
lasting happiness.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the handmaid of the Lord:
let what you have said be done to me.
Alleluia!

We give a shout of
praise to God, using
these words taken
from the Bible.



DO YOU KNOW?

Elizabeth's words to Mary in the Gospel are part of the Hail Mary. This prayer, asking Mary to pray for us, begins with the angel Gabriel's greeting.

Can you use the words from the word bank to fill in the gaps?

Hail _____,
full of _____,
the _____ is with thee.
_____ art thou
among _____,
and _____ is the
fruit of thy womb,
_____.
_____ Mary,
_____ of God,
_____ for us sinners now,
and at the _____ of
our death.
Amen.



Mary pray Blessed
women hour grace
Mother Holy blessed
Lord Jesus



GOSPEL LUKE 1:39-45

The Good News about Jesus is told to us by St Luke.

Mary is so excited! The angel has told her that, not only is she going to have a special baby, her cousin Elizabeth is also expecting a baby! Mary rushes to see Elizabeth and as she calls "hello", Elizabeth's baby jumps for joy. Now it is Elizabeth's turn to be excited! Filled with

the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth exclaims that Mary is the happiest, most blessed, of all women. Elizabeth and her baby know that Mary's special baby is the reason she is blessed. Mary has trusted God's promise and is going to be the mother of God! Now we are all excited!

STAND to LISTEN

to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel.

Before he reads the Gospel, what does the priest or deacon do to his forehead, his lips and his heart? Can you copy him?



PRAY

"Here I am!"

Quietly make these words from our second reading into your prayer. Offer your heart to God. Offer your time and your energy to God. Offer yourself to God today.



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I would like to pray for anyone who has ever hoped to have a baby. Help us all to enjoy and welcome love in our lives, wherever we find it. Lord, hear my prayer.

Listen to the reader as he or she encourages us to pray for situations and people in need. This is a prayer you could say privately.



OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think about any times this week when you were bored and then think about the times when you were excited and joyful.

Say a little prayer offering these thoughts up to God.

Watch as the gifts are made ready and the priest washes his hands and prepares for the Eucharistic Prayer.



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Today's special prayer thanks God for fulfilling all God's promises to us.

What can you give special thanks for today?

We listen to the prayer of praise and thanks to God.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

As the priest extends his hands, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

You are invited to sing a Communion song or say this verse, which has been especially chosen for today's celebration.



MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you for blessing my life with love, Jesus. Help me to recognise you in the love of my family and friends. Amen.



IXΘΥΣ

is the Greek word for "fish" and was used in the catacombs as a sign for early Christians. It is made up from the first letter of five Greek titles for the Lord:

I (Jesus)
X (Christos)
Θ (Theou/God's)
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We take Jesus with us to carry on the work that he did on earth, until we meet again next Sunday.

Go in peace.

ICHTHUS



ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 26 DECEMBER 2021

THE HOLY FAMILY OF
JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Year C



Thank God for all the lovely people who live with you and love you.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

We say these words
or sing a hymn as the
priest approaches
the altar.

COLLECT

O God, who were pleased to give us
the shining example of the Holy Family,
graciously grant that we may imitate them
in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity,
and so, in the joy of your house,
delight one day in eternal rewards...

We ask for God's help.
Listen now to the
priest as he offers
this prayer.



FIRST READING 1 SAMUEL 1:20-22. 24-28

Hannah had longed for a baby. Hannah promises God that if she has a baby, she will give the child back to God. God hears her prayer - Hannah and her husband are blessed with a new baby! Hannah knows that her

son Samuel is special gift from God. When Samuel is old enough, Hannah takes him to the Temple where he will be a helper for Eli, the priest. Hannah keeps the promise she made because she is so thankful for Samuel.

LOOK at the reader
and LISTEN.
Hannah takes Samuel
to the Temple.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 83

They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

The cantor or psalmist
sings or says the psalm.
Listen to the verses,
and then respond by
using these words.



SECOND READING 1 JOHN 3:1-2. 21-24

God loves each one of us very much. Think about just how much a mum or dad loves their child. God loves us even more than that! We already know that we are God's children, but we know

that in the future we will understand God's love for us even better than we do now. We need never be afraid to talk to God about whatever is on our mind. God is always with us, helping and loving us.

LOOK at the reader
and LISTEN.
Each of us is one of
God's children!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

We give a shout of
praise to God, using
these words taken
from the Bible.



DO YOU KNOW?

Some of our ideas about
what happened at Jesus' birth are not in the Gospel stories. The Bible does not say that Mary rode on a donkey or that there are three wise men! These details are not important, however. The important fact is that **Jesus, the light of the world, has come to live with us!** Jesus' birth story tells us how much **God loves us!**



THINK

Christmas is a time when we **enjoy being with our families**. If we are lucky we might even see our grandparents, aunties, uncles and cousins. But our **families are not perfect**, and we might fall out with each other. Remember, **Jesus knows what it's like** to live with a family - and that it's not always easy! **Let's ask Jesus to help us to be patient and loving with each other.**



GOSPEL LUKE 2:41-52

The Good News about Jesus is told to us by St Luke.

O my goodness! Imagine how frightened Mary and Joseph are. Having celebrated at the Passover in Jerusalem, they have been travelling for a whole day before that they realise Jesus is missing. It's not until three days later that they find Jesus, in the Temple with the teachers, listening and asking questions. Jesus doesn't

seem to understand just how worried Mary and Joseph have been. Mary and Joseph don't understand what Jesus means when he says he needed to be in his Father's house. Despite their misunderstandings, they all go home together to Nazareth. In this loving family Jesus grows up to be wise and good.

STAND to LISTEN

to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel.

Before he reads the Gospel, what does the priest or deacon do to his forehead, his lips and his heart? Can you copy him?

Listen to the reader as he or she encourages us to pray for situations and people in need. This is a prayer you could say privately.



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I would like to pray for all families; those who live together and those who live in different places. Help us to be kind to each other. Lord, hear my prayer.



OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think about any times this week when you were impatient with someone and then think about a time when you were kind and helpful.

Say a little prayer offering these thoughts up to God.

Watch as the gifts are made ready and the priest washes his hands and prepares for the Eucharistic Prayer.



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Today's special prayer thanks God for fulfilling all God's promises to us.

What can you give special thanks for today?

We listen to the prayer of praise and thanks to God.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

As the priest extends his hands, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

You are invited to sing a Communion song or say this verse, which has been especially chosen for today's celebration.



MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you, Jesus, for bringing light and love into the world and into my life. Thank you for the hope I have because of you. Amen.



We take Jesus with us to carry on the work that he did on earth, until we meet again next Sunday.

Go in peace.



PRAY

"Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us."

Sit quietly with God. Just think about how much God loves you. Not just a bit, but lavishly - hugely, generously, extravagantly and massively!



DO

Find a way to do something thoughtful and helpful for the people you live with every day this week.



ΙΧΘΥΣ

is the Greek word for "fish" and was used in the catacombs as a sign for early Christians. It is made up from the first letter of five Greek titles for the Lord:

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