

BIBLE READINGS - December 4, 2022

Revised Standard Version

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Prayer for Guidance and Support for the King

A Psalm of Solomon.

- 72 Give the king thy justice, O God,
and thy righteousness to the royal son!
- ² May he judge thy people with righteousness,
and thy poor with justice!
- ³ Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness!
- ⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor!
- ⁵ May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!
- ⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth!
- ⁷ In his days may righteousness flourish,
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!
- ¹⁸ Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.
- ¹⁹ Blessed be his glorious name for ever;
may his glory fill the whole earth! Amen and Amen!
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Matthew 3:1-12

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

³ In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

³ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.”

⁴ Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair, and a leather girdle around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then went out to him Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sad’ducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruit that befits repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

¹⁰ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”