

Singing Our Faith
2nd Sunday of Advent – December 10, 2017

Entrance Rite Texts for the Second Sunday of Advent

Antiphon: Behold God's glorious majesty; the Lord will come to save.

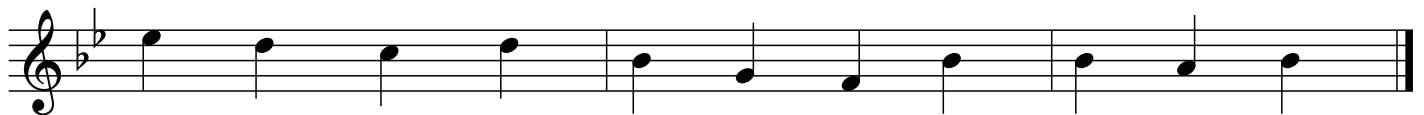
Hymn: "Awake!" "Repent!" the cry resounds
From prophets, messengers of grace.
"Shake off your slumb'ring misery!"
We rise, prepared to see God's face.



1. On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An -
2. Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make
3. For you are our sal - va - tion, Lord, Our
4. To heal the sick stretch out your hand, And
5. All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, Whose



noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and heark - en,
straight the way for God with - in, And let each heart pre -
ref - uge and our great re - ward; With - out your grace we
bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; Shine forth and let your
ad - vent has our free - dom won, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
pare a home Where such a might - y guest may come.
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
light re - store Earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
we a - dore, And Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: *Jordanis oras praevia*; Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. by John Chandler, 1806–1876, alt.
Tune: WINCHESTER NEW, LM; adapt. from *Musikalisches Handbuch*, Hamburg, 1690

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Like the Sunday readings, the music this weekend focuses on the prophets proclaiming God's grace, salvation, comfort, and mercy. In the Advent Entrance Rite, the hymn text echoes the cry of the prophets, and calls us to "rise and be prepared to see God's face."

John the Baptist, perhaps the first "fire and brimstone" preacher, delivers the message that Jesus the Christ is coming to baptize with the Holy Spirit. This is contrasted by the beautiful reading from the Prophet Isaiah, which comforts the listener. God is coming to save us. Like a shepherd, he feeds his flock and leads us gently.

The closing hymn "On Jordan's Bank" sends us out into the world with the message of John the Baptist. As we prepare for our parish's Advent Penance Service this Thursday, the second stanza reminds us that when we are free from sin, Christ can truly dwell in our hearts. The third stanza, like today's readings, remind us of the universal salvation that was brought about with the coming of Christ in his birth.

Stephen Eros

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