

December 6

2nd Sunday of Advent



First Reading (Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11)

Comfort, give comfort to my people,
say your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her
that her service is at an end,
her guilt is expiated;
indeed, she has received from **the hand of the LORD**
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:
In the desert prepare the way of the LORD!
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!
Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill shall be made low;
the rugged land shall be made a plain,
the rough country, a broad valley.
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together;
for the **mouth of the LORD** has spoken.

Go up on to a high mountain,
Zion, herald of glad tidings;
cry out at the top of your voice,
Jerusalem, herald of good news!

Fear not to cry out
and say to the cities of Judah:

Here is your God!
Here comes with power
the Lord God,
who **rules by his strong arm**;
here is his reward with him,
his recompense before him.
Like a shepherd he feeds his flock;
in his arms he gathers the lambs,
carrying them in his bosom,
and leading the ewes with care.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14)

**R. Lord, let us see your kindness,
and grant us your salvation.**

I will hear what God proclaims;
the LORD—for he proclaims peace to his people.
Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him,
glory dwelling in our land. R.

Kindness and truth shall meet;
justice and peace shall kiss.
Truth shall spring out of the earth,
and justice shall look down from heaven. R.

The LORD himself will give his benefits;
our land shall yield its increase.
Justice shall walk before him,
and prepare the way of his steps. R.

Second Reading (2 Peter 3:8-14)

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard “delay,” but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out.

Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in **holiness** and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel (Mark 1:1-8)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

*Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way.*

A voice of one crying out in the desert:

***“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.”***

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you **with the Holy Spirit.**”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



Key Words

God does not have a body, but to help us understand, the Bible uses parts of the human body to describe God: God acts (**the hand of the Lord**), God communicates with us (**the mouth of the Lord**), God is powerful (he **rules by his strong arm**) and God cares for us (**in his arms he gathers the lambs**).

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In the **Second Letter of Saint Peter**, the people are worrying about when Jesus will return. Saint Peter helps them understand that the important thing is not to worry but to live well and to let God decide when the Second Coming (or advent) will take place.

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Holiness means living near God and letting the Holy Spirit guide us. To be holy is to live in a God-like manner: with love, mercy, and compassion.

“Prepare the way of the Lord” were John the Baptist’s words to the people, telling them to change their lives so that they would be ready for the Messiah. John the Baptist used the same words as the Prophet Isaiah had done, to show that Jesus was indeed the Promised One, the Messiah.

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John the Baptist was the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth (the cousin of the Virgin Mary), and therefore Jesus’ cousin. He told people that Jesus was coming soon. He was called John the Baptist because he baptized many people.

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When we are baptized, we are baptized with water and **with the Holy Spirit**. We let God into our lives, and the Holy Spirit is alive in us. John the Baptist knew that baptism in the name of Jesus marked the beginning of a new life!

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