



Liturgy Cycle B

Second Sunday Of Advent

Preparing The Way

Introduction

In today's liturgy the Church enables us once again to hear the lonely voice of John the Baptist calling us to repentance, urging us to prepare a way so the Christ our Saviour can come to us. Let us pause for a moment to call to mind the goodness of God and our need of salvation.

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

This contains a piece of good news. God is coming to save his people. The people are urged to prepare a way for him.

Second Reading (2 Peter 3:8-14)

If the Lord appears to be slow in coming, Peter says it is only so that people may have a chance to repent and so be ready to meet him when he comes.

Gospel (Mark 1:1-8)

John the Baptist appears on the scene to announce to the people the imminent coming of their Saviour and to prepare them for his coming.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray that we may make ready the way for Christ to come to us, bearing gifts for us from our God our Father.

R: Lord hear our prayer.

That all those who believe in Christ may be saved from the blindness of materialism and self-sufficiency. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord hear our prayer.

That our political leaders may strive to level the mountains of injustice and fill in the valleys of poverty so that we may have a more just society. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord hear our prayer.



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That we may realize that Christ is always trying to come to us in the person of the one we are ignoring or excluding, in the person who is in need and in want. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord hear our prayer.

That we may create a time and a space for Christ in our lives, so that he can come to us with his light, his healing and his peace. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord hear our prayer.

Communion Reflection

Lonely voices

John's was a voice crying in the wilderness,
a lonely voice that many of his contemporaries ignored.

The voice of the prophet
is not the only voice that is ignored.

There are many lonely voices in our world
that go unheeded.

Somewhere at this moment a child is crying –
crying for love or maybe simply for bread.

Somewhere a young person is crying –
crying for a listening ear
or an understanding heart.

Somewhere a deserted wife and mother is crying –
crying for the support of a husband.

Somewhere old people are crying –
crying for a word from their children.

There are a thousand lonely voices,
a thousand unheard cries in our world,
coming from the victims of injustice or neglect.

Lord help us to listen to these voices,
Above all, help us to listen to your voice
whispering to us in the wilderness of our hearts,
telling us that we are loved by the Father,
and that we are to love one another.