

Sunday, December 10, 2017

Readings: 1) Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 2) 2 Peter 3:8-14 3) Mark 1:1-8

Sunday Liturgy

The Focus for today's Mass is that as John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord, so we, too, must prepare for his coming by being Jesus' disciples – his witnesses in the world.

Our readings today give us hope that Jesus is coming, but also offer a challenge to prepare the way before him.

John the Baptist's words in today's Gospel point us to Jesus while challenging us to repent. In order to prepare the way and *make straight his paths*, we must be willing to sometimes go out on a limb and be that voice crying in the wilderness, proclaiming the mightiness of our Savior.

In the first reading from Isaiah, we hear a voice that cries out:

“In the desert prepare the way of the Lord”.

In the second reading, we are reminded that we will not know the day or the hour of Jesus' return, so we must be ready.

Today's Gospel talks of John the Baptist proclaiming “a baptism of repentance”.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

PRIEST:

**Confident in the Father's love, mercy and compassion,
let us now bring our prayers and petitions before him.**

For all members of the Church,
may God work in us for a greater conversion of mind and heart
in order to be better instruments of his love in the world.

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

For all those throughout the world who do not know Jesus,
may they encounter him through our words and actions.

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

For those who are sick in mind and body;
may they experience the love and support of others.

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

For our beloved dead,
may they enter joyfully and peacefully into the kingdom of heaven.

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

For all who gather here,
may each of us prepare the way of the Lord in our hearts.

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

For our own personal intentions, (long pause).

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

PRIEST:

**God of mercy and compassion,
we offer our prayers to you in faith.
We ask that you grant them according to your holy will,
through Christ our Lord.**