

Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023

The 2nd Sunday of Advent

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

FOCUS: Prepare for the coming of the Lord.

Today's readings speak to us of preparing for the coming of the Lord through repentance. Repentance requires us to be honest about the times we have fallen short in loving God and our neighbor as the Lord commands. Knowing that we are sinners is a necessary step in recognizing our need for the forgiveness God has graciously offered us through his Son, whose coming into the world we prepare to celebrate.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah offers words of comfort and hope that the time of exile is coming to an end and the Lord is preparing to reveal his glory to all people. Peter exhorts his community to live *in holiness and devotion* in anticipation of the day of the Lord. Mark begins his Gospel describing the ministry of John the Baptist who proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, and that one greater than he would come and baptize with the Holy Spirit.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With confidence in God's love and care, let us lift up before him our prayers and petitions.

- 1) That all members of the Church may continue to grow in love of and fidelity to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those who do not know Christ may have the Gospel proclaimed to them with love and conviction, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all whose hearts have grown cold with resentment or anger may be transformed by God's forgiveness and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That all members of this community may persevere in faith and hope anticipating the day of the Lord's coming, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That the faithful departed may rejoice in the company of the saints in the presence of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord God, hear the prayers we have lifted up before you and answer them, we ask, in accordance with your divine will, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Used by permission of FAITH Catholic. All rights reserved