

Preparing the Way

The gospel for this coming Sunday (Second Sunday in Advent) is Luke 3:1-14. This text is the account of the emergence of John the Baptist's ministry in the wilderness around the Jordan River.

That John's work begins in the desert evokes memories for the Israelites in their trek in the desert for forty years. This area around the Jordan brings to mind that when Israel crossed the Jordan, it was a significant passage from their wilderness into the Promised Land.

Before a king made a journey to a distant country, the roads he would travel were improved. Similarly, preparation for the Messiah was made in a moral and spiritual way by the ministry of John, which focused on repentance and forgiveness of sin and the need for a Savior.

The road made crooked by brokenness must be made straight through the preaching that calls for repentance, turning from sin to God. God clears it out of the way. Through repentance – contrition and faith – we are made ready. Only after God has finished His preparatory work will all flesh see the salvation of God.

We, too, live in desert-like world covered in the darkness of sin. The Word of God that came to John is still the only true source of light to those who have faith in Christ. It shows us our need to repent not only in this season of Advent but to do so on a daily basis. BUT, the Word of God has a powerful message of hope for us as well.

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for making us "clean" through baptism and Word. This Advent season help us to rejoice the hope of eternal life that you provide. Amen