

## Behold I Send My Messenger

The OT reading for this coming Sunday (Second Sunday in Advent) is Malachi 3:1-7. The word *behold* means pay attention something important is about to be said. The messenger is going to be John the Baptist. John prepared the way for Christ by “proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Mk 1:4).

God always wants his people to be ready for him so that they will get the full benefit of what he brings with him. Malachi announces the Lord’s coming to complete God’s work in history, especially the work he outlines in the rest of his book. His word is fulfilled in the accomplishments of the Messiah.

The Lord makes it very clear that the Day of Judgment is coming. He wants all people to be prepared for that day. That’s why He sent the Messenger of the new covenant, Jesus Christ, to suffer and die for the sins of the world.

Before the Levites could serve God at his altar they needed to be made pure of their sins. Before we can serve the Lord he needs to forgive us our sins and make us acceptable in his sight. We can’t do a thing on our own. God must act first and make us acceptable. AND, he continues to do so.

The good news is that God does not change. James 1:17 says it well: *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.* This means that God is always faithful to carry what he has promised. He is not fickle doesn’t change his mind if we are unfaithful.

In verse 7 we are asked to repent and return from our sins and God promises to return and be with us at all times. During this hectic season we can rely on God to keep us focused on the coming Christ.

Prayer: Dear Lord, help us to be single-minded as we pass through this Advent season and keep us centered on the coming of Jesus. Amen