

December 6, 2020 2nd Sunday of Advent

He baptizes in the Holy Spirit!

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Psalms 85

2 Peter 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8

Isaiah notes that the guilt of Jerusalem is expiated and the people will now be comforted and spoken to tenderly. A voice cries out to prepare a way for the Lord indicating the glory of God will be revealed as his power comes and his strong arm rules while his reward is with him and his recompense before him.

The psalmist hears that God proclaims the land shall increase its yield. The Lord speaks of peace to his people and his salvation is near to those who fear him as truth, kindness, and peace shall all meet and justice shall walk before the Lord.

Peter compares one day with the Lord to a thousand years for us. The Lord's Day will come swiftly and unexpectedly but he is patient allowing all to come to repentance and does not desire anyone to perish. The heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and everything done on earth will be found out. We await a new heaven and a new earth in which righteousness dwells and our preparation is in patiently conducting ourselves in holiness and devotion so that we may be found without blemish before him.

John the Baptist proclaims a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. He tells his listeners, "I baptize with water but One mightier than I is to come!" and he will "baptize in the Holy Spirit."

The Father brings comfort and tenderness,
The Son brings justice,
The Holy Spirit reminds us of repentance.

Today's readings ask us to respond with humility to the message of John the Baptist. The Mighty One, Christ Jesus, is heralded this Advent season. We need to open ourselves up to the Lord's kindness, justice, and truth and respond to the needs of others generously. The special graces of Advent will transform our lives of faith. Do you know of someone in need of comfort, someone poor, or ill, or deprived? In helping them we will be blessed with the Lord's love!



It seems that there is one thing that often keeps us from becoming the persons God wants us to become and that is the fear of the sacrifices and difficulties that might be encountered in following the will of God. There is the story of a man whose mind always encountered anxiety and often wavered in his intentions. One night, alone in his room, he prostrated himself and asked, "What is to become of me? Will I be able to persevere?" His mind was illuminated as he seemed to hear, "And if you did know this, how would you act? Well, act now as you would act then!" This answer brought peace and consoled him as he dedicated himself to following God's will, and saw his anxieties vanish; our determination will experience a similar vanishing of troublesome anxieties.

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