

Prayer for the Second Sunday of Advent

God of patience,
show us your wisdom
in time,
that we may grow to expect
your action on your time.

Teach us to be gentle
and patient with ourselves.

Make us receptive to your
timing in others.

Help us to see the long view
when we are caught in the
frustration of waiting.

We make this prayer,
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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Second Sunday of Advent



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Gospel Reading

From the Gospel of Luke (3: 1-6)

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.
And all mankind shall see the salvation
of God.

Reflection

This Sunday, our Gospel makes reference to John the Baptist. John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. To affirm this, Luke quotes at length from the prophet Isaiah. John baptizes for repentance and for the forgiveness of sins, preparing the way for God's salvation. As we know, that salvation came to the people then, and continues to come to us today, in Jesus.

As our Gospel reading references John the Baptist, call to mind your own Baptism, and reflect on the questions:

- What does your Baptism mean to you?
- How do you live as a Baptised person in our world today?
- What struggles or challenges do you face? How can Jesus help you navigate the tough times?
- How are your preparations for Advent going?

Jesse Tree Symbols

Story: Jacob's Ladder (Gen 28:10-22)

Symbol: Ladder

'And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.' (Gen 28:12)

Story: Joseph Feeds God's People (Gen 37: 2-11)

Symbol: Wheat Sheaves

'Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves.' (Gen 37: 3)

Story: Moses Leads the People Out of Egypt (Ex 14: 10-31)

Symbol: Staff

'Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided.' (Ex 14:21)

Story: Moses Receives the Ten Commandments (Ex 20: 1-17)

Symbol: Stone Tablets

'I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.' (Ex 20: 2-3)