

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
CYCLE C**

FIRST READING

Jerusalem, God will show your splendor.

A reading from the book of the prophet Baruch

5:1-5, 7

Jerusalem, exchange your robes of sorrow and suffering
for those glorious garments God has given you forever.
Dress in the saving power of the eternal God,
and wear his glory like a crown on your head.

God will show everyone on earth how wonderful you are.
And he has forever given you this name:
“Justice Leads to Peace, Obeying God Brings Honor.”

Jerusalem, climb to the peaks of the highest mountains
and see your people coming from the east and the west,
at the command of God.

They are celebrating
because they have been remembered by the Holy One.

God has commanded every tall and ancient mountain
to be leveled to the ground and every valley filled in.
Then Israel will safely walk in the glory of God.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

126:1-2ab, 2cde-3

*R. (3) The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.*



*It seemed like a dream
when the Lord brought us back
to the city of Zion.
We celebrated with laughter
and joyful songs.*

*R. (3) The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.*

In foreign nations it was said,
“The Lord has worked miracles
for his people.”
And so we celebrated
because the Lord had indeed
worked miracles for us.

*R. (3) The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.*

SECOND READING

You share in spreading the good news.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

1:4-6

Brothers and sisters:

Whenever I mention you in my prayers,
it makes me happy.

This is because you have taken part with me
in spreading the good news
from the first day you heard about it.

God is the one who began this good work in you,
and I am certain that he won't stop before it is complete
on the day that Christ Jesus returns.

The word of the Lord.



ALLELUIA

Luke 3: 4, 6

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
All people shall see the salvation of God.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

All people shall see the salvation of God.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

3:1a, 2-6

For fifteen years Emperor Tiberius had ruled that part of the world,
and Annas and Caiaphas were the Jewish high priests.
At that time God spoke to Zechariah's son John,
who was living in the desert.

So John went along the Jordan Valley, telling the people,
"Turn back to God and be baptized!
Then your sins will be forgiven."
Isaiah the prophet wrote about John when he said,

"In the desert someone is shouting,
'Get the road ready for the Lord!
Make a straight path for him!
Fill up every valley and level every mountain and hill.
Straighten the crooked paths and smooth out the rough roads.
Then everyone will see the saving power of God.'"

The gospel of the Lord.



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We can give the gift of God's love.
(Review Advent Activities Section)

Prayer: Dear God, John the Baptist told others, with great joy, how you are God's Son. With joy, we want to tell others about you because people still need to know you love them. Thank you for loving us; help us to show love to those who are poor and need someone to love them especially. Amen.

Readings: Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6

Reflection: The prophet, Baruch, tells of very sad and hard time. Jerusalem had been destroyed and the people are far from home. St Paul tells his new disciples to learn to be a good community as followers of Jesus. John the Baptist challenges his listeners to reform their lives and change their society. However, all three readings reflect a deep sense of hope and a desire for justice. Baruch implies that no obstacle will keep God's children from returning home. John's time in the desert, like the time of Jesus to follow, gives the courage to voice, cry out, for all God's people to follow their lead. God has made it clear throughout our history, God is who us, Emmanuel but is not a God over us! The 'making the way' is not by taking another route, but of carefully and persistently transforming the way we travel—inwardly and outwardly; as individuals and as a society. We shouldn't be surprised that the Scripture stories are not about Jesus' birth but about us being on the way to Jesus' coming in glory—and our responsibility to make that way smooth!

Activities: John the Baptist was the first person in the New Testament that recognizes Jesus. John wasn't a Rabbi, Scribe, Pharisee or even a disciple of Jesus—and doesn't become 'named' apostle. Talk to the children about how important it is that we learn to recognize Jesus in one another—even in those that are outside the Christian or Catholic Church. It is important that the children struggle with understanding that all people are God's children; all people can be recognized for doing good and loving deeds. The difference with us, our 'named' Saints, is that we, as a faith community, proclaim Jesus as the reason for our actions. Consider using the KEY WORDS like flash cards to engage the children in learning about concepts, people and ideas shown. Help them to think of other stories where the same word or person is used.



To Conclude the Session: Remember to collect Christmas cards for the card gift Box. Do the children have the names of people to whom the cards can be sent? Talk a little about each person. If not, just mention children/people by need: Homeless, hungry, etc. In litany fashion, have each child place their card in the box and everyone else says: **We can give the gift of God's love.**

Prayer: Dear God, John the Baptist told others, with great joy, how you are God's Son. With joy, we want to tell others about you because people still need to know you love them. Thank you for loving us; help us to show love to those who are poor and need someone to love them especially. Amen.

KEY WORDS:TAKEN FROM ALL THREE SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: Jerusalem, splendor of glory, justice, peace, rejoice, overshadowed, light, mercy, testify, prayer, John, Zechariah, desert, baptism, Isaiah, herald's voice, way of the Lord, salvation.

Children's Liturgy shared by the Adorers of the Blood of Christ
www.adorers.org

