SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
Cycle B

FIRST READING

Prepare the way for the Lord.

A reading from the book of Isaiah 40:3-5

A voice is shouting:
Clear a path in the desert for the Lord.
Build a straight road there for our God.

Fill in the valleys and flatten the mountains and hills.
Level the rough and rugged ground.

Then the glory of the Lord will appear for all to see.
The Lord has promised this!

The word of the Lord.

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

Adorers of the Blood of Christ
UNITED STATES REGION



RESPONSORIAL PSALM 185:8, 9, 109

R. (8) Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

I will listen to you, Lord God,
because you promise peace
to those who are faithful
and no longer foolish.
You are ready to rescue
everyone who worships you,
so that you will live with us
in all of your glory.

R. Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Love and loyalty will come together;
goodness and peace will unite.
Loyalty will sprout
from the ground;
justice will look down
from the sky above.

R. Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

ALLELUIA Luke 3:4, 68

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

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

† The beginning of the holy gospel according to Mark. 1:1-8

This is the good news about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
It began just as God had said
in the book written by Isaiah the prophet,

" I am sending my messenger to get the way ready for you.
In the desert someone is shouting,
'Get the road ready for the Lord!
Make a straight path for him.'"

So John the Baptist showed up in the desert and told everyone,
"Turn back to God and be baptized!
Then your sins will be forgiven."

From all Judea and from Jerusalem crowds of people went to John.
They told how sorry they were for their sins,
and he baptized them in the Jordan River.

John wore clothes made of camel's hair.
He had a leather strap around his waist
and ate grasshoppers and wild honey.

John also told the people,
"Someone more powerful is going to come.
And I am not good enough even to stoop down and untie his sandals.
I baptize you with water,
but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!"

The gospel of the Lord



SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
Cycle B

Prayer:
Jesus, waiting is very difficult. Some days I am good and some days I am not good. Help me to follow you. Show me the way. Amen.

Readings:
Isaiah 40:3-5
Psalm 85:8-9, 10-11
Mark 1:1-8

Catechist::
"O Come, O Come, Immanuel" How long, O Lord, how long?

The second week of Advent is here. How have you taken the time to prepare for the Coming of Jesus? This is a busy time and we often neglect that "Jesus is reason for the Season." Many times I am reminded by the saying: "If you are too busy to 'Pray' (call a friend, visit a sick neighbor, remind myself to frequently wash my hands to keep the flu away, etc.) then I am busier than God intended me to be." Sound familiar!

How many times have you said, "I wish Christmas was over?"

The Word of God this Sunday gives us a rather concrete image on how to prepare for "the Coming." Clear a path; level the rough and rugged ground, to make way for our God. Talk about a drastic make-over. Get started now; remove everything and anything that obstructs your journey as a follower of Jesus. The voice is shouting, clear a path in the desert for our God. The desert spoken of here represents our souls longing and thirsting for God. What do you long for this Christmas? You may have your list, but have you sought out what God desires to gift you with? It's not too late. Get ready for the coming of the Lord.

Good News! Good News! Jesus is coming! We need to get ready!



In the gospel for today, St. Mark tells us about John. John calls everyone who will listen to hear the great news that Jesus is coming. John invites the people to be baptized in the water, so they could get ready for Jesus. The people did not know Jesus. Each time, John called out louder, and louder, so the people could really hear the Good News he had to give them from God.

The important word we hear today is "proclaim." The message of good news must be clear so that everyone can hear. John the Baptist shouted out, Good News! Good News! Jesus is coming! We need to get ready! At the time when Jesus lived, there were no phones or email, to get the good news out quickly. Instead, people were sent out to "proclaim" the good news. When someone important was coming into town, a runner is sent ahead of time to announce the arrival. The people in the town get the message early enough to prepare for the special guest. People would hurry to clean the streets, clean the house and prepare their best clothes. Sometimes they would decorate the main street for special occasions.

Before and during the preparations, some people are so busy getting ready, that they no longer remember what they are getting ready for. So much can happen when we hurry too much. Some people get upset when things are not going well. People can hurt one another during this time.

Name a special time when you hurry to get things done fast? What are some things that can happen? Much of the time when we hurry, things don't get put away so you can find them later. We sometimes hurry too fast, and we fall and get hurt. Some times things don't get done the way you want them to. Sometimes we don't get our way. We respond with NO! I won't do it! I don't have to. I'm telling! We hurt each other's feelings.

The Good News about Advent is that we take our time to get ready. What plans are you making to prepare for Christmas? What is the best thing you've heard today? What ways can you "proclaim" the Good News of Christmas to others this week?



Activity:
You will need one sheet of paper (8.5"z11"), crayons, glue, and magazines to cut up. Music: "Go tell it on the Mountain"

Title the Page with "Good News." On the left side draw a package and identify as "Good News I have heard." On the right side, draw a package and identify as "Good News about Christmas I can tell others."

Psalm Response: *I will listen to you, Lord God, because you promise peace!*

How is your family preparing for the birth of Jesus? Do you have an Advent wreath? Are you saying special prayers with your family? What special time are you spending as a family together?



