

IN EXCELSIS DEO

ADVENT 2024

Monday, December 2

Read: Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet. ***“See I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the wilderness; Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.”*** John came baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. John wore a camel-hair garment with a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey.” He proclaimed, “One who is more powerful than I am is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Preparing for Christmas is always a hectic, but an enjoyable time. Decorating the Christmas tree, putting lights on and around the house, placing decorations in the house, buying and wrapping gifts, and listening to the carols we play only once a year. We are preparing for a great event. Although Christmas comes each year it is always met with expectations. In the devotion today, we read where John the Baptist was preparing for the Advent (arrival of someone very special) of Jesus who would begin his ministry of love and forgiveness. As we begin our Advent journey, we are reminded that preparation is key. John’s voice cries out in the wilderness, calling us to prepare the way for the Lord. In this season of anticipation, we are invited to reflect on our own hearts and lives. Take time to reflect on the following questions as you prepare your Advent Journey.

Questions for Reflection:

What are the paths in your life that need straightening out to make room for Jesus?

What sins or habits do you need to confess and repent to prepare your heart for Christ’s coming?

How can you make space for the Holy Spirit to work in your life this Advent season?

Prayer:

Dear Lord,

As I begin this Advent journey, help me to prepare my heart and life for your coming. May my path be straight, and my spirit be open to your work. I confess my sins and ask for forgiveness. Baptize me with your Holy Spirit, that I may be filled with joy, hope, and love. Amen.

Pat Davis