



2nd Sunday of Advent, Cycle B

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
Ps 85:9-14
2 Peter 3:8-14
Mark 1:1-8

Monday December 5

Isaiah 35:1-10
Ps 85:9-14
Luke 5:17-26

Tuesday December 6

Isaiah 40:1-11
Ps 96:1-3,10-13
Matthew 18:12-14

Wednesday December 7

Isaiah 40:25-31
Ps 103:1-4,8,10
Matthew 11:28-30

Thursday December 8 Immaculate Conception

Genesis 3:9-15,20
Ps 98:1-4
Eph 1:3-6,11-12
Luke 1:26-38

Friday December 9

Isaiah 48:17-19
Ps 1:1-4,6
Matthew 11:16-19

Saturday December 10

Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11
Ps 80:2-3,15-16,18-19
Matthew 17:9a,10-13

Today's readings tell us to prepare for the Lord – for whatever he wants to give us, do for us, and ask of us. He has a plan for our lives, a divine purpose that will bring us to our full potential.

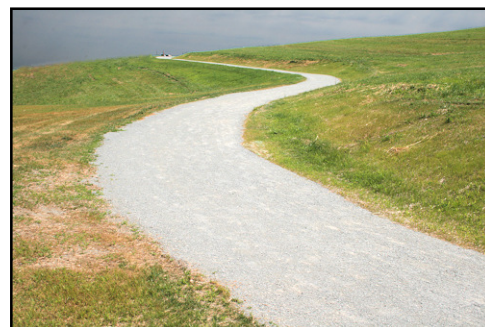
How do we know we are on the right path? By the fruits of the journey. The way of holiness always produces good fruits.

Isaiah says: A voice cries out in the desert! What is barren in your life, and dry, hot, or empty? Sins dry up what would otherwise be fruitful.

Advent is a good preparation for Christmas – and meeting the Lord anew – if we use it to face our sins, reconcile with God, and follow Jesus back onto the holy path. If we neglect this opportunity, Christmas will be only a secular holiday. Our lives will be too barren to give Jesus to others, and we will feel just as empty next year as we do right now.

Prepare the way of the Lord! He has more love to give you, more healing, more joy! Make straight in the wasteland of your sins a highway for our God. Go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and create a wider road into your heart.

All humankind is as frail as grass that withers and wilts. What are your troubles and struggles this Advent? Here is where Jesus wants to minister to you, and here is where you are most vulnerable to sin.



What in your life is going well? What activities are you doing that seem good and productive? Are any of them grassy glories that can wither away in a drought? A hundred years from now, will what you're doing today still have an impact – a *beneficial* impact?

God has given you talents and a vocation – a calling, a special purpose – that requires those talents. Yes, you! We are all called to have fruitful lives that make an eternal difference. We are all called to be like Mary giving birth to Jesus so that the world becomes a better place. Jesus wants to come straight to us to produce the fruits of his eternal kingdom in our lives and in others.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What will you do this week to straighten a crooked path?
2. What are you spending time on that is only going to wither up and wilt away?
3. What good do you see in each other that will make an eternal difference?
4. How does thinking about eternity straighten the path that you're walking on today? What changes because of this perspective?