

2 Sunday of Advent

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way.

A voice of one crying out in the desert:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.”

John the Baptist appeared in the desert
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

People of the whole Judean countryside
and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem
were going out to him

and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River
as they acknowledged their sins.

John was clothed in camel's hair,
with a leather belt around his waist.

He fed on locusts and wild honey.

And this is what he proclaimed:

“One mightier than I is coming after me.

I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.

I have baptized you with water;
he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Mk 1:1-8

Saint Mark wants you to pay attention. Something enormous is going to happen. Some great events are already occurring among us. You can see the signs that great things are already in play. Don't miss them. Don't misunderstand them. Saint Mark will offer you a first-person account.

The words that were written 800 years earlier are the first clue. The ancient prophet - Isaiah - describes the future. The original love who was at the beginning is about to reconnect that beginning with your future. It just started happening. The man described in the ancient text - the messenger - appeared in the desert and speaks to us.

His person and his words reveal the place and the method of encounter: he uses nothing that humans normally need, he has no human power, he is not attractive in appearance, he doesn't care for popularity. Something much more profound, much more human is happening; divine is entering the realm of man. He wants to baptize you.

For the real meeting to take place, you must prepare your life. You must remember your humanity; you must reject all things that destroy your dignity, things you do, things you become, things you learned to long for but which really are a burden on your life. It is important because the great events will happen in the space of freedom, in the deepest and most noble layers of

your humanity. In that space, you will meet the one who loved you from the beginning and who will offer you your future that cannot be destroyed. Do not be afraid to long for him. Do not be ashamed to dream about him. Prepare the space for him.

This perfect description given to you and me by Saint Mark persistently calls to us like a beacon in the fog. Every time you read it, it draws you into the greatest event of history. The greatest event because it's from beyond human history, and because it has the power to purify and to redeem your history. You can make preparations for this encounter in every moment in life and in every place in space. Prepare the way for him. Prepare the way that God can use to come to you.

The Word of God, the beloved Son of the Father, is walking to us through time and space, through cultures, languages, and events, taking over like an astonishing tectonic wave, everything that ever existed, and everything that will exist. He will baptize. He will renew. He will reveal the great dignity of creation. He will begin his work of saying to us words that humans haven't heard since the garden of Eden. Be part of his coming. Prepare the way for the Lord!