



Breaking Open the Word - 2022 -

December 5, 2021

Second Sunday of Advent

Lectionary: 6

Gospel Lk 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: *A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."*

Spiritual Reflection: Luke goes to a lot of effort to ground his Gospel in history. The stories he is writing down has happened in time and not in some pre-history or mythological time. John the Baptist's preaching will be about making real concrete acts to prepare oneself for God's arrival.

Spiritual Questions:

1. What does it mean to you that God entered actual time?
2. How do you prepare to have God enter your life?
3. How can you make God real to others?
4. How are you preparing for Christmas this year?
5. What valleys do you need to raise up and mountains do you need to lower.